Timeline Animations

The VIDEO section of the TIMELINE panel can also be used to create animations.
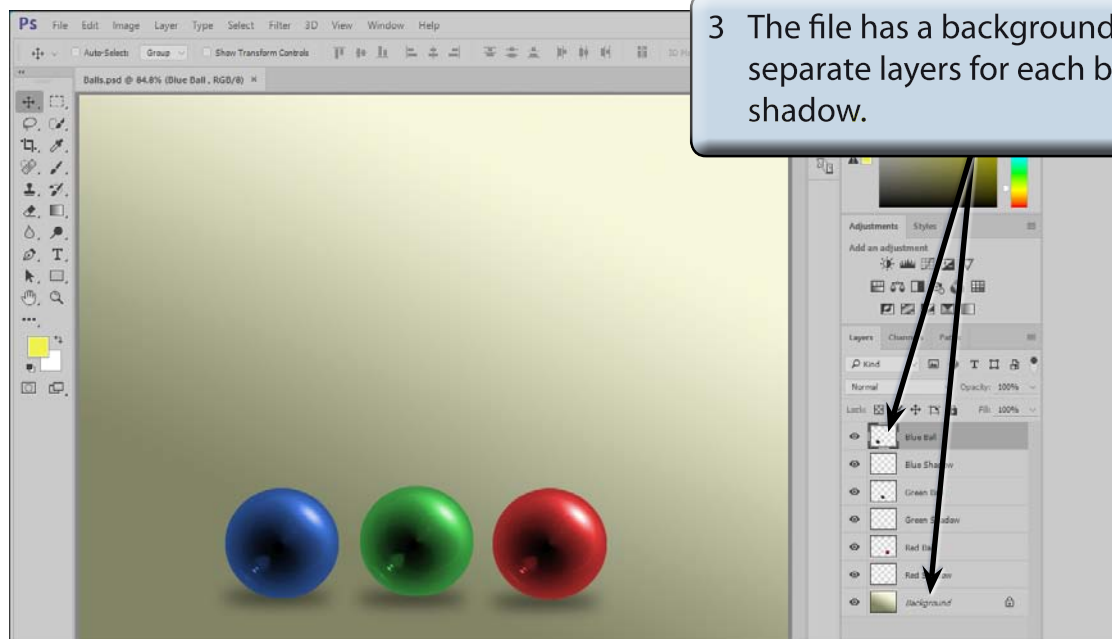
Creating Bouncing Icons

Let's create some bouncing balls and save them as an animated GIF. This will simulate the icons in the dock of the Macintosh system when a software error message is displayed or when an e-mail is received in programs like Thunderbird.

A   Loading the Prepared file
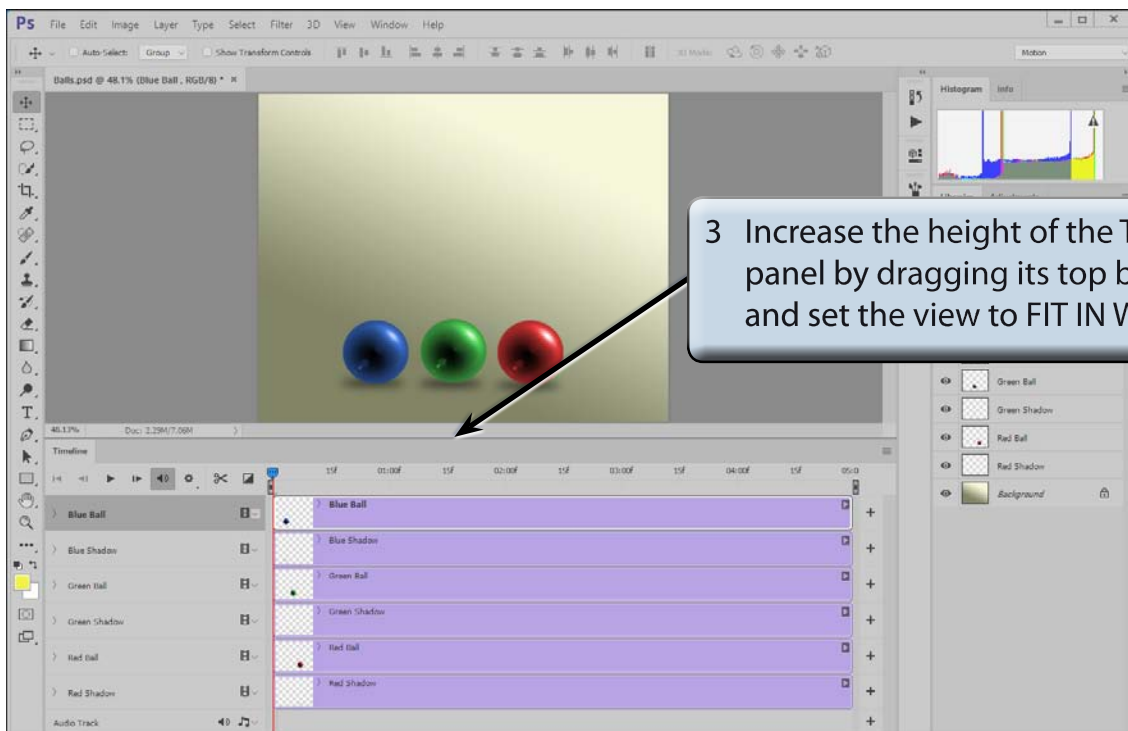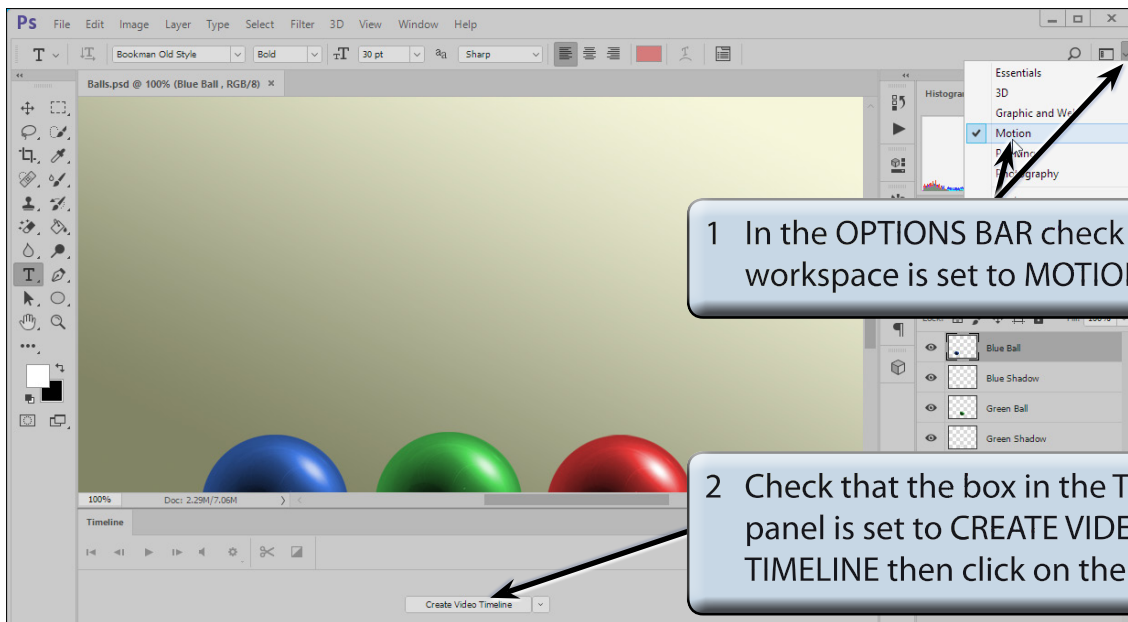
The balls have been prepared for you.

1   Load Photoshop or close the current files and select OPEN from the WELCOME screen or FILE menu.

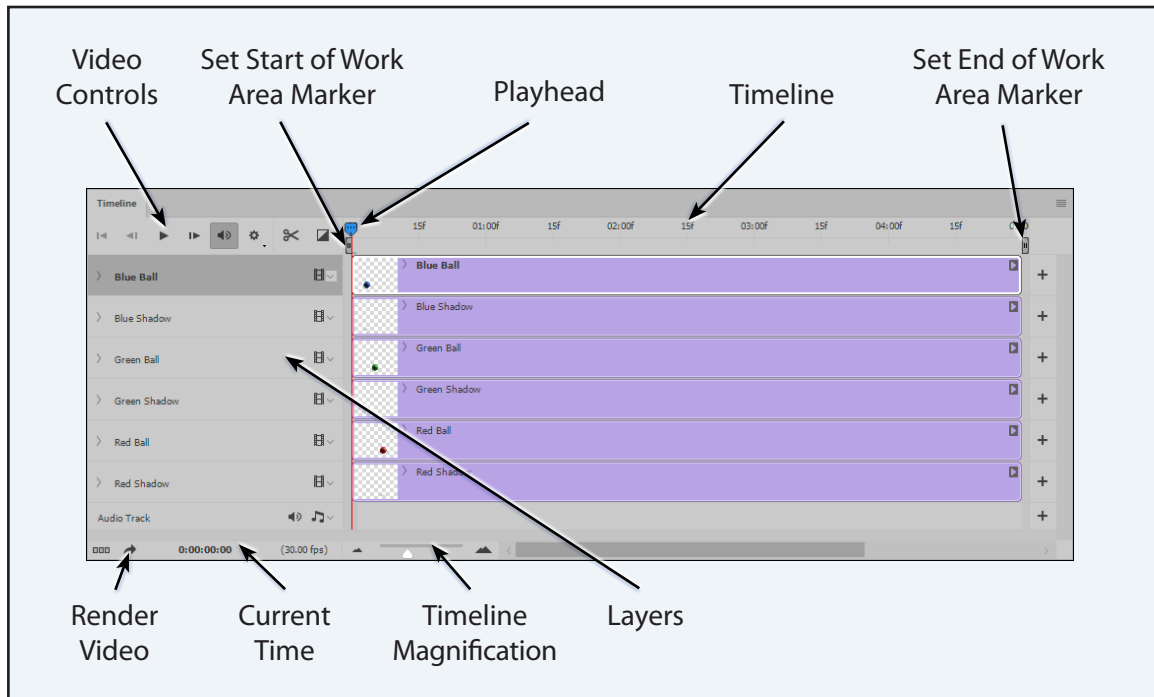2   Access the PScc SUPPORT FILES, open the CHAPTER 36 folder and load the file:

Balls

3   The file has a background layer and separate layers for each ball and its shadow.

B   Opening the Video Timeline

This time the VIDEO TIMELINE section of the TIMELINE panel will be used.

1   In the OPTIONS BAR check that the workspace is set to MOTION.

2   Check that the box in the TIMELINE panel is set to CREATE VIDEO TIMELINE then click on the box.

3   Increase the height of the TIMELINE panel by dragging its top border up and set the view to FIT IN WINDOW.
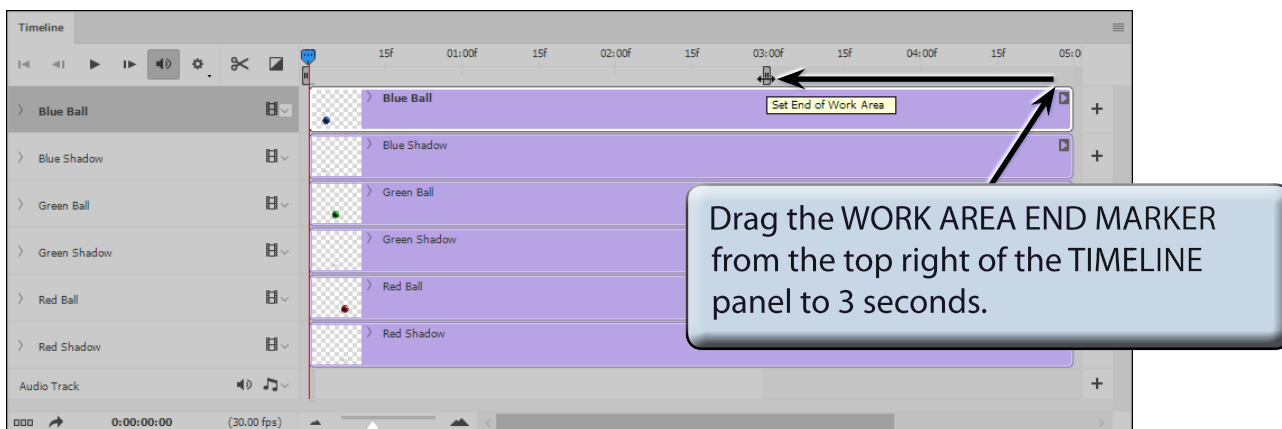
4   The following diagram labels the VIDEO TIMELINE section of the TIMELINE panel.
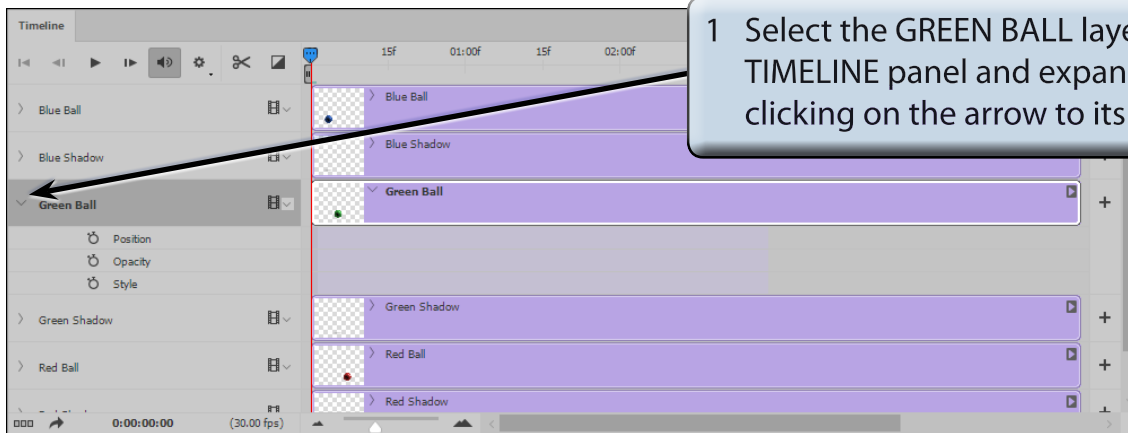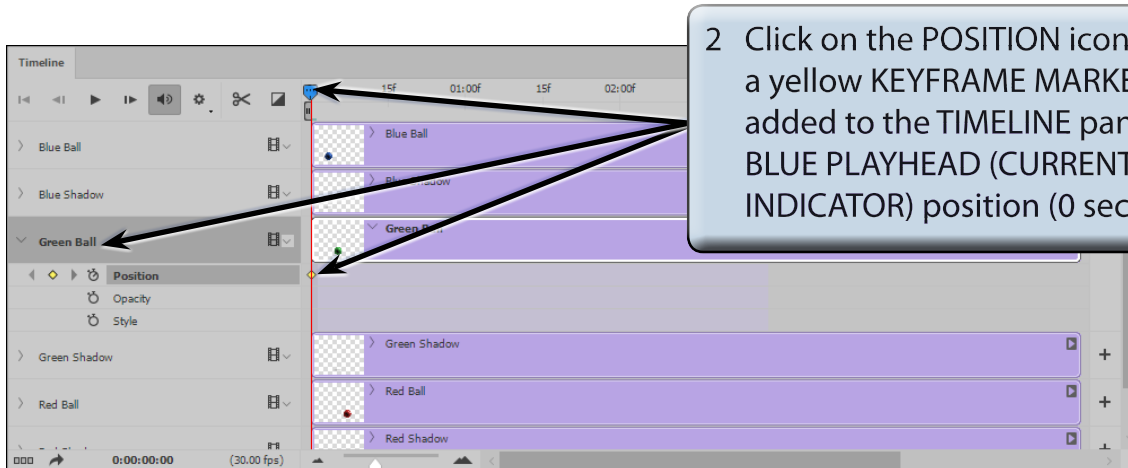

C   Setting the Animation Duration

The WORK AREA markers in the TIMELINE panel are used to set the duration of the animation. In this case a 3 second animation will be created.

Drag the WORK AREA END MARKER from the top right of the TIMELINE panel to 3 seconds.

D   Animating the Green Ball

1   Select the GREEN BALL layer in the TIMELINE panel and expand it by clicking on the arrow to its left.

NOTE: You can animate the position, opacity or style of the layer.

2   Click on the POSITION icon and a yellow KEYFRAME MARKER is added to the TIMELINE panel at the BLUE PLAYHEAD (CURRENT TIME INDICATOR) position (0 seconds).

NOTE: A KEYFRAME is where a significant change occurs in the animation.