**Reference in Musciano Book: p. 152-160**

Creating an Animated Gif

Basic Steps for creating an animated gif, using Paint Shop Pro 6.0

1. Launch Paint Shop Pro 6.0
2. Run Animation Shop
3. Run Animation Wizard
4. View the Animated Gif
5. Save the Animated Gif

Paint Shop Pro 6.0 can be downloaded as shareware from various sites on the Web. One such site is<ftp://sol.ccsf.org/pub/Graphics>. You will be given a 30 day trial period to use the software. If you so desire, you can then purchase it from Jasc. Now launch Paint Shop Pro 6.0. Here is an example of the images that I will use in the animation.

Animation Shop is used to create animated gifs. It is contained within Paint Shop Pro and can be run from the file menu of Paint Shop Pro. The animation process will involve concatenating individual gif files, which can be thought of as slides of the animation. For best effect, the gif files should be exactly the same width and height.

From the file menu of Animation Shop, select Animation Wizard. Select the desired option for the animation in each step and then click next. The first step of Animation Wizard looks like this.

You will be asked about total dimensions, canvas color, and frame positioning. For the first 3 steps, I normally leave the defaults as is and click next. The fourth step is important and you should decide whether you wish to loop the animation indefinitely or a certain number of times. I generally prefer the latter. In addition, you need to decide how long you want each frame to be displayed, in 1/100's of a second. I generally make this between 30 and 50. The next step involves specifying the images which are to be loaded as frames. Click the 'add image' button to do this. After adding the images, you may move them up or down for the desired sequence and then click next. Then click finish. You will be returned to Animation Shop. Here is an example.

To view the animation, click the view menu option, and then Animation. Usually the first attempt is not quite satisfactory, and you will then need to return to Animation Shop to run the Animation Wizard a time or two more. When you are finally satisfied, then you can save it. Here is an example of the animated gif that I created using Animation Shop. If the image does NOT seem to be animated then right-click your mouse and refresh the page. (Note: it loops 3 times)