

IMAGE COMPOSITION

Photodesk's comprehensive masking facilities make image composition an absolute dream. To create this image, various objects were sliced out of an image and air brushed into this one. When I first attempted to create the mask to enable me to extract the various objects, I ran into problems with the magic wand. Although a magic wand will work effectively on clearly defined objects, as soon as you have overlapping objects of the same colour - note the plethora of green in the vegetable image on the previous page - creating masks with the magic wand becomes very difficult. In the end I found it simpler to use the drawing tools to create the mask by drawing a filled Bezier curve around each object. Fast and effective. In order to allow the cut-out objects to be air brushed onto this image, appearing behind certain objects and in front of others, a second set of masks was created, this time covering various parts of the pillars and building. The objects were then



SILK SCREENS AND STENCILS

One of Photodesk's more unusual facilities is the ability to import Draw files. These can either be incorporated directly into the image, or, more impressively, turned into masks and used as silk screens or stencils.

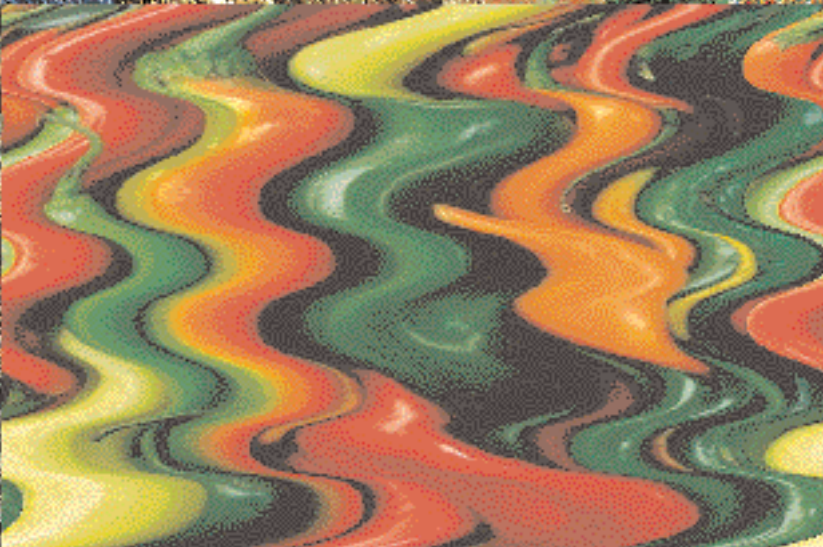


In this case the colours used in the Draw file affect the depth of the mask. Importing the Draw file is as simple as dragging it into the image window. A dialogue box will appear, allowing you to alter the Draw file's scale, rotation and position. Once these have been set up correctly, you can click on the 'To mask' button to turn the Draw file into a mask. This image was created by dragging in two Draw files, resizing and positioning them and turning them into masks. The mask was then inverted to allow special effects to be applied to the area contained within the Draw files and not the surrounding area. The effects, as you can see, can be very impressive. An edge detection effect was applied to the unmasked area using a 100% strength magic

IMAGE PROCESSING

This image demonstrates just a few of Photodesk's many image processing functions. A mask was created using the filled parallelogram tool, and this was then shifted and inverted to enable each bar to have different effects applied to it. The first bar has had a simple blue tint added. The second one has undergone two operations: it was first sharpened using a fine sharpen at half strength, after which its contrast was increased. The next section shows how the image looked originally. The fourth bar was created using the Effect gradient curve combined with Linear compression. An effect gradient allows an operation to fade across an image. A

combination of image processing and special effect routines were used to create the fifth bar. The image was sharpened and solarized, after which an angled Motion blur was applied to it. The next bar shows off the differences between toning and filtering, as well as the effects of the embossing function. Toning was used to



SPECIAL EFFECTS

In the introduction to the manual, it states that Photodesk allows the user not only to retouch photography, but also to produce original artwork. It does this by combining computer simulations of traditional artwork production methods such as brushing, air brushing, drawing, masking, screening,

cut and paste and so on, with techniques that are unique to the computer, such as image processing, gamma correction, cloning, Bezier path generation, selective filtering and many others.

Certainly unique to the computer is a category called special effects. Photodesk provides five special effects: cloning, ripple, motion blur, smudge and smear, and camera lens, and Spacetech says that more are being worked on. This image demonstrates just one of these techniques - the ripple. Ripple is not limited to a simple style or direction. It is possible to have curved or straight ripples either horizontally or vertically, and

