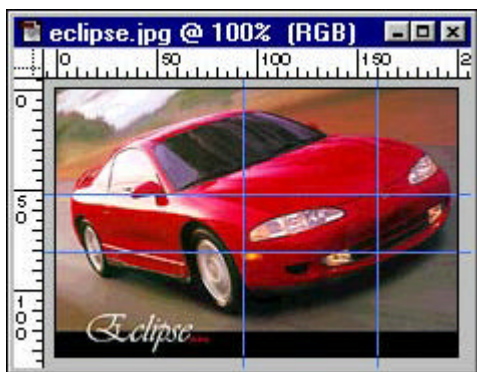




Andy's Photoshop Tip #36 - Slicing Up Images

I get asked all the time how I created my menubar and other images, where I take an image and split it up in several pieces and then assemble it back again to form a complete image. It's not a hard trick, it just takes a little time to do. This trick is useful for several things: 1) to animate just part of an image 2) to reduce the size of a large image 3) block off similar areas of color 4) to use java or something to a particular part of an image. 5) and to make several parts of an image, link to different pages. Here we go...



1 Load up your image in Photoshop and show the rulers (CTRL+R) if they are not already showing. Now (this is in 4.0 only), click on the ruler and hold, drag a grid mark to the middle of your image and let go with the mouse button. By default, this will create a light blue line which is known as a guideline. With the move tool, you can place it exactly where you need it to go. Continue dragging gridlines from the rulers until your entire image is split up the way you want it to be.

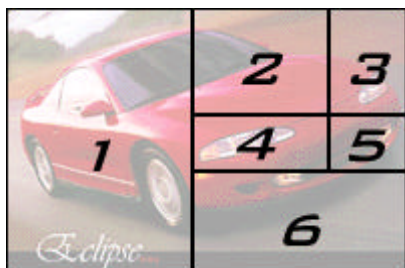
Note: when animating a large image, split up your image so that you are isolating the area that will be moving. For example, in this picture, if I wanted to animate the headlights, I would make sure that they are in their own little box as I have done here.



2 Second, make sure that you have "Snap to Guides" checked in the VIEW drop down list. Now use the marquee tool and drag a box around the section that you want to capture. In this example the three boxes to the left will not be animated so I can scoop them all into one image.



3 Now that you have the area selected, copy it (CTRL+C) then create a new image (CTRL+N), Hit OK to the pre-set size, and then paste your selection into the new image (CTRL+V). Now save this image. Continue step 2 & 3 until all of your image is split into different pieces and each piece is saved as a different name.



4 This is how my I decided to separate my image. I divided the image into 6 pieces. Now that you have done this, you just need to create a table in html that will display all of the images. Below is the final separated image. The first shows where the image has been split and the second shows the image all put together without any seams. Good Luck.



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