Printing a Project

No matter how good your project looks on the screen, the final printout on paper is what really counts. PrintMaster Gold pulls out all the stops to make sure your printed project will look its best.

Full 24-bit rendering that supports more that 16 million colors or shades of gray means your pictures will look spectacular. And since all text and pictures are fully scalable, you'll always get crisp razor-sharp output. Plus, PrintMaster Gold lets you print your project at any size—from a miniature greeting card to a gigantic garage door poster.

This section provides step-by-step instructions for printing your project and optimizing your printing setup.

Print Project

To print your project, proceed as follows:

1. Click the **Print** project (e.g., Print Poster, Print Card, etc.) button on the Design Choices sidebar. The Print dialog will appear.

2. Confirm that the current settings are correct. For more information, see the next section entitled *Print Settings*.

3. Click **Print** to start the printing process.

Print Settings

The Print dialog allows you to easily choose and configure your Windows printer, select the output size and print options for your project, and set number of copies to print. This section provides detailed instructions for each of the Print dialog options.

Printer

The name and port of the selected Windows printer is displayed next to this item. To change printer, proceed as follows:

1. Click **Setup** on the Print Dialog. The standard Windows Print Setup dialog is displayed.

2. Select the desired printer and options.

PrintMaster performs full 24-bit rendering of pictures before sending the data to the printer. If the selected Windows printer driver has its own options for dithering or rendering pictures, pick the option which best describes simple monochrome data (e.g. Line Art). In addition, any intensity controls supported by the driver will probably have no effect on the output from PrintMaster Gold.

Print Quality

Most printers support a number of different print quality choices. Click on the Print Quality list box to make your selection. Generally, a low resolution or low quality setting will result in faster printing times—useful for printing a quick rough draft or a very large project that will be viewed from a distance. A high resolution or high quality setting will give you the best output, but will probably take longer to print—use high quality for your final printout.

Fill-in Fields...

Use this option to merge fields onto your printed projects. This time saving features enables you to print out envelopes, labels, invitations or other projects with the names and addresses of family, friends, or business associates.

Output Size...

PrintMaster Gold lets you take any project and print it at any size, from as small as a postage stamp to as large as a garage door.

1. Click the **Output Size** button. The Custom Print Size dialog will appear.

2. Enter the desired output size into the dialog fields. A project whose output size is larger than a single sheet of paper will be printed on multiple sheets—each sheet is called a *tile*. As you select the output size, click the **Show** button or press **[ALT]+[W]** to display a preview of the tile pattern making up the final printout. When your project has finished printing, assemble the tiles to create the final printout.

    There are five items you can change in the Custom Print Size dialog. Note that all sizes must be proportional to the printer paper size. If you change the height, then the width is automatically adjusted and vice versa.

    •   **Inches Wide** specifies the output width in inches.

    •   **Inches Tall** specifies the output height in inches.

    •   **Sheets Wide** specifies the output width in multiple sheets of paper. (Most commonly used to print posters and banners).

    •   **Sheets Tall** specifies the output height in multiple sheets of paper. (Most commonly used to print posters and banners).

3. Click **OK** to confirm your selections, *or* click **Cancel** to return to the Print dialog without changing the output size.

The output size of each printed project is reset to 100% after each printout.

Which Tiles...

For small printouts that fit onto a single tile (sheet of paper), the button is disabled. For large printouts that require multiple tiles, use this option to select the tiles to be printed.

1. Click the **Which Tiles...** button. The Tiles to Print dialog will appear.

2. Select the tiles you want to print from the preview windows. Click on a tile to select it, and click on a selected tile to deselect it.
    • Click **Turn All On** to select all tiles.
    • Click **Turn All Off** to deselect all tiles.

3. Click **OK** to confirm your selections, *or* click **Cancel** to return to the Print dialog without changing the tile selections.

The selected tiles item in each printed project resets to "all tiles" after each printout.

Coloring Book

PrintMaster lets you print certain types of pictures as they would look in a coloring book: only the picture outline is printed and all color fills are printed as white. The coloring book option can be set on

a *per picture* basis. Selecting the Coloring Book option in the Print Dialog overrides these individual settings as follows:

- **None** turns off all coloring book printing regardless of the individual picture settings.
- **As Selected** (the default) performs coloring book printing according to the individual picture settings.
- **All** turns on coloring book printing for all appropriate pictures.

Only certain types of pictures can be printed with the coloring book feature. This includes all the pictures provided by PrintMaster and the MicroLogic Clip Art Library, or any other picture in the CGM and WMF graphics formats. For other formats such as TIF or PCX, the coloring book option will have no effect.

Smoothing

Use smoothing to soften the roughness of low resolution bitmapped graphics on your printouts. To turn smoothing on and off, click in the checkbox next to **Smoothing**.

In general, only pictures in bitmapped graphics format such as TIF or PCX are effected by the smoothing option. Smoothing has no effect on the pictures provided by PrintMaster, or any other picture in the CGM graphics format.

Advanced...

Click the **Advanced...** button to display the Advanced Settings dialog.

Use the **Outline Picture Contrast** slider to adjust the lightness or darkness of printed outline pictures such as CGM and WMF graphics. Use the **Bitmap Picture Contrast** slider to adjust the lightness or darkness of printed bitmap pictures such as graphics in the TIF, PCX or BMP formats.

Picture Contrast does not effect text or other items such as Calendar lines. If pictures are printing too dark, adjust the slider to the left, towards the word **Light**. If pictures are printing too light, adjust the slider to the right, towards the word *Dark*. A setting of 1000 will cause PrintMaster to send pictures to the printer without any contrast adjustments.

Dot matrix and HP DeskJet printers can sometimes print too dark or too light. Use the Picture Contrast controls to lighten or darken the printout.

Copies

Use this item to select the number of copies you want to print. Simply enter the desired number into the box next to the word **Copies**. The number of copies is reset to 1 after each printout.

Check the **Collate Copies** item in order to print one complete group of your project before printing the next copy.

Printing Labels

To print your Labels, proceed as follows:

1. Click the **Print Label** button on the Design Choices sidebar.

2. Click **Print** to start the printing process.

Starting Label...

Use this item to specify the starting label on any printout. This feature is useful when printing to a page containing only a partial number of labels. On printouts consisting of multiple pages, this feature will only apply to the first page. Any additional pages will start printing on the first label.

1. Click **Starting Label...** button.

2. Choose the starting label and click **OK**.

Printing Envelopes

To print your Envelope, proceed as follows:

1. Click the **Print Envelope** button on the Design Choices sidebar.

2. Click **Print** to start the printing process.

Envelope Feed...

Use this item to indicate the position of your envelope as it is inserted into the paper tray..

- **Tall/Wide** indicates which edge of the envelope is fed first into the printer.
- **Left/Center/Right** indicates the position of the envelope along the paper feed path.
- **Flap Up/Flap Down** indicates which way the envelope flap faces when it is fed into the printer.
- **Rotated** changes the orientation of the envelope feed by 180 degrees.