Adobe Flash & Dreamweaver CS4 Web Design Portfolio



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ABOUT AGAINST THE CLOCK

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Against The Clock has been publishing graphic communications educational materials for more than 17 years, starting out as a Tampa, Florida-based systems integration firm whose primary focus was on skills development in high-volume, demanding commercial environments. Among the company's clients were LL Bean, The New England Journal of Medicine, the Smithsonian, and many others. Over the years, Against The Clock has developed a solid and widely-respected approach to teaching people how to effectively utilize graphics applications while maintaining a disciplined approach to real-world problems.

Against The Clock has been recognized as one of the nation's leaders in courseware development. Having developed the *Against The Clock* and the *Essentials for Design* series with Prentice Hall/Pearson Education, the firm works closely with all major software developers to ensure timely release of educational products aimed at new version releases.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Erika Kendra holds a BA in History and a BA in English Literature from the University of Pittsburgh. She began her career in the graphic communications industry as an editor at Graphic Arts Technical Foundation before moving to Los Angeles in 2000. Erika is the author or co-author of more than fifteen books about graphic design software, including QuarkXPress, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe InDesign, and Adobe PageMaker. She has also written several books about graphic design concepts such as color reproduction and preflighting, and dozens of articles for online and print journals in the graphics industry. Working with Against The Clock for more than seven years, Erika was a key partner in developing the new Portfolio Series of software training books.

Gary Poyssick, co-owner of Against The Clock, is a well-known and often controversial speaker, writer, and industry consultant who has been involved in professional graphics and communications for more than twenty years. He wrote the highly popular *Workflow Reengineering* (Adobe Press), *Teams and the Graphic Arts Service Provider* (Prentice Hall), *Creative Techniques: Adobe Illustrator*, and *Creative Techniques: Adobe Photoshop* (Hayden Books), and was the author or co-author of many application-specific training books from Against The Clock.

CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS, ARTISTS, AND EDITORS

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Ocean Animation

Walk-Through

This project incorporates the following skills:
Using the laborary of managing arready from Adaba Illuster
Using the Library to managing recomplise for
Bailding frame-by-frame animation
Crasting motion reveals to animate visious object 1
Crasting motion reveals to animate visious object 1 ating in three diment Ania Ania burton states Editing va Preparing symbol instances for script

Project Goals

Each project begins with a clear description of the overall concepts that are explained in the project; these goals closely match the different "stages" of the project workflow.

Project Meeting

he look and feel of the n comp image that shows which you should review what elements of the new

ent in Dre

The client wants to be able to make his or changes to the actual page content, but w

To complete this project, you will: Define a tracing image Create and link an external CSS file Create ID selectors Understand the CSS box model Create a layout with div elements

Edit CSS rules to adjust the layout Line cost rules to aspare the asystem
 Use the float property to control nested divis
 Use margins and padding to affect element placement

Create compound tag selectors

Create pseudo-class selectors

Create a template file Add and modify selecto

erties for the body tas Define HTML tag selector

Define pr





The Project Meeting

Each project includes the client's initial comments, which provide valuable information about the job. The Project Art Director, a vital part of any design workflow, also provides fundamental advice and production requirements.

Project Objectives

Each Project Meeting includes a summary of the specific skills required to complete the project.



Real-World Workflow

Projects are broken into logical lessons or "stages" of the workflow. Brief introductions at the beginning of each stage provide vital foundational material required to complete the task.



Step-By-Step Exercises

Every stage of the workflow is broken into multiple hands-on, step-by-step exercises.

Visual Explanations

Wherever possible, screen shots are annotated so students can quickly identify important information.



Web Design Foundations

Additional functionality, related tools, and underlying graphic design concepts are included throughout the book.



Advice and Warnings

Where appropriate, sidebars provide shortcuts, warnings, or tips about the topic at hand.



The Against The Clock Portfolio Series teaches graphic design software tools and techniques entirely within the framework of real-world projects; we introduce and explain skills where they would naturally fall into a real project workflow. For example, rather than an entire chapter about printing (which most students find boring), when you complete a print-based project.

The project-based approach in the Portfolio Series allows you to get in depth with the software beginning in Project 1 — you don't have to read several chapters of introductory material before you can start creating finished artwork. The project-based approach of the Portfolio Series also prevents "topic tedium" - in other words, we don't require you to read pages and pages of information about type (for example); instead, we explain type tools and options as part of larger projects.

Clear, easy-to-read, step-by-step instructions walk you through every phase of each job, from creating a new file to saving the finished piece. Wherever logical, we also offer practical advice and tips about underlying concepts and graphic design practices that will benefit students as they enter the job market.

The projects in this book reflect a range of different types of animation and Web design jobs using Adobe Flash and Dreamweaver. When you finish the seven projects in this book (and the accompanying Portfolio Builder exercises), you will have a solid foundational knowledge of the two most popular applications in the Web design market — and have a substantial body of work that should impress any potential employer.



Rocket Ship Artwork orolect

- □ Using Layers to Develop Artwork
- Drawing in Flash

Glance

a

- □ Painting and Coloring
- Using Gradients



Ocean Animation oroject

- □ Working with Graphic Symbols
- Creating Animation

□ Defining Button

States



Gator Race Game orolect

- □ Working with ActionScript 3
- **Creating Custom Functions**
- Working with Variables and Arrays





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PREREQUISITES

The entire Portfolio Series is based on the assumption that you have a basic understanding of how to use your computer. You should know how to use your mouse to point and click, as well as how to drag items around the screen. You should be able to resize and arrange windows on your desktop to maximize your available space. You should know how to access drop-down menus, and understand how check boxes and radio buttons work. It also doesn't hurt to have a good understanding of how your operating system organizes files and folders, and how to navigate your way around them. If you're familiar with these fundamental skills, then you know all that's necessary to use the Portfolio Series.

RESOURCE FILES

All of the files that you need to complete the projects in this book are on the provided Resource CD in the **RF_Web** folder. This folder contains nine subfolders, one for each project in the book (including the Interface chapters); you will be directed to the appropriate folder whenever you need to access a specific file. Files required for the related Portfolio Builder exercises are in the **RF_Builders** folder.

The Resource CD also includes a **WIP** folder, which also contains (mostly empty) subfolders for each project in the book. This is where you will save your work as you complete the various projects. In some cases, the location of a file will be extremely important for later steps in a project to work properly; that's why we've provided a specific set of folders with known file names.

Before you begin working on the projects in this book, you should copy the entire WIP folder to your hard drive or some other recordable media such as a flash drive; when we tell you to save a file, you should save it to the appropriate folder on the drive where you put that WIP folder.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

As software technology continues to mature, the differences in functionality from one platform to another continue to diminish. The Portfolio Series was designed to work on both Macintosh or Windows computers; where differences exist from one platform to another, we include specific instructions relative to each platform.

One issue that remains different from Macintosh to Windows is the use of different modifier keys (Control, Shift, etc.) to accomplish the same task. When we present key commands, we always follow the same Macintosh/Windows format — Macintosh keys are listed first, then a slash, followed by the Windows key command.

Design Awards



The **Against The Clock Project Portfolio Design Awards** are your chance to gain recognition for your creative and technical design skills. Prizes range from your work being displayed in the Against The Clock Web Gallery, to cash prizes, to having your design published in an upcoming ATC book.

The **Project Portfolio Design Awards** are designed to test both your creative talents and technical skills. Submit your Portfolio Builder project from any of the Professional Portfolio Series books for your chance to win. Entries will be judged on design quality, originality, understanding of client needs, and technical skills.

Go to **www.againsttheclock.com/contest.html** for complete contest details and rules, and to download the official contest entry form.



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