

Creating Custom Themes for Adobe Acrobat X

Background:

Acrobat X PDF Portfolio Layouts (Navigators) can have a variety of "looks" applied to them called "Visual Themes" in the Acrobat User Interface (UI) or "Skins", if you are reading the SDK documentation. For the purposes of this document, Skins and Visual Themes will be used inter-changeably.

Skins can be of two types; "flex" and "flash". Skins of type "flex" are more powerful because they can have transitions and effects and the position of elements on the card can be changed. However, they must be authored in Flash Builder and must be compiled with the Navigator project. Skins of type "flash" (Flash Skins) are easy to author in Flash Professional, but they require all objects in the Navigator layout have a fixed size and position.

This document focuses on creating custom Flash Skins using Adobe Illustrator and/or Adobe Flash Professional.

Using Adobe Flash Professional CS5

Adobe Flash Professional CS5 can be used to create a new FlashSkin. A list of all of the Navigator objects that can be skinned by a Flash Skin is located at the end of this document.

The Navigators that come with Adobe Acrobat X and any custom Navigators that use the Adobe skinnable components use stage instance names to load the correct visual element, resize it to the necessary size, and generate a bitmap from the rendered object. If the named instance cannot be found on the stage, then the affected components will use the visuals provided by the default Gel skins.

Flash 9-slice scaling can be used with most objects (notes in object descriptions indicate if 9-slice is recommended for that object).

To create a custom Flash Skin using Flash Professional CS5:

1. Open the FlashSkins fla file
2. Double-click an element on the stage to edit the look and feel of that element.
3. Make your changes
4. Repeat steps 2 & 3 for each element you want to change
5. Save the FlashSkins fla file and publish it to SWF

Your Flash Skin is now ready to be applied to a PDF Portfolio using the "Import Custom Theme..." button under "Visual Themes" in the Acrobat UI while authoring/editing a Portfolio. Flash Skins can also be included in Navigators (instructions for adding Flash Skins to a Navigator file are included in the SDK).

Alternatively, you can create a new project and use the stage instance names specified in the list of objects at the end of this document. The names must be exact and are case sensitive.

Using Adobe Illustrator CS5 and Flash Professional CS5

Adobe Illustrator can be used in conjunction with Flash Professional CS5 to create custom Flash Skins.

To create a custom Flash Skin using Adobe Illustrator CS5 and Flash Professional CS5

1. Create an Illustrator file and begin drawing your skin parts
2. Create Illustrator symbols for each of the objects listed at the end of this document
3. Save the file.
4. Open Flash Professional and create a new file.
5. Select File >| Import > Import to Stage and select the .AI file you created in step 1
6. Save the .FLA file and publish it to SWF. You only need the .SWF so there is no need to export the HTML file, which is selected by default.

Your Flash Skin is now ready to be applied to a PDF Portfolio.

List of Flash Skin Object "instance names" and descriptions:

Main Card

All sizes are in pixels.

Object Name	Description
IconBackground	Background image for all icons that appear on the card. Infolcon, ExtractIcon and Deletelcon appear on top of this object. Size: 30 x 30
IconBackgroundOver	MouseOver state for the IconBackground Size: 30 x 30
ExtractIcon	Icon to extract file. Not present in edit mode. Size: 30 x 30
Deletelcon	Icon to delete file. Only present in edit mode. Size: 30 x 30
Infolcon	Icon to show metadata (flip side of card). Not present in all layouts Size: 30 x 30
CloseButton	Close button on flip side of card. Not present in all layouts.
CloseButtonOver	Over state for CloseButton. Not present in all layouts
NavCard	Background image for the card Use 9-slice scaling
NavCardOver	MouseOver state for the NavCard Use 9-slice scaling
NavCardSelected	Selected state for the NavCard Use 9-slice scaling
CardTitleBar	Background image for the card title area Size: 54 high Use 9-slice scaling

Folder Icons

Object Name	Description
FolderSmall	Image used to represent a folder in the MiniNav area and for sub folders inside a folder
FolderMedium	Image used to represent a folder in the Free Form layout medium card
FolderLarge	Image used to represent a folder on most cards Optimum Size: 285 x 360
FolderTitleBar	Background image for the folder title area (appears below the folder icon) Use 9-slice scaling

Background Images

Object Name	Description
NavBackground	Background image for the Portfolio. Use 9-slice scaling
HeaderBackground	Background image for the header area. Note: In Adobe default layouts, only appears if there is content in the header. Size: 100 high
MiniNavBackground	Background image for the MiniNav

File Navigation Buttons

Object Name	Description
NextButton	Image for the next file button Size: 50 x 50
NextButtonOver	MouseOver state for the NextButton
PreviousButton	Image for the previous file button Size: 50 x 50
PreviousButtonOver	MouseOver state for the PreviousButton

MiniNavigator

Object Name	Description
MiniNavSlammerBackground	Background image for the "Slammer" button, the button that opens and closes the MiniNav. Size: 80 x 28
MiniNavSlammerBackgroundOver	MouseOver state for MiniNavSlammerBackground Size: 80 x 28
MiniNavSlammerIcon	Icon for the Slammer button. Note: This icon will rotate 180 degrees when

	the MiniNav is toggled. Design this icon for the MiniNav open state.
MiniNavCard	Card for the MiniNav Use 9-slice scaling
MiniNavCardOver	MouseOver state for the MiniNavCard Use 9-slice scaling
MiniNavCardSelected	Selected state for the MiniNavCard Use 9-slice scaling