Creating Simple Animations

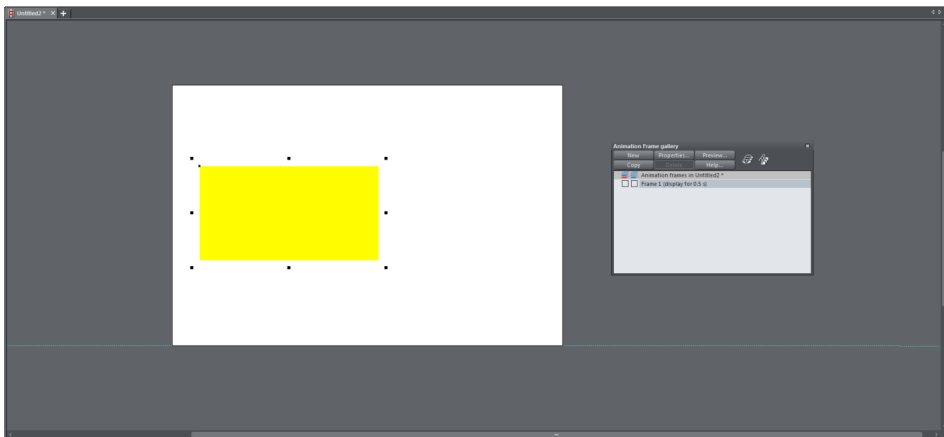Flash offers the following options for animating objects:

- ▶ **Movement:** Make an object move from one position to another.
- ▶ **Scaling:** Makes the object larger or smaller.
- ▶ **Squashing or Skewing:** This option distorts the object.
- ▶ **Rotating:** Makes the object spin around.
- ▶ **Transparency:** Changes the uniform transparency of the object. Transparency gradients cannot be animated.
- ▶ **Color Change:** Changes the color of the object.

You can also combine these options in a single animation.

We'll start with a relatively easy animation - a yellow rectangle will move, change color to red and become transparent at the end.
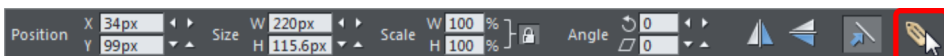
First Frame

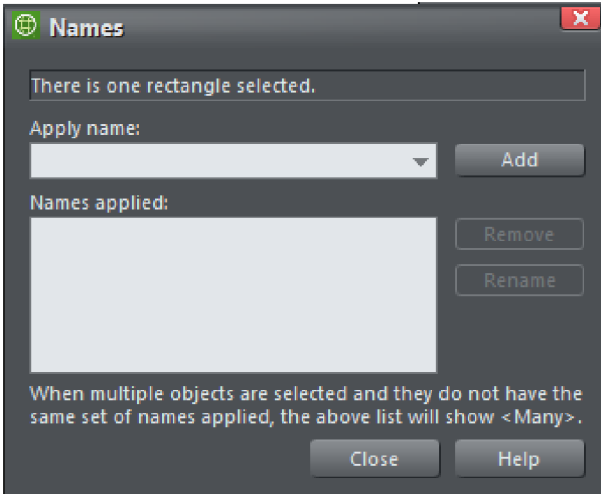- ▶ Draw a yellow rectangle on the white surface of the animation document.

Each element that you want to animate (in this case only the yellow triangle) should be given a name.

- ▶ To name your object, select it and click on the Name Tag button in the infobar of the Selector Tool.

This will open the **NAMES** dialog.

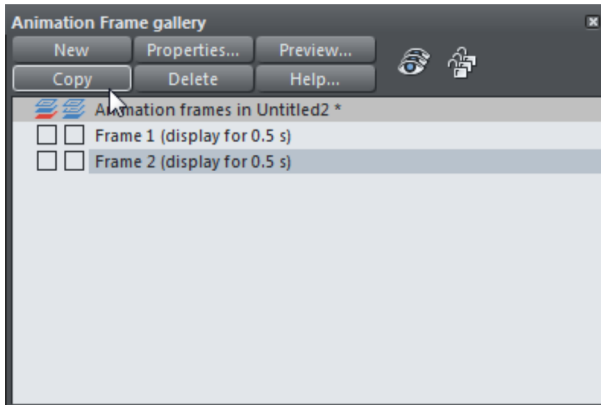▸ Enter a descriptive name for the object in the **NAMES** field.

▸ Confirm it by clicking **ADD**.
▸ Click on **CLOSE** to end the dialog.

Note: You should always name the objects in the first frame so you can simply copy them for other frames. You can also open the **NAMES** dialog at any time to give the objects names.
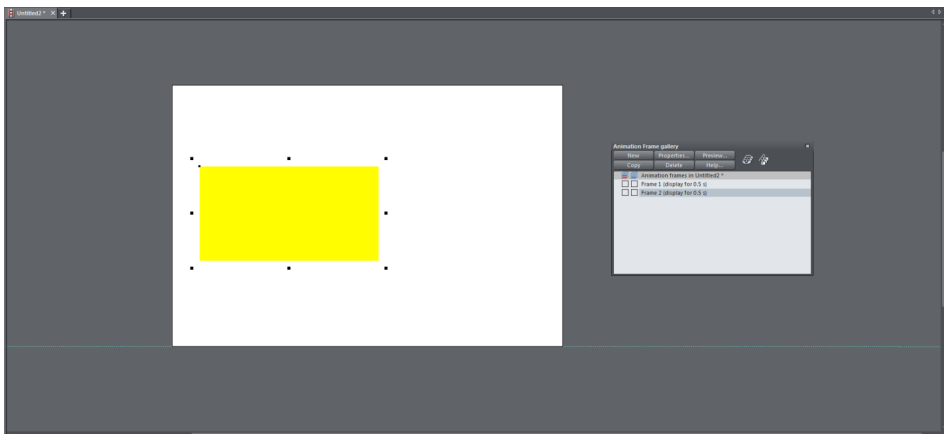
Second Frame

In the second frame we will change the color and position of the object. To do this we will copy the first frame in the ANIMATION FRAME GALLERY .
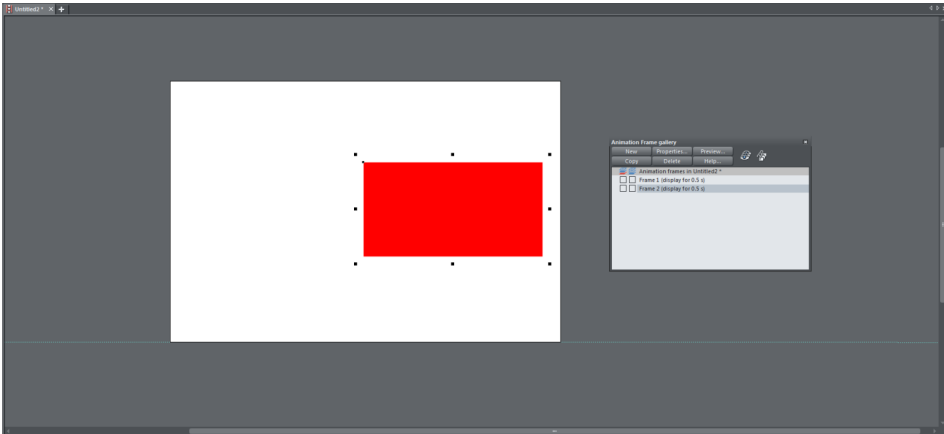
▶ In the **ANIMATION FRAME GALLERY** click on **COPY**.

The second frame now looks exactly the same as the first.

▶ Now you can edit the rectangle. Move the rectangle and change the fill color to red.
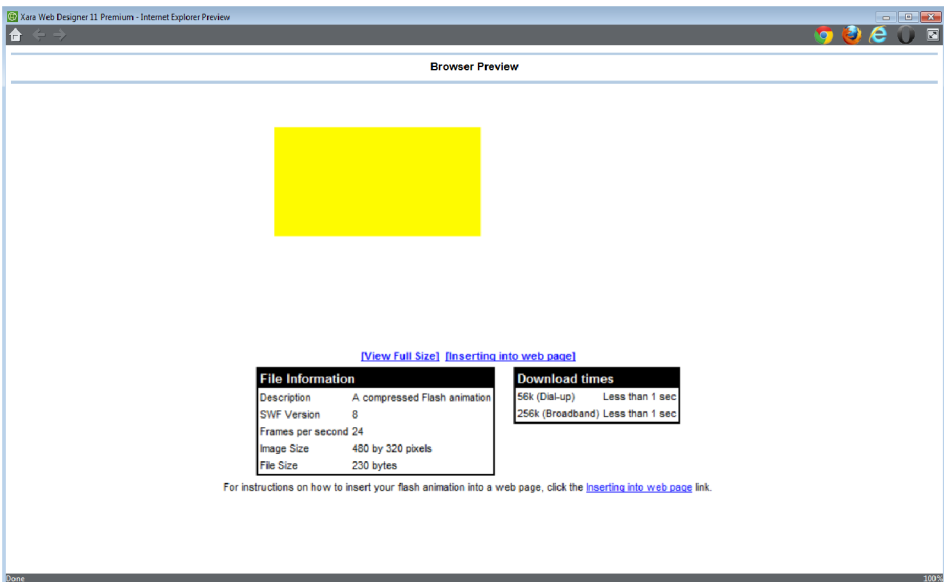

Previewing The Animation

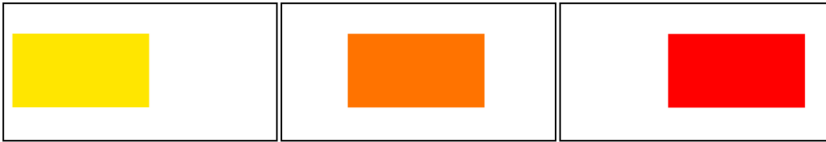In the upper toolbar there are two buttons for previewing your animation.

The left button is for a preview of an animated GIF and the right button is for a Flash preview.

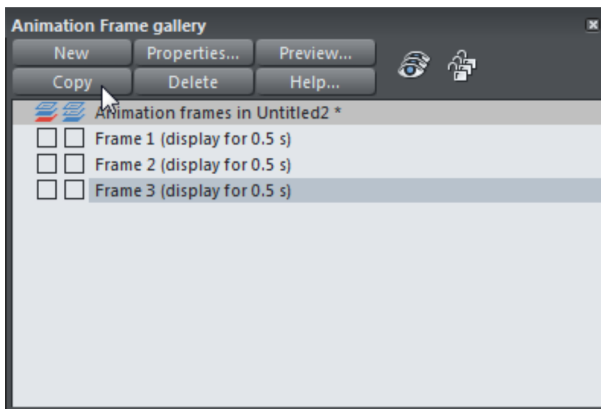▶ Click on the Flash button to open the preview window.

There you will see your animation continuously repeated with the graduated colors.

Third Frame

In the third frame the red rectangle should fade out, i.e. become completely transparent.

▶ To create this effect, copy the second frame in the ANIMATION FRAME GALLERY.

▶ In the new third frame, use the TRANSPARENCY TOOL to set the object transparency to 100% (at this setting you will no longer see it).