Print Artist 4.0 Demo
Readme File
6-13-97

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. WELCOME TO PRINT ARTIST

Welcome to the world of Print Artist! Thank you for trying out this demo version of Print Artist 4.0. We hope you enjoy it!

In the May 1997 issue of FamilyPC magazine, Print Artist 4.0 was rated as the #1 rated home publishing product, receiving a score of 89--the highest home publishing software rating ever!

Print Artist is a joy to use for artists of all skill levels. You get a complete set of graphics and text tools for creating any type of home or office product. It's fun, fast, and rewarding to create Greeting Cards, Signs, Stationery, Labels, Calendars, Banners, Certificates and Crafts.

About Print Artist 4.0 Demo:

This demo contains a small sample of the over 10,000 graphics, 1,500 layouts, 1,000 quotes and 300 fonts contained in the full product. You can create and print any document type found in the full retail version. This demo will not allow you to save, import or export these documents.

Coming Soon: Print Artist Platinum

Print Artist Platinum is a promotional bundle of Print Artist 4.0 PLUS the addition of two great products to make it three creative products in one. PA Platinum will be the most fully featured home printing product with complete photo enhancement and editing capability through the additions of Ulead's iPhoto Express 1.0 and Kai's Power Goo SE.

Key Features:

30,000+ gorgeous full-color graphics on any subject/any style
2,300 unique layouts - or create your own
7,000 photos
300 AGFA typestyles
1,000 quotes

To purchase the full retail product, please contact Sierra Direct Sales:

United States
Sierra Direct   U.S.A. Sales Phone: (800) 757-7707
7100 W. Center Rd.   International Sales: (206) 746-5771
STE 301   Hours: Monday-Saturday 7AM to 11 PM CST,
Omaha, NE 68106   Sundays 8AM to 9PM CST

II. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

PA 4 Demo Minimums: 486SX/33+ 8MB RAM, 15MB free HD space.
Note: 8MB systems may experience long wait times loading and or printing complex projects.
Premium: Pentium+, 16MB RAM, SVGA 800 X 600 @ 16Bit high color 4X CD ROM drive.
Supports: Printers: Black & White, Color, Laser, Inkjet; Dot-Matrix: 9-pin, compatible with
Windows 3.1 or higher,
Mouse, VGA, 2X CD ROM Drive

III. GENERAL TECHNICAL ISSUES

1. General Info

On-Line Help and the User Manual
Check the On-line help from within Print Artist 4.0 for the most current information and features.

2. Setup

Removing CD during Installation
Removing Print Artist 4.0 CD during the installation may cause the setup program to crash.

Anti-Virus Software
If you have any anti-virus software running on your system, you should disable it before installing
Print Artist.

Other Software Programs
We recommend you exit out of any other software programs before installing and running Print Artist 4.0
due to memory constraints. If you are experiencing lockups, general protection faults or other errors, exit
out of any other software programs, reboot Windows, and then restart Print Artist.

Windows Debug Software
Be sure to disable Windows debug software before you try to install Print Artist. The debug kernel will
conflict with the Print Artist installation.

Installing onto a Compressed Hard Drive
If you are using Stacker, DoubleSpace or similar drive compression technology software, be aware that
Print Artist is already very compressed. This means that you may have to free up more hard disk space
than the minimum requirements for Print Artist before it will install correctly.
For example, installing the Small version of Print Artist may require up to 24 megabytes of free space on a
compressed drive instead of the 12 megabytes needed on a normal uncompressed drive.

3. Using Print Artist

Windows Display Settings
For optimal performance of Print Artist set your Windows display settings to 800x600 resolution with 16
bit High Color. These options can be found in the Display dialog under your Windows Settings.

If you are using Win 95 and prefer a 640x480 resolution you should make sure your task bar is set to
Autohide. If not you will find some parts of Print Artist cut off.

If you choose to use only 256 colors you may find that your specific video card may slow down the
performance of Print Artist.

Avery Business Cards
In addition to the business card layouts located in the stationery document type, you can find layouts for Precut Avery Business Card stock in the Labels Document type.

Customizing Yearly Calendars
Calendars can be easily created by customizing existing text, dates, or graphics from the pre-designed layouts. To personalize your calendar, simply double click a section of text or graphic and replace it with your own choice. Due to memory restraints you will not be able to enter new text or graphics.

Mouse Problems
Some users may experience problems when using Print Artist for Windows with Microsoft Mouse driver version 9.00. These problems entail the mouse cursor jumping from one location to another when opening or using the palettes. Sometimes users may find that going to the Mouse
Control Panel and turning off the "Locate" command will fix this situation; otherwise, upgrading to version 9.01 of the driver should fix it.

Also, a program called "Animouse" that tries to take control of the mouse cursor is incompatible with Print Artist, and should not be run in conjunction with it.

4. Fonts

Font Limitations
The Print Artist program has a limit of 1200 vertices per polygon. TrueType or PostScript Type 1 font characters are allowed only one polygon, so the entire character must have no more than 1200 points. Furthermore, curve splines in the font data are broken up into separate points along the curve. There are very few fonts that can't work with PA (for example, a complicated font with a wood-cut effect, or one with frilly vines creeping in and out of the letters may be a bit too complex.)

5. Printing

Windows 95 and Print Area on some Laser Printers
When your documents are not printing centered on the page, you can use Print Artist to correct this problem for all your Windows programs. Run Print Artist, select any ready-made sign, then choose Print from the File menu. Click on the Print Area button, then click on the Printable Area
Test button. Windows will print a test page that you can measure for proper alignment. Make sure that the Use Printable Area Values check box is unchecked, then Cancel from the Setup Printable Area dialog and the Print Control Panel / Preview dialog. Quit Print Artist, then click on the Start button, and choose Settings, Printers. Select the default printer with your mouse, then choose Properties from the File menu. Click on the Paper tab, then click on the Unprintable Area button. The Printable Area Test page from your printer should be measured for unprintable area, according to the instructions on the page. Enter these measurements in the Unprintable Area dialog box and click on OK. Click on the OK button in the printer Properties dialog to permanently save your settings. The settings you just set will help all your Windows programs, including Print Artist, to print accurately on the paper.

Printer Notes
If you have a problem with perforation skipping when using the Epson 2550 driver under Windows 3.1, check its version number and make sure you have the latest one. The latest Epson 2550 driver from Microsoft (which is Universal Printer Driver V3.1.4, Epson LW 2550, v2.11) doesn't have this problem, and it also supports 360 x 360 printing.

If you are using a Citizen GSX 140 printer, you should use the latest Epson 2550 driver instead of the usual Citizen driver.

Print Artist does not automatically support nonstandard (not 8.5 x 11) tractor feed paper sources (for example, continuous business card or phone index card stock). If you are able to fit more than one business card on a standard size document, you might have luck manually aligning them to fit the cardstock you are

using. Often, special stock length is evenly divisible by 11 inches, so you could fool the program into thinking it is dealing with regular tractor-feed paper and get the job done. In the Windows Printer Driver Setup in the Control Panel, choose "Cut Sheet on Tractor" under paper size.

Banner Printing
When you print a banner, check your Print Options to make sure that Margins are set to minimal and Rotate is set to Automatic. Also, make sure that the Use Printable Area Values in the Setup Printable Area dialog box is not set.

General Document Printing
The message "Click and drag to position document" on the Hot Preview status line means that you have additional control over where your document print area will actually be printed to a sheet of paper. You can print your document in the Center of a sheet, against the upper left margin, against the upper center margin, or against the upper right margin, depending on the value chosen for Percent Size. Larger sizes mean fewer options.

Windows Print Manager and other Print Managers
You may experience longer printing times with some printers. We recommend that you disable any 3rd party print managers before attempting to print from Print Artist 4.0. For deskjet, inkjet, and bubblejet systems, setup the printer options to Econofast, or, Fast, or Best printing mode. For Laser printers, be sure you are using Raster graphics instead of vector graphics.

Cutting and Pasting
When you Cut or Copy any part of a Print Artist document, you put your work into a buffer which can then be pasted into any Windows application document which has a Paste menu item in the Edit menu. Such applications include (but are not limited to) word processors, spread sheets, and paint programs. However, colors of what you cut and paste will most likely be different than what they were in Print Artist, because each application has it's own particular color palette.

See Import Limitations above for more information.
If the pasted graphic is too complex the image either may fail to paste or an error message may occur when the document is saved. If this happens remove the pasted graphic, make the original simpler or smaller in the source program, and add the graphic again through copy and paste.

6. Full Drag

To avoid drawing problems in Print Artist, users running Windows 95 with full window dragging enabled should disable full window dragging while running Print Artist. If you prefer running full window dragging, Print Artist has shipped with a file called "FULLDRAG.EXE" which will disable full window dragging while running Print Artist and enable full window dragging when exiting Print Artist. FULLDRAG.EXE can be found on the source CD in the "system" directory. To install, drag FULLDRAG.EXE into the Sierra/Prtarst directory.