

2 A Tour of Special TextEffects

The tour is designed to show you how easy it is to create great text effects using **Special TextEffects**. Follow the instructions step by step and you will be well on the way to mastering **Special TextEffects**. If you haven't just started **Special TextEffects**, click on the Open... button; then in the Open dialog that appears, click on New. You're now ready to begin the tour.

Basic Text Entry

To start, you'll need some text. Click on the text entry window and type: WONDERFUL SPECIAL EFFECTS. You can use Windows' normal text editing features--cut and paste, backspace and delete, and so on.

Set the font to Arial (if it isn't already) using the font box in the top right corner of the screen. Next click on the bold icon below it. If you don't have the Arial font on your computer, pretty much any font will do. You should see your text in the preview window. It won't look very interesting, but we'll soon fix that.

Changing the Shape

About halfway down the right-hand side of the main window, you'll see a row of shape icons. Click on each of them in turn, and watch how the preview window changes.

Double-click on the spiral shape icon near the right end of the row. In the Edit Spiral dialog that appears, change the Aspect Ratio to 150%, then click on OK. The spiral will become more elliptical. You can double-click on most of the **Special TextEffects** icons to open dialogs where you can make fine adjustments to your effects.

Rotation

Now click on each of the rotation icons--that's the middle row: The spiral will rotate to a different angle as you click each icon. With the last four icons, you can choose the angles yourself. Double-click on any of them to open the Edit Rotation Angle dialog. Try that now. When you've finished experimenting, double-click on the last icon and set the angle to 30%. Switch the rotation off again by clicking on the left icon before moving on.

Shadows and Backgrounds

The next row of icons are divided into two groups. The group of four icons on the left controls a shadow effect, while the three on the right control the background. Click on the shadow icon second from the left and the left-most background icon.

You can get a clearer look at the shadow by zooming in on it. Move the mouse pointer over the preview window, so that the cursor changes to a magnifying glass. Click somewhere near the word "SPECIAL" and drag the mouse over any portion of it. When you release the button, the preview window will zoom in so that the selected area fills the window. Use the scroll bars which appear to scroll around the larger area. To return to normal view, double-click on the preview window. In the Change Zoom dialog that opens, set the zoom to Auto. This scales the image to fit in the window automatically.

Color

You can change colors of your image using the last three rows of boxes at the bottom-right of the screen. The first row controls the text color, the second row controls the background, and the last row controls the shadow. Click on each one to see the effect. Then set your work to have red text, a green background and a black shadow.

NOTE: Adding, editing, and setting colors takes a little practice.

Inserting Special Characters

Click on the edit window again, and edit the text so that it says:

WONDERFUL SPECIAL EFFECTS
SPECIAL
TEXTEFFECTS
FOR
WINDOWS
EASY TO USE

Now add bullet characters to the start and end of the last line. To do this, put the text caret at the start of the last line and type, **Ctrl+Alt+.** (period). The bullet will look like a vertical bar in the text window, but don't worry about that. Now go to the end of the line and type the same there. Then click on the Button shape icon (just to the left of the Spiral in the row of shape icons).

Saving Your Special TextEffects Image

To save your special text effect, click the Save as... button. Enter a name for the effect in the Save As dialog that opens and click OK.

Exporting to Other Applications

Finally, we'll export this image to another Windows application, in this example, Write. First click on the Update button--that puts a copy of the image onto the Windows Clipboard. Next, switch to the Program Manager and open the Write application. In Write, select Paste from the Edit menu. This will paste a copy of the image from the Clipboard into the Write document. It's as easy as that. You can use any of the features in the Write program to move or resize the image or to print it.

Samples

We've included a number of samples in **Special TextEffects** that we hope you'll find useful. You can use them just as they are or as templates for your own designs. Just replace the supplied text with a message of your own. For more information about these samples, press **F1** to access the program's online help system. At the Contents window, choose Samples.

Winding Up

It's worth spending a little more time exploring **Special TextEffects** on your own, clicking and double-clicking on the various icons and buttons. Finally, you should read Chapter 3, *Reference*, to make sure you're aware of everything that **Special TextEffects** can do. Have fun!