PPaint.tutorial

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Contents

Chapter 1

PPaint.tutorial

1.1 Personal Paint Tutorial - The Index

Well, here it is. A list of all the different sections in this large
and mighty guide. Just click on the ones you want to read, and don't
click on the ones you don't want to read!

The Main Menu – Contents Page
The Toolbar Menu
The Pull Down Menus Menu
The Secial Effects Menus
The Animation Menu

The Index – Although Why you click here is beyond me!

1.2 Welcome To The Personal Paint Tutorial

Hello there and welcome to the Doubleclick! Personal Paint Tutorial,
written by me, Stephen Graham.

Over the next few issues we will try and show you how to get some
great effects from Personal Paint, to let you produce some fantastic
artwork. Most of the Artwork that you see in this magazine has been
produced using Personal Paint V6.3. There are newer versions on the
market now (Currently there was V6.4, then V7), but they do not offer
a great deal more than the version we shall be using.

First, we shall take a tour of the basic functions that you will find
on the Toolbar, on the PPaint screen.

Toolbar Menu

Then after that, we shall look at what each Menu item does

Pull Down Menus

After you have mastered that, it is time to draw. We shall show you
some of the more fancy effects that PPaint can achieve, using Gradient

Fills, Stencils, and Image Processing.

Special Effects

One final topic we could cover will be Personal Paint's ability to
construct animations.

Animation

1.3   Some Really Useful & Interesting Information About Me!

About Stephen Graham
————— ——————— ——————

Hello. My name is Stephen Graham. My birthdate is 14 January 1976 and
I am currently 21 years old, and have been using Amiga's for about 8
years.

To contact me about anything Amiga related, or to swap PD, or just
have a chat, please write to:

Stephen Graham
PO Box 8353
Largs
North Ayrshire
Scotland
UK
KA30 8HG

Or you could try to phone me: (0468) 508 871, but be warned as it's a
mobile phone.

Here is a list of my total computer Setup:

A1200 with internal 2½" 260 MB Hard Drive
Appollo 1220 4 MB Memory Board with 68882 Maths Co-Processor plus Clock
2 External Floppy Disk Drives
Citizen ABC 24 Pin Dot Matrix Colour Printer
Panasonic KX-P1180 9 Pin Dot Matrix Black & White Printer
Goliath Upgrated Power Supply
Wizard Developments Black 3 Button Mouse
RoboShift Joystick / Mouse Splitter
Camlink Stereo Sound Mixer
Konix Sppedking Joystick (Which I have had for 5 years!)
Konix Navigator Joystick (Which I have had for a lot longer!)

A600 with 1 MB Trapdoor Memory Upgrade plus Battery Backed Clock

A500+ (But I have no RF Modulator)

Cambridge Z88 Laptop (Soon to have a Connection to the Amiga A1200)

2 ZX-81's (one with a 16K (Wow - 16K!) Memory Upgrade)
ZX Thermal Paper Printer (Like a Mini FAX Machine)

2 ZX Spectrum +2's (One is the Black +2A with the lightgun)

I have been collecting Public Domain for a few years now, and although my collection is not very large, (350 ish disks), I have quite a lot of other disks from mags etc, and friends. I also run the latest version of Virus Checker and Virus Z 2 on startup to combat virus infection.

I have been interested in computing from a very early age. My very first computer was a ZX81 (remember them!) with a full 16K upgrade! Wow! I had two of them before I upgraded to a ZX Spectrum (the first one with the dead man finger keys!). From there I bought a 48K ZX Spectrum (The black one with the fold down feet), and from that a ZX Spectrum +2, which at the time was the cutting edge of technology. A whole 128 KB of power. I also had a Radio Shack TRS-80, which I only used for playing chess and Card Games – it was that primitive.

I then decided it was time for a change, and bought an A600 with my brother. Wow! Programs that loaded in less than three days, and they had decent sound and graphics. I was converted. I had a shot of friend's Atari ST, but it was not the same – The Amiga was the one for me!

Soom after this my brother and I, who owned half of the Amiga, decided to upgrade up to an A1200. We did and since them have expanded the system. We bought the printer first because we were currently using an Epson 9 pin Black & White and the quality was quite literally, crap! We have since bought the Hard Drive (Notice to all non-Hard Drive owners:- GET ONE NOW. YOU WILL NOT BELIEVE THE DIFFERENCE!), and we are currently saving up for a CD-ROM, a Sound Sampler and an Colour Inkjet Printer.

I also own a Cambridge Z88 Laptop computer, which is handy to type out your letters when you are out and about, or away from home. I am just about to buy a cable that connects the Z88 to your Amiga. It's something I've wanted for a long time. Eventually, I got it. All good things come to those who wait.

I also have a Phillips CDi with the Digital Video Cartridge, lots of films and games etc. It is a brilliant machine to play with. Does anybody else have one, and would like to swap tips etc about games, and maybe even some discs?

I was elected a member of Pentrisoft, a user group for the Amiga which is aimed at the Shareware side of Computing, last year, and we have many members all over the world, from the UK to the USA!

I am now also a Co-Editor for Doubleclick!, the Amiga disk magazine produced regularly by Pentrisoft. It is freely available from PD Libraries, as well as Pentrisoft, Amicom PD, Mark Harman (The Pentrisoft President, and the other Doubleclick! Editor), as well as myself. A worthy read which has loads of articles to suit just about any taste.

I work in the mornings delivering newspapers. After that I work as a

mechanic in my father's garage, fixing cars. From time to time I am a
DJ, who runs his own mobile disco (which was paid for out of the
paper round – think of the price of CD's and equipment etc).

My main interests are Cars, for obvious reasons, Computing and
Motorcycling. I want anything you like on the disks, Demos,
slideshows, games, utils, you name it, I want it. All letters
answered 1200%.

Thanks for watching, and send me your jiffys.

Stephen Graham

Click me to go back to the Main Menu

1.4 Personal Paint Tutorial - The Toolbar

The toolbar is effectively what controls most of the basic functions
in Personal Paint. It is situated on the left hand side of the
worktop, or screen, in much the same way as the Workbench screen is
set out, with all the important icons on the left. You can switch on
or switch off (toggle) the Toolbar by pressing F9 on the keyboard.
You can also press F10 to toggle the Titlebar, which sits along the
top edge of the screen. The Titlebar contains information about the
name of the image you are currently working on, and the position of
the cursor. By removing these options, you are able to see more of
the image you are working on, and this makes it easier to edit it.

Click for a picture of the ToolBar
0}

Now you know what the Toolbar looks like, and what each tool in it
does. To find out about a certain tool, please click below.

1. Brushes Bank
2. Dotted Freehand
3. Continous Freehand
4. Curves
5. Lines
6. Circles
7. Rectangles
8. Ellipses
9. Polygons
10. Airbrush
11. Area Fill
12. Text Editor
13. Image Processing
14. Snap To Grid
15. Define Brush
16. Magnify
17. Zoom
18. Clear (Wastebasket)
19. Undo / Redo

Click me to go back to the Main Menu

1.5   Personal Paint Tutorial - The Brushes Bank

Click for a picture of the Icon

This box contains the different drawing tools that you use to construct your image. Along the top of the box are the circular drawing brushes, and along the bottom of the box are the square brushes. The number in the bottom left hand of the box (1-9) corresponds to the user defined brush that you can use. It is possible to cut out part of an image and use it as a drawing brush as well.

To select a brush from this box, left click on the brush of your choice.

If you want to use a brush of a different size than the ones offered, then all you do is right click on the brush nearest the one you want, and use the mouse to resize it until the desired size is reached. You can also make elliptical or rectangular brushes in this way.

If you right click on the user defined brush (the number), a small pop up menu will appear with the numbers 1-9 on it. It is possible to have up to 9 user defined brushes and by selecting the appropriate number, you can select your desired brush. When the desired brush is chosen, its number will appear in the box instead of the default number, 1.

Click me to go back to the Toolbar Menu
Click me to go back to the Main Menu

1.6   Personal Paint Tutorial - Dotted Freehand

Click for a picture of the Icon

This is probably the tool that you will use the most, and it is the simplest to use. To use it, place the cursor where you want to paint, and press the left mouse button. You can hold the button down, and move the mouse around, and wherever you have been, a trail will be left. To paint with the current foreground colour, press the left mouse button, and use the right mouse button to paint in the current background colour.

If you move the mouse quickly while pressing either button, you will get a series of dots instead of a continous line. The distance between the dots will depend on how fast you move the mouse. Also, the speed of the processor in the Amiga will be taken into consideration, although this is marginal. A faster computer will find it easier to catch up with the pointer and print to a higher resolution.

1.7 Personal Paint Tutorial - Continous Freehand

Click for a picture of the Icon

This is essentially the same as Dotted Freehand, but draws in a
continous line, instead of a series of dots. If you click with the
left hand button on the top half of the box, then you can draw a line
totally freehand with no shading. If you click on the bottom half of
the box however, and draw a line, and areas that are enclosed by that
line are filled.

If you right click on the box while you are in line mode, a line
settings box appears where you are able to choose the kind of line
that you wish to draw with. You can choose from a continous line, or
an on/off (dotted) line, or a patterned line, using a user defined
brush.

If you right click while in area mode, you are shown an area settings
box, where you can choose from a solid, gradient, or pattern fill. A
normal solid fill, will use either the background or foreground colur,
depending on whatever colour you are using. A gradient fill is a bit
different. You can fill using a range of colours, in a range of ways.
More about that later. A Pattern fill, will use either a normal
dithered pattern, or a tiled pattern made up from a user defined
brush. There is a list below in the window of the different brushes
that you can use, as well as a window to show what each brush is.

1.8 Personal Paint Tutorial - The Curve Tool

Click for a picture of the Icon

Clicking on this tool will produce a straight line tool. Click on the
start and finish of the curve, and then you have 4 corner reference
points to shape the curve. By clicking on either side of the line,
you will shape the curve to your liking. When you have got the shape
that you want then click on the right mouse button. The curve will
then change colour to your selected colour, so by starting the process
by clicking the right mouse button, the curve will finish as a
background colour, and by starting with the left button, it will be a
foreground colour.

To quote the Personal Paint handbook, which I think explains the
situation perfectly:-

"The exact definition of this type of curve is 'Bezier cubic section'.
The four points geometrically define the shape of the curve. The

curve starts at the first point, at a tangent to the line from the first to the second point, and ends at the fourth point, at a tangent to the line which joins the last two points. The curve is always enclosed by the convex quadrilateral defined by the points."

© Cloanto Italia

Click me to go back to the Toolbar Menu
Click me to go back to the Main Menu

1.9   Personal Paint Tutorial - The Straight Line Tool

Click for a picture of the Icon

This tool is very simple. All you do is draw straight lines with it. Click on either button to pick your colour, and at the start of the line. Drag the pointer until you reach the end of your line, and release the button. Simple as that.

If you are a bit shaky when it comes to freehand line drawing, Personal Paint has a bit of a trick which you can use, which will lock the pointer in one plane, either horizontally or vertically. Start your line, and move at least one pixel in the desired direction. Then press Shift, while still holding the mouse button, and carry on. You can now move the mouse in the different plane, and it will not matter, as the direction has been locked. This function will cease when you let go of Shift, so you could use it for a number of tasks at once.

Click me to go back to the Toolbar Menu
Click me to go back to the Main Menu

1.10   Personal Paint Tutorial - The Circle Tool

Click for a picture of the Icon

Drawing circles has always been a bit of a footer, until the paint package people thought of this tool. It is a very powerful tool, and is one of the most used.

Simple in its use, either press left or right for colour, ensuring that you are starting in the centre of the circle. Move the pointer to the edge of the circle, and release the button.

If you click on the bottom half of the tool, you can construct a filled circle, but remember that these are covered by the area fill settings, so make sure that you have the correct setting enabled.

Click me to go back to the Toolbar Menu
Click me to go back to the Main Menu

1.11   Personal Paint Tutorial - The Rectangle Tool

Click for a picture of the Icon

This tool effectively draws squares and rectangles. By clicking on
your choice of colour (left or right button), and dragging to the
opposite corner (ie start in bottom left, finish in top right),   and
letting go of the button, a rectangle will be formed. Clicking on the
bottom half of the tool, as usual, will select a filled shape, so area
fillings apply as well.

Click me to go back to the Toolbar Menu
Click me to go back to the Main Menu

1.12   Personal Paint Tutorial - The Ellipse Tool

Click for a picture of the Icon

This is similar to the circle tool, in that you draw a circle, except
you now have depth, to construct the different angles of the sides, so
by placing the cursor at different angles and distances from the
centre point of the circle, you can construct different ellipses.
Fill settings etc apply if you click on the bottom half of the tool as
usual.

Click me to go back to the Toolbar Menu
Click me to go back to the Main Menu

1.13   Personal Paint Tutorial - The Polygon Tool

Click for a picture of the Icon

This tool allows you to draw objects of an irregular shape and size.
Click on the tool with the left or right button, depending on the
colour required. Click where the shape is to start, and you will have
a line tool appear, which you should use to draw a side of your shape,
and you can repeat this process until the desired shape is achieved.
To finish, and to complete the shape, draw your last line back to the
start of the shape.

If you clicked the top half of the tool to start, then the shape will
be an outline, but by clicking on the bottom half, any completed areas
will be filled.   Area fill settings will of course be taken into
account.

Click me to go back to the Toolbar Menu
Click me to go back to the Main Menu

1.14   Personal Paint Tutorial - The Airbrush Tool

Click for a picture of the Icon

This is effectively the same as a normal aerosol spray can. Click on
either button for your desired colour, and hold the button, and spray
freehand. As with a real spray can, the longer you stay in the same
position, the more paint you will deposit.

By clicking on the tool with the right button, an options screen will
appear.   You can select either an elliptical or rectangular spray
nozzle,   and change the amounts of jets that spray at any one time.
You can also adjust the size of the spray head, by clicking on the
Adjust button. The spray head will appear, and all you do is hold the
left button, and move the mouse until the desired size is reached.

Click me to go back to the Toolbar Menu
Click me to go back to the Main Menu

1.15   Personal Paint Tutorial - The Area Fill Tool

Click for a picture of the Icon

This is one of the tools that you will probably use the most. It is
basically a tool to change the colour of areas of the picture which
are the same colour as the pixel that the pointer is on. It will not
change all pixels on the screen of the same colour – you are best to
use the palette to do that.

Click on the tool with the left button, and the desired area with
either button, depending on which colour you wish.

If you click on the tool with the right button, you will be given the
area fill settings screen, where you can chsnge the type of fill
required.

You basically have three types of fill, Solid, Gradient & Pattern.
Solid is easy – one colour, and is a normal colour change. Gradient
is much more complex. You can specify a start and end colour from the
palette (it uses a range from the background to the foreground),   and
have either a few steps or many steps in between. You can have the
gradient either displayed horizontally or vertically, or both ways.
Pattern fill uses a brush from the user defined brushes, and tiles it
to make a backdrop, which can then be applied to the image.

Click me to go back to the Toolbar Menu
Click me to go back to the Main Menu

1.16   Personal Paint Tutorial - The Text Editor Tool

Click for a picture of the Icon

You are best to start using this tool by clicking on it with the right

button.   You are then shown a standard Font Requester window,   which
you use to select the font that you require, it's size,   and any
effects that you wish to apply to it (Bold, Italics, Underline).

You then click on the left button, select your colour from the
palette with the left button, and move the text cursor to the
position you wish on the screen, clickthe left button, and start to
type.   Any future changes to colour can be made by clicking on the
palette with the left button, and the right button on the tool for
changing the font or font style.

Click me to go back to the Toolbar Menu
Click me to go back to the Main Menu

1.17   Personal Paint Tutorial - Image Processing

Click for a picture of the Icon

In using this tool, you can change the whole appearance of your image
by using preset routines, which can do a number of things like blur
the image,   sharpen the image,   change the image into a watercolour
painting etc.

This is covered in greater detail in the Special Effects section.

Click me to go back to the Toolbar Menu
Click me to go to the Special Effects Menu
Click me to go back to the Main Menu

1.18   Personal Paint Tutorial - Snap To Grid

Click for a picture of the Icon

This is a tool that will only let you draw in a set grid size.   In
simple terms, all that happens is that an invisible grid of dots is
overlaid on your image. You can only draw on these dots, so if you
were drawing lots of squares of a certain size, this would be of great
help.

You right click on the tool, and you can set the size of the grid,
which is the distance between the dots, or pixels. You can also
change the offset which allows you to fine tune your grid and position
it anywhere on the X and Y Axis.

Click me to go back to the Toolbar Menu
Click me to go back to the Main Menu

1.19   Personal Paint Tutorial - The Define Brush Tool.

Click for a picture of the Icon

This is another well used tool, which enables you to create your own
user definable brushes.

To use you click on the box with the left button. It should have a
"square with no sides on it" highlighted. It looks like a box with
just corners on it. If you click on it again you will be shown "a
round shape, but not a circle". I will deal with each one separately.

The box icon allows you to grab parts of your image,   but makes a
rectangular brush.

The circular one allows you to grab parts of your image which are of
an irregular shape.

First I will deal with the box. When you click on it and return to
the image screen, a set of crosshairs appear. You click on one corner
of the desired area, and drag until you reach the opposite corner, ie
start at top left, and finish at bottom right. Everything you want
will now be in a box. Release the button, and you have your brush.

With the circular brush, all you do is click on it, return to the
image, and draw a line around the part you want, and finish the line
back at the start. Your irregular shape is now a brush.

IMPORTANT - If you go to the image screen and draw around your shape
with the left button, a copy of the area will be made,   and your
original image will be unharmed. If you use the right button to grab
your image, the place where your brush was taken from will be replaced
by the background colour, and any detail that was there before will be
erased, or painted over with the background colour.

Click me to go back to the Toolbar Menu
Click me to go back to the Main Menu

1.20   Personal Paint Tutorial - The Magnify Tool

Click for a picture of the Icon

This is a magnifying glass style tool, which enables you to view a
selected area of your image, in a more detailed state, which can even
go down to pixel by pixel.

To use, click on the tool with the left button, and use the crosshairs
to select your area, starting at one corner, and finishing at the
opposite corner (top left - bottom right for example). When you let
the button go, the screen splits into two halves, with the magnifyed
area on the left, and the rest of the normal image on the right.

There are two normal scroll gadgets on the magnify window,   which
allow you to scroll up and down, left and right.

To allow you to edit the magnified image even further,   you can

separate it to a pixel by pixel image. To do this, click on the box
on the bottom right hand side of the magnified image. A grid is then
overlaid onto the magnified image, allowing you to select one pixel at
a time. If the screen flashes when you select this tool, it is
possible that you do not have enough memory to enable this tool to
function, as a high resolution magnified image like this takes up a
lot of memory and processor time.

Click me to go back to the Toolbar Menu
Click me to go back to the Main Menu

1.21 Personal Paint Tutorial - The Zoom Tool

Click for a picture of the Icon

This is used in conjunction with the Magnify tool. Once you are in
Magnify mode, click on the left button to zoom in on your chosen area,
and the right to move out.

If you have two environments selected, you can have a different zoom
level on each one, so one can be fully zoomed in, while the other is
fully zoomed out.

Click me to go back to the Toolbar Menu
Click me to go back to the Main Menu

1.22 Personal Paint Tutorial - The Clear (Wastebasket) Tool

Click for a picture of the Icon

This tool is used to clear the screen, and start afresh. By clicking
on the undo button, it is possible to reclaim the image, although if
you click on the clear tool twice, then the Undo buffer will also be
cleared, so be careful when using this tool. Basically all the tool
does is paint over the image with the current background colour, thus
clearing the screen.

Click me to go back to the Toolbar Menu
Click me to go back to the Main Menu

1.23 Personal Paint Tutorial - The Undo / Redo Tool

Click for a picture of the Icon

This tool is used to undo any mistakes, or functions that you did not
wish to perform. It can be very handy when you have drawn an image,
and wish to change a few of the colours. If, after the fifth colour
change for example, you are not happy and wish to return to your
original image, you can keep clicking on the tool with the left button
until the original is back. If, when you have returned to the

original image, and thought that the third colour change really was
quite good, you can click on the tool with the right button to redo
changes, until the desired effect is reached.

By clicking on the clear tool twice, you will clear the undo / redo
buffer which means that any changes will not be remembered.

If the buffer is empty, then the tool will be shaded.

Click me to go back to the Toolbar Menu
Click me to go back to the Main Menu

1.24   Sorry - This part of the guide will be available soon

I am sorry, but we (Mark & I) decided it would be better if this guide
was split up into sections, so this section of the guide will be
released at a later date, although it has been written already.

See the next issue of Doubleclick, which will have this section.

Click me to go back to the Main Menu

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