

Topic #2 Adding ActionScript to Buttons

Lets first examine why we would need to use ActionScript with buttons and what Actionscript is: (Reference is Macromedia Flash for Windows and Macintosh- A Visual Quickstart Guide, chapter 12.) A brief paraphrase description would be that if you want to have more control over what Flash does with your movie you need to use this script that assigns "actions" to frames and objects. A button is a simple four frame movie that requires interaction with the viewer. This interaction can only be made with actionscripting.

So Lets Begin:

Make a button with some different states, change the color in the Down and Over State if you want. You only need one state for any of the following examples. So in the timeline you will only have one layer with one keyframe which holds the content on the stage (buttons)-or the instances of the button symbols. Open up the Actions Window by going to "Window" in the main Flash menu. (For a detailed explanation of this window see page414-we will use Expert Mode-See Example Image) Decide which symbol or button you will assign the actionscript to and select that symbol on the stage. (blue box will surround it). Simply write the following scripts into the script pane of the Actions Toolbox. Remember the second line can have no returns. Use only one script per button. When you are finished assigning Actions you should be able to click on each button on stage and see the different script pop up in the Actions Toolbox Window.

This script takes the user to a website or page. In Flash you can point to a web page or any file including SWF files.

```
on (press) {  
    getURL("http://www.artisticrends.com");  
}
```

This script opens up the users mail client so they may send an email directly out of flash.

```
on (press) {  
    getURL("mailto:artmaster@artisticrends.com");  
}
```

This script (when button is pressed) takes the user to the specified webpage and with Javascript controls the size and other properties of the window that pop ups in the users browser.

```
on (press) {  
    getURL("javascript:window.open('http://www.yahoo.com','new','height=320','width=200'); void(0);");  
}
```

This is the Actions Toolbox

