From: Top Software
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Publicity Release
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The Best Shareware Drawing Program Just Got Better!

Top Draw™ is the 1994 Shareware Industry Association award winner for Best Graphics Program. Now, Top Software™ has released a significant upgrade to this award winning drawing program for Microsoft® Windows™ 3.1. New features in Version 2.0 include the ability to rotate paragraph text in 1 degree increments, the ability to scale paragraph text when resizing the object to which it is attached, the ability to align text to a line/curve, the ability to convert text to curves, and file export in standard BMP and PCX formats. There are numerous additional improvements, including seven new textures, the ability to control printing by layers, bitmap rotation in 90 degree increments, the ability to use a True Type font as a shape set in the Shape Palette, a modeless Shape Palette, and numerous enhancements to make *Top Draw* even easier to use.

These new features build on an already strong foundation that includes: a user-modifiable Shape Palette; user-definable pens and line endings; calligraphic *and* rotating pens; the ability to define both a fill and a texture style for an object; and the ability to copy and paste any drawing into virtually any program that supports WMF (Windows Metafile) graphics. Because of the large number of predefined shapes available on the Shape Palette, even those with little artistic talent can produce great looking pictures using *Top Draw*. Accomplished artists will appreciate the power of state-of-the art bezier curve editing, unparalleled custom pen capabilities, and an incredible variety of fill styles. Business users will appreciate the Shape Palette and powerful alignment tools for quickly producing professional quality charts and diagrams.

Ease of use was stressed throughout the design of *Top Draw*. The current line and fill styles are visually represented on the innovative Style Bar. In addition, colors, character styles, and line widths can be changed with a single click on the Style Bar.   Other buttons provide one-click access to the Line, Fill, and Texture style dialogs.   The Shape Button shows the current Shape Palette selection.   Complete hypertext help is provided in addition to command descriptions and selected object descriptions on the Status Line. Comprehensive *multi*-level undo and redo are provided.

Top Draw provides all of the features expected in a quality drawing program. All editing can be done in a full-color view. A wire-frame view is provided for use on slower machines or when editing a complex section of a drawing. The Draw Tool can be used to create any combination of straight and freehand lines for both open and closed/filled objects. Text can be edited "in place", and wraps to fit object outlines. Objects can be grouped and ungrouped, or merged to create see-through holes. Objects can be moved forward and back, locked and unlocked, and selectively hidden. A style can be easily copied from one object to another. An unlimited number of named layers can be defined for managing complex drawings..

Top Draw provides numerous handy features not found in most drawing programs. For example, either the

Select Tool or the Node Tool can be used to select objects for menu operations. Objects can be converted between bezier and polygonal representations. Node editing is allowed even if an object is part of a group. Both the top *and* bottom (or left *and* right) sides of an object can be aligned to match object sizes, and the spacing between objects can be easily set to a uniform horizontal or vertical distance. "Sticky" notes can be placed on the drawing and note text can be printed on the drawing title page, along with drawing title, author, and descriptive annotations.

"Look and feel" customization is strongly supported. The user can customize colors and fonts used in displaying the Style Bar, Status Line, and Rulers, and colors of the Desktop and the "paper". Tools can be customized to create special effects and to fit user preferences.

Top Draw 2.0 runs under Microsoft Windows 3.1 and NT™ on any 80386 or better PC. It requires about a VGA or better display, a mouse or equivalent pointing device, 2.5 megabytes of space on your hard drive, and 2 megabytes of free memory under Windows.

Top Draw 2.0 can be purchased from Top Software for $59.95 ($49.95 without printed manual), plus shipping and handling. For more information contact Top Software, P.O. Box 1141, Conifer, Colorado 80433, (303) 838-0384.

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About the author...

Jeff Becker is the author of *Top Draw* and the founder of Top Software. He is a U.S. Navy veteran and has B.S. and M.S. degrees in Computer Science from the University of Illinois. His thesis work was in machine learning. He has worked on numerous software projects in the aerospace industry including automated planning for robotics, design and development of a unique temporal logic system, and conversion of CAD data to 3D workspace models for automated collision avoidance in robotic systems. He was the software chief architect for the NASA Flight Telerobotic Servicer (a Space Station robotics project). Development of *Top Draw* has been a full-time project (12+ hour days) for over a year and a half. Jeff will fully support *Top Draw* and continue to add new features for the foreseeable future.

About Top Software...

Top Software was founded January 1, 1993 by Jeff Becker. The company is located near Conifer, Colorado, which is in the foothills near Denver.