

Images with Impact! by 3G Graphics

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Reviewing software packages can be a real challenge. You have a limited time and want to be objective and thorough. You certainly don't want to mislead anyone, nor inject your own prejudices (positive or negative). A trace of guilt/uncertainty haunts you as you wonder if you really are qualified. After all, you certainly are not an expert, others may base their decision to buy on your words, a vendor may be unhappy if your opinion is negative or misleading. Whew!!

It is fun, too!! And these three PostScript language, clip art packages are even more than that!! I am delighted to recommend **Accents & Borders 1**, **Business 1**, and **Graphics & Symbols 1**. Each of the trio come with a small Users Guide packed with advice, samples and ideas. Also enclosed in each package is a Pictorial Index to help you find just the right piece easily and quickly. I would give 3G an A+++.

"Since there is no application software on these disks, you will need a program that reads EPS (Encapsulated PostScript) files in order to use Images with Impact!" In each package is a User's Guide Supplement sheet that provides assistance in using many programs in which you might be using this art. There is a listing of many EPS compatible applications where this clip art can be used. 3G Graphics suggests you check your application manuals for further information about compatibility with EPS files. Most of the standards are listed: Adobe Illustrator, Aldus Freehand 2.0+; Aldus PageMaker, Silicon Beach Personal Press, Letraset Design Studio and Ready, Set, Go, QuarkXPress, Timeworks Publish It!; and the presentation packages Aldus Persuasion, Cricket Presents, Letraset StandOut, and Microsoft PowerPoint. The User's Guide also lists some EPS compatible applications for the IBM/Compatibles which include most of the prominent DOS packages.

The kind of output you decide to use depends on your needs, preference and, of course, budget. If printing to a 300dpi PostScript printer you will have no difficulty holding line widths when printing reduced images and your screens and patterns will be limited only by the 300dpi constraints of your printer. If you are planning to use these graphics with high-resolution typesetting equipment, remember that fine lines can be lost when using greater reductions. Also "for optimal reproduction quality [on high-resolution equipment], all shading is . . . between 10-75%.

With a PostScript language drawing program, you can edit, separate and add color/shading to these graphics. All the images have been grouped, so you can "ungroup" the entire image and manipulate the individual elements. Within the limits of the features of your drawing program, you can resharade with different fills, textures and patterns. When you are ready to import your finished graphic into your page layout or presentation program for output on a PostScript printer, save the image as an EPS format file.

In your page layout or presentation program you can import, place or "get picture" the clip you have chosen. Then there are only the limitations of your application. You can crop, scale, position, and rotate. As these are opaque images so you can place them on top of ruled lines or contrasting backgrounds. You can place text over your graphic. "If you get the grey bounding box when you import your file, this means you have imported a *PostScript only* file. It will still print to a PostScript printer, but lacks the *Encapsulated* portion of the file—the bit map representation of the image which displays on your screen." If this happens, consult your product documentation to determine the proper procedure for saving files in EPS format for importing into other programs.

The **Accents & Borders 1** package is quite special. 3G says "It's a rich and exciting collection of original designs and symbols, many inspired by decorative motifs used throughout history, spanning from primitive images to present-day cultures." Included in the back of this User's Guide is a section called Historical Notes where they briefly describe the roots of many of their designs, including Minoan, Egyptian, Greek, Celtic Victorian, Asian and others.

These three packages list at \$129.95 for Accents & Borders 1 (a free disk of color images come to you when you register your Accents & Borders 1), \$129.95 for Business 1, and \$99.95 for Graphics 1. However, until January 15, 1991, AMUG Members will receive a 40% discount on these unique and impressive graphics. Please contact Michael Bean at 892-5454 or come to the Best of . . . table at the December 20th main meeting and

leave your name, address and check. The order will be placed so as to allow the maximum time for you get in on this great deal.

To close I will say that 3G Graphics richly deserves the 5 mouse ratings given to their graphics by MacUser in 1988, 1989, and again in 1990, saying in November 1990 "The illustrations are simply superb. . .".