

jQuery: sequential thumbnail loader

Loading and preloading thumbnails is a commonly requested task in jQuery. Loading thumbnails sequentially requires the use of a progressive timer which delays the execution of each fading effect for a given time span. The rest is pretty simple.

We have a series of thumbnails:

```
<div id="thumbs">
    <figure>
        
    </figure>

    <figure>
        
    </figure>
    <figure>
        
    </figure>
    <figure>
        
    </figure>
</div>
```

We need to show a spinner before displaying each thumbnail. I'm going to dynamically attach an animated GIF to each thumbnail block with jQuery. This kind of image must be initially hidden:

```
#thumbs .loader {  
    display: none;  
}
```

With jQuery the fading routine is as follow:

1. Create an incremental time span (i) counter.
2. Attach a spinner to each figure block.
3. Loop through the thumbnails.
4. Hide them.
5. Create a delay with `setTimeout()` by incrementing the counter by 800 on each loop.
6. Fade in the spinner with a speed equal to 1/4 of 800.
7. Hide the spinner.
8. Fade in the thumbnail.

Here's the jQuery code:

```
var preload = function() {  
  
    var i = 0;  
  
    $('figure', '#thumbs').each(function() {  
        var $figure = $(this);  
        var loader = '';  
        $figure.append(loader);  
    });  
  
    $('img',  
    '#thumbs').not('img.loader').each(function() {
```

```
var $img = $(this);
var $loader = $img.next();
$img.hide();

setTimeout(function() {
    $loader.fadeIn(i / 4, function() {

        $(this).hide();
        $img.fadeIn(200);

    });
}, i += 800);

});

};

preload();
```

You can see the demo on [this page](#).