3D wiggle vision
With Gimp

Animating 3D pictures

There’s a kind of 3D photography called stereoscopy. If you have a stereoscopic picture, you can use an image editor like the GNU Image Manipulation Program (GIMP) to turn it into an animated gif that creates a 3D “wiggle” effect.

Quick Start

1. Open GIMP. This is step one because it takes 19 hours to open. While you’re waiting, google up some stereoscopic pictures. Pick one and save it.
2. Oh, look, GIMP finally decided to show up to the party.
3. Click File -> Open... and find your picture.
4. Look at your Toolbox. Take care of your tools, and they’ll take care of you. Click on the Rectangle Select Tool.
5. Select one half of the image. Cut and paste the selection by pressing Ctrl-X and then Ctrl-V on your keyboard.
6. Look what happened to your Layers dialog. Your selection was pasted as Floating Selection. Right click on it, and select To New Layer.
7. Now look at your layer opacity. Turn it down to around 50%, and now when you move the selection over the other part of the image, you can see through the top layer, so you can line it up all nice.

You can press + (plus) and - (minus) to zoom in and out. Use the arrow keys to move the selection very small amounts.

Check it out. Pick one point of the two images to align perfectly. The rest of the image will wiggle around this one focal point.

8. Use your Rectangle Select Tool to select the desired region, then click Image -> Fit Canvas to Selection.

9. Turn the opacity on the Pasted Layer back up to 100%.

10. Click on File -> Export.

11. Give it any file name you want, with a .gif extension, and click Export. If you get an error about layers extending beyond borders, click on Crop. (See the next page.)
12. In the Export as GIF dialog, check “As animation.” If you think your animation is too fast, you can slow it down by exporting again and increasing the milliseconds by a couple hundred.

13. If you open up your new GIF, it should launch a browser, and you should see it wiggling in 3D!

(You can’t see it now, but this picture is wiggling like crazy.)

Where to go from here

Captions!

![Image of layers with instructions]

Remember that each layer is its own frame of the animation. If you want to add text to your photo, make a new layer for your text, duplicate it, and merge the text onto each of the layers.

Make your own!

You can make your own stereoscope pictures to make wiggle animations out of. You just need two pictures with the camera moved about 2.5 inches to the side (that’s roughly the distance between your eyes) and focused on the same subject. Try it!