

jQuery: cross-fading blocks

The cross-fading technique is pretty popular among jQuery developers. Simply put, you have only to stack a series of parallel blocks with absolute positioning, adjust their layering index with jQuery and use intervals to create the cross-fading effect.

We have the following structure:

```
<div class="fade-blocks-wrapper">
  <div class="fade-block">
    <div class="block">1</div>
    <div class="block">2</div>
  </div>
  <div class="fade-block">
    <div class="block">3</div>
    <div class="block">4</div>
  </div>
  <div class="fade-block">
    <div class="block">5</div>
    <div class="block">6</div>
  </div>
</div>
```

With CSS we can stack each block one on the top of the other:

```
.fade-blocks-wrapper {
  width: 560px;
  height: 180px;
```

```
        margin: 2em auto;
        position: relative;
        overflow: hidden;
    }

    .fade-block {
        width: 100%;
        height: 100%;
        position: absolute;
        top: 0;
        left: 0;
    }

    .fade-block .block {
        width: 250px;
        height: 100%;
        margin: 0 10px;
        background: #eee;
        float: left;
        line-height: 180px;
        text-align: center;
        font-size: 2em;
    }

    .fade-block:nth-child(2) .block {
        background: #666;
        color: #fff;
    }

    .fade-block:nth-child(3) .block {
        background: #ffc;
    }
```

Then with jQuery we adjust the z-index property and use JavaScript intervals to create the cross-fading effect:

```
(function($) {
    $.fn.rotator = function(options) {
        options = $.extend({
            blocks: '.fade-block',
            speed: 1000
        }, options);
        var setZIndex = function(element) {
            var index =
$(options.blocks, element).length;
            $(options.blocks,
element).each(function() {
                index--;

$(this).css('zIndex', index);
            });
        };
        var rotate = function(element) {
            var blocks =
$(options.blocks, element),
            len =
blocks.length,
            index = -1;

            blocks.fadeIn(options.speed);

            var timer =
setInterval(function() {
                index++;
                var block =
blocks.eq(index);

                if (index ==
```

```

len) {

clearInterval(timer);

rotate(element);

                                }
                                if
(block.index() != (len - 1)) {

block.fadeOut(options.speed);

                                }
                                }, options.speed);

                                };
                                return this.each(function() {
                                    var elem = $(this);
                                    setZIndex(elem);
                                    rotate(elem);
                                });
                                };
})(jQuery);

```

We can use our code as follows:

```

$(document).ready(function() {
    $('div.fade-blocks-wrapper').rotator({
        speed: 2500
    });
});

```

[view-example url="<http://jsfiddle.net/gabrieleromanato/EaxKs/>"]