philwarrender.com
Stacks for Stacks

RapidBook

For Stacks

click

Instruction Manual

For a flashbook stack by John Malinowski

Introduction:

A very special thank you goes out to Phil Warrender. Without Phil's development of his "Flash Stack" this project would not be here. To see all the very useful add-on Stacks he developed visit his site: www.philwarrender.com

Thank you for checking out my new Stack, RapidBook. In order for this to be usable you need to already own a Apple computer, RapidWeaver by Realmac Software and the plugin Stacks by YourHead software. In writing this manual it is expected that you already have working knowledge of both of those. The purpose of this manual is to show you how to add a flashbook to your RapidWeaver document easily.

The Mission of the RapidBook Stack:

The purpose of this flashbook is to be a simple flashbook for your site. The capability of this stack is for simple jpg pictures as pages. If you are looking for something more powerful the possibilities are endless. RapidBook is just a straightforward and simple flashbook. If this is what you want, it will work nicely for you.

You must have:

A Macintosh computer capable of running RapidWeaver 4.2.1

RapidWeaver 4.2.1 from RealMac software

Stacks - A plugin from YourHead software

You must also be able to use these at a beginner level. It is very important to follow the instructions. This is simple, but very exacting work. File name case is important. *If a file name is Bird.jpg and you type bird.jpg things will not work. It can be frustrating because locally on your computer it will work. You upload to the server and it won't work.* **I strongly advise you to make your first use of my stack utilizing the files I supplied.** **This demonstrates that all is working. If you can't get the stock files to work you are missing a simple step. Have Fun!**
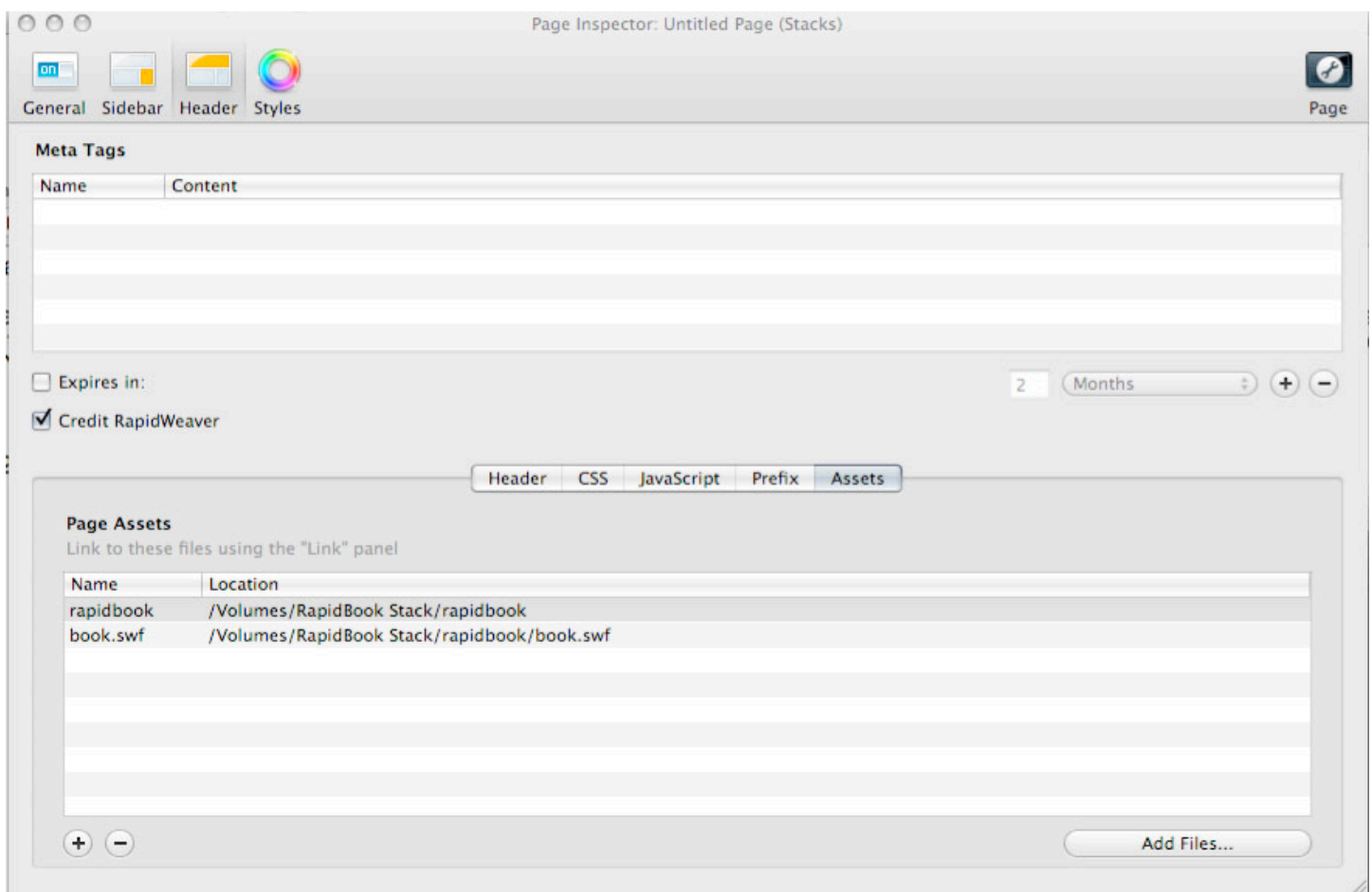

Table of Contents:

Inserting the stock files in a RapidWeaver Stacks Document

1. Open RapidWeaver
2. Create a Stacks page using the stock Manitoba theme.
2a. Use the Manitoba theme with a page width of 1100 and no sidebar.
3. Drag the RapidBook Stack onto the page.
4. Go to the 'Header' area of the page inspector select the
'Assets' tab.
5. Click on 'Add files...' button.
6. Add the book.swf file and the
rapidbook folder to the assets.
7. Hit Preview!!

These are the very simple steps to putting a RapidBook in a RapidWeaver Stacks page. I recommend doing this first, to demonstrate that all works. After you do these steps and your RapidBook is working, save your RapidWeaver document. I recommend you save this document to utilize it with your customized file after you prepare them.

Assets Tab: This is what the Assets area of your project should look like.
You must add the files exactly the same. If you don't, it won't work.

Customize the RapidBook Content

There are two entities you have to be concerned with for customizing your RapidBook. The first area is the page files (the .jpg files in the page folder). After you prepare your page files you will need to modify the XML file. The RapidBook has the Flash Id area that was built in if using more than 1 flash item to a page (this was a well thought out idea by Phil Warrender). Your book can be as many pages as you like.
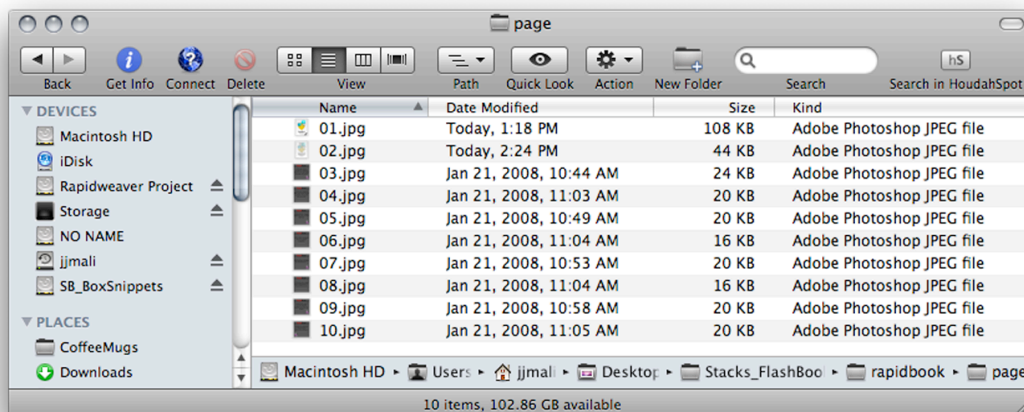
IMPORTANT:

Create a project folder. In the project folder create a "rapidbook" folder. Open the "rapidbook folder and create a "page folder. Those 2 directories are very important. Use those exact names. When you creat yourbook.xml file you will save it to the "rapidbook" folder. All of you jpg (your page files) will go into the "page" folder.

There are a couple of important ideas to keep in mind as you customize. The default page size is 400 x 600 pixels. The RapidBook is scaleable. This is important to keep in mind as you design your content. The page will always be displayed in those dimensions but can be scaled up or down. Ideally you should scale your images (pages) to match your final size. Keep in mind that the book when open has dimensions of 800 x 600 pixels. This is obvious, yet easy to forget. It will be very rare that you will go above the default 400 x 600 page size. The word scale is important. If you design a square page as an example, the flash file will distort your file to the 400 x 600 dimension. If you want to be positive your dimensions are correct, start your document using one of the jpg files I provided. If using photoshop you just set up a new document at 400 pixels wide x 600 pixels high with 72 pixels per inch. Do not increase the resolution as this will just make the files larger.

Pages: Your Pages must be saved in the folder named "page"

Designing your pages is where it starts. Open up the 01.jpg in the page folder. Select all the content on that page and delete it. This will give you a blank document that is 400 x 600 pixels. You could also simply create a new blank 400 x 600 pixel ducument set to 72 DPI. This is your canvas to lay out your page. For load times and display purposes it is important to do this properly. If you know your book size will be much smaller you can adjust this down. Fact is for general purposes this will be a nice size. It is a waist of bandwidth to make the .jpg files with a resolution that is higher than 72 dpi. I understand that printing is another issue. We will assume that the purpose of your RapidBook is for on-line viewing. If you want to supply high res. printable files, do it from a file share page. You can set up your page files in any graphic program that has the ability to save files as a .jpg file. You can name the page files whatever you like. The name you assign must be matched exactly when you refer to it in the xml file.

Directory of jpg files (XML file names much match these exactly)

xml file: The name of the xml file must be "book.xml" it must also be saved in the "rapidbook" folder

The areas of the xml files you adjust is the page files area. Make sure your text editor is a plain text editor. TextEdit is good for this. Some editors like Microsoft word add in code we don't want. Make sure it is plain text.

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<book isAuto="true" controllerVisible="never"
controllerThemeColor="30x000000" scaleStep="50" maxScale="250" minScale="50"
bgColor="0xcccccc" flipSound="sndFlip" shadowAlpha="65" bookThickness="8">
    <page pageNum="1" path="rapidbook/page/01.jpg"/>
    <page pageNum="3" path="rapidbook/page/03.jpg"/>
    <page pageNum="5" path="rapidbook/page/05.jpg"/>
    <page pageNum="7" path="rapidbook/page/07.jpg"/>
    <page pageNum="9" path="rapidbook/page/09.jpg"/>
    <page pageNum="2" path="rapidbook/page/02.jpg"/>
    <page pageNum="4" path="rapidbook/page/04.jpg"/>
    <page pageNum="6" path="rapidbook/page/06.jpg"/>
    <page pageNum="8" path="rapidbook/page/08.jpg"/>
    <page pageNum="10" path="rapidbook/page/10.jpg"/>
</book>
```

Do not edit the Red areas

This is what the book.xml file looks like when you open it. The XML file tells the flash file where to find your page files. Notice the layout of the xml file lists all your odd numbered pages first. Your RapidBook can be as many pages as you want. Each page has it's own jpg file and it's own line in the book.xml file. The above xml file is for a 10 page book.

Two very important points I want to make here. The directory must be a folder named "page" that is inside a folder named "rapidbook". The file name in the xml must match the actual file names exactly. It is a good idea to just make all file names lower case. I prefer numbers actually. Less typing is better.

I would love to view what you create. It would be nice to see other peoples creativity in action. If you need to contact me I can be reached at: jj.malinowski@verizon.net. If you wish to make a donation you may use the same email address. If you are making a donation, Thank You. If you are located in the US I give support over the phone. If you live elsewhere and speak English we can set up a phone appointment. All calls outside the US will be incoming only. This is due to the expense or cost of the phone call. In the US I have a unlimited phone package, so this is not an issue.

SupportCasts.com has created a Cast (online movie) on this Stack. It is an invaluable learning tool for RapidWeaver learning. If you are new, or just want to improve, this is the service for you. I take recommending a product or service serious. I actually pay and use this service. I find it a great value, or I would not recommend it. Larry (sundog from the forum) and Kevin (kbrux from the forum) really go above and beyond to be helpful.

I hope you enjoy my RapidBook. Take your time and above all else, HAVE FUN!