V 1.0 Manual

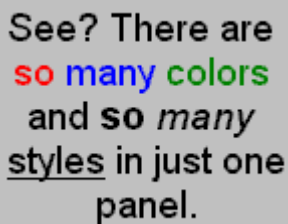© 1999 Hanke & Hörner Software
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1. The HH Panel Control and its Possibilities

Whenever you want to display some text on your form, you need some text panel or frame control in one way or another. Whenever you want to group some controls together you are in need of some frame control. And, yes, there are some text panels and frame controls out there, and every one of them offers **some** additional features. But with our ActiveX HH Panel Control you will have all the features together, and more....
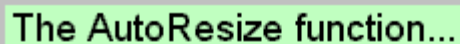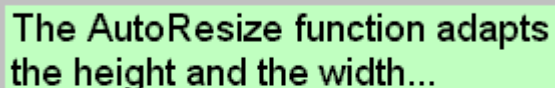

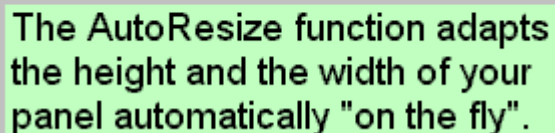- With the HH Panel Control you can assign your text horizontally to the left, to the center and to the right and vertically to the top, to the middle and to the bottom (in all combinations)
- But you also have block assignment for your text (a feature missing in most of the comparable controls)
- You may change the color and the font styles (bold, italic, underlined) for every character in your text, using control codes.
- In addition to this the HH Panel Controls offers a cute shadow effect for your messages (with a shadow distance you can regulate yourself)
- You also have the possibility of assigning a background picture
- The panel backcolor itself can be switched to transparent mode, the other way round, you can assign a transparent color, thereby making the font itself transparent!
- If the length of text is not defined at design time, you will find the AutoResize function very handy. You choose a minimum and maximum height and width, and the HH Panel Control adapts its height and width according to the amount of text.

- And, yes, there is a large variety of border styles, of course. You may choose between no border, inset

panel, outset panel, inset line, outset line, deep inset panel and simple plain frame border with user defined border width.

2. Frame Styles (FrameStyle, BorderColor and BorderWidth Properties)

Using the *FrameStyle* property, you can easily change the appearance of your HH Panel Control as follows:

FrameStyle property value	Appearance
0 - None	FrameStyle: None
1 - InSetPanel	InSetPanel
2 - OutSetPanel	OutSetPanel
3 - InSetLine	InSetLine
4 - OutSetLine	OutSetLine
5 - DeepInsetPanel	DeepInsetPanel
6 - UserBorder	UserBorder

The *BorderColor* and *BorderWidth* Properties offers you additional possibilities to modify the appearance of the Panel in "UserBorder" frame style:

FrameStyle property value	Appearance
BorderWidth = 4, BordeColor = vbRed	UserBorder

3. Text Alignment

The *Alignment* property allows you to define the horizontal and vertical alignment of your text within your HH Panel Control:

Top Alignments	
FrameStyle property value	**Appearance**
0 - TopLeft	The Alignment property is set to value 0 - TopLeft.
1- TopCenter	The Alignment property is set to value 1 - TopCenter.
2 - TopRight	The Alignment property is set to value 2 - TopRight.
3 - TopBlock	The Alignment property is set to value 3 - TopBlock.

Middle Alignments	
FrameStyle property value	**Appearance**
4 - MiddleLeft	The Alignment property is set to value 4 - MiddleLeft.
5- MiddleCenter	The Alignment property is set to value 5 - MiddleCenter.
6 - MiddleRight	The Alignment property is set to value 6 - MiddleRight
7 - MiddleBlock	The Alignment property is set to value 7 - MiddleBlock.

Bottom Alignments	
FrameStyle property value	**Appearance**
8 - BottomLeft	The Alignment property is set to value 8 - BottomLeft.
9 - BottomCenter	The Alignment property is set to value 9 - BottomCenter.
10 - BottomRight	The Alignment property is set to value 10 - BottomRight
11 - BottomBlock	The Alignment property is set to value 11 - BottomBlock.

4. Changing Character Color and Style using Control Codes and ForeColor and Font property

You may use the *ForeColor* and *Font* property as usual to define the appearance of the whole text. However, in addition to this, you have the possibility of using control codes to change the appearance of the characters within your text. These are the control codes you may use:

Control Code	Description
<b1>	bold on
<b0>	bold off
<i1>	italic on
<i0>	italic off
<u1>	underline on
<u0>	underline off
<fc=n>	Set forecolor to *n* (where *n* is the decimal color code of the desired color)

The screenshot to the right shows an example of how to use these control codes. The *Font* property is set to "Arial Standard 14pt", ant the *Caption* is *"See? There are <fc=255>so <fc=16711680>many <fc=32768>colors <fc=0> and <b1>so<b0> <i1>many<i0> <u1>styles<u0> in just one panel."*

Simple, isn't it?

5. Using the Shadow Effect for your Fonts

By simply switching the **WithShadow** property to true, you gain a very cute shadow effect. The shadow distance and shadow color can be controlled by means of the properties **ShadowWidth** and **ShadowDistance**.

Example values	Appearance
ForeColor = &H000000FF& **ShadowColor** = &H00000040& **ShadowDistance** = 2	
ForeColor = &H000000FF& **ShadowColor** = &H80000010& **ShadowDistance** = 4	

6. Assigning a Back Color or a Background Picture

The **BackColor** property helps you to change the ever grey background to a more appealing color, or possibly you feel like using the **Picture** property to assign a background picture to your HH Panel Control.

Example values	Appearance
BackColor = &H00C0C0FF&	
Picture = "clouds.bmp"	

7. Making the Background, the Font or Specific Areas Transparent

By default the **BackStyle** property is set to *1 - Opaque*. This means, that if the HH Panel Control is placed over another control, this control is concealed by the HH Control. However, if the **BackStyle** property is set to *0 - Transaparent*, you can look "through" all parts of the HH Control panel that have the same color as the color defined by the **TransparentColor** property. Hence, if you set the **BackColor** property and the **TransparentColor** to the same value, the background becomes transparent.

Example values	Appearance
BackStyle = 1 **BackColor** = &H00C0C0FF&	
BackStyle = 0 **BackColor** = &H00C0C0FF& **TransparentColor** = &H00C0C0FF&	

You can get the reverse effect by assigning the same color value to the **ForeColor** and **Transparent-Color** properties. The picture to the right shows a HH Panel Control placed over an ordinary PictureBox control. The PictureBox control shows the good old "*clouds.bmp*" image. The properties of the HH Panel Control are: **Font** = "*MS Sans Serif Bold 24pt*", **BackStyle** = *0 - Transparent*, **BackColor** = *&H00404040&*, **ForeColor** = *0*, **TransparaentColor** = *0*. Because of the **ForeColor** and **TransparentColor** having the same value, the text appears to be transparent and you can see the clouds picture of the PictureBox control through it.

8. The AutoResize Function

Whenever you have to display some text of varying length at runtime, you can utilize the **AutoResize** function. It is quite simple: First you have to set the maximum height and width and the minimum height and with by using the **MaxHeight, MaxWidth, MinHeight** and **MinWidth** properties. Then simply switch the **AutoResize** property to *true*, and here you go...