LivePix(TM) 1.0 - Readme file

Welcome to LivePix, the fun and easy way to create postcards, greeting cards, Web page graphics, and many other exciting images.

This Readme file contains information that was not available when the LivePix documentation went to press. Please be familiar with the contents of this file before you call LivePix technical support.

If you can't see a full line of text in the window, click the maximize button in the upper right corner. To print this file, choose Print from the File menu.

IMPORTANT
Please complete your registration card and mail it today if you have not registered electronically. You must register to receive technical support and important product update information.

The Readme file contains information on the following subjects:

1.   Optimal settings before launching LivePix
2.   TWAIN device support
3.   Working with templates
4.   Printing
5.   Working with FlashPix files
6.   Working with non-FlashPix files and the image cache
7.   Working with text
8.   Working with thumbnails in the Gallery
9.   Using the Positioning and F/X tools
10. Window management in LivePix
11. Windows screen fonts
12. Installing/Reinstalling LivePix

1. Optimal Settings Before Launching LivePix

Display
For optimal display quality in LivePix, your monitor should be set to a resolution of 800 by 600 pixels with a color depth of "thousands of colors."

To change the display settings:

1. Choose Settings from the Windows 95 Start menu.
2. Click Control Panel.
3. In the Control Panel, double-click Display.
4. Select the Settings tab of the Display Properties dialog box.
5. Set the resolution by dragging the Desktop area slider, and select the color depth from the Color palette list. (It might say "High Color" instead of "Thousands of Colors.")

You may need to restart Windows 95 for the new settings to take effect.

Note: These settings may not be allowed with some video cards. In that case, select the highest number of colors available.

Performance
For better performance in LivePix, upgrade to 16 MB or more of RAM. A 486/DX4 100 with 8 MB of RAM may take a long time to open and save files.

2. TWAIN Device Support

LivePix lets you capture images using a scanner or digital camera using the industry-standard TWAIN interface. TWAIN devices currently on the market are either "16-bit" (Windows 3.x) or "32-bit" (Windows 95).

LivePix is a 32-bit application and supports *only* 32-bit TWAIN devices. If you are unable to scan images into LivePix, contact your dealer or the device's manufacturer to see if a 32-bit "driver" is available for your scanner or camera. A driver is a special software program that allows the device to interact with applications like LivePix.

3. Working with Templates

This section covers working the LivePix templates. See the *LivePix QuickStart Guide*--the sections called "QuickStart Tutorial" and "Using the Templates"--for more on using the templates.

- When substituting for a non-silhouetted photo (in other words, a photo that has not been cut out or a photo that has been cut out with a tool other than the Freehand Cutout tool, Edge Highlighter, or Edge Detector), you may need to zoom out to adjust the new image's position in the project.

- When using a template that contains a silhouetted photo (a unique photo that has been cut out with the Freehand Cutout tool, Edge Highlighter, or Edge Detector), do not substitute your own photo for the silhouetted photo. Instead, delete the existing photo first, and then insert your photo, reposition, and cut out as necessary. See page 18 of the *LivePix QuickStart Guide*.

- If you open a template for the first time and immediately change the canvas orientation, *deselect* all the objects (by clicking off the canvas) before selecting Print Preview.

4. Printing

This section covers a potential solution for printing problems and printing custom paper and envelope sizes.

- Many printing problems can be attributed to outdated printing software/drivers. If you experience printing problems, you may not be using a true Windows 95 (32-bit) printer driver. If you are not, contact your dealer or the printer's manufacturer to see if a Windows 95 (32-bit) driver is available.

- The HP 560C does not use a true Windows 95 (32-bit) printer driver. This may lead to some unexpected printing results. If this occurs, contact your dealer or the printer's manufacturer to see if a Windows 95 (32-bit) driver is available.

- To print envelopes or custom-size templates that require a special paper size, set the paper size in your printer properties to Custom.

- To print size 10 envelopes, select size 10 in your printer properties. If the margins for the envelope are too wide when printed, select Custom and type 4 1/8 x 9 1/2. This will increase the printable area.

- To print envelopes for four-fold cards, use 4 3/8" by 5 3/4" envelopes, and select A2 in your printer properties. If A2 is not an available size, select Custom, and type 4 x 6. These settings will allow you to print with 4 3/8 x 5 3/4 size envelopes, which are adequate for four-fold cards.

- To print envelopes for two-fold cards, use 6" by 9" envelopes, and select this paper size in your printer properties. If it is not an available size, select Custom, and type 6 x 9.

- To use Print Preview, you must have a printer driver installed. Otherwise, nothing appears in the Print Preview window.

5. Working with FlashPix Files

On CDs
If you are using photos in the FlashPix (FPX) format that are located on the LivePix CD and if you remove the CD from the drive (for example, to insert a photo from another CD), you might encounter a text-mode (blue screen) window alert that asks you to insert the original CD into the drive. This is a Windows 95 alert and is not an error. After you insert the CD and press Enter, you return to Windows and can continue working in LivePix.

Replacing FPX Files
FPX files that are open cannot be overwritten in the same directory. Use Save As and save with a different name or to a different location instead.

6. Working with Non-FlashPix Files and the Image Cache

FlashPix is a technology that lets you work in real time with images of any size. Opening a file that is not in the FlashPix format can take some time; this is especially true of JPEG-compressed files.

To obtain the benefits of FlashPix with these non-native files, LivePix converts them in the background and places the converted files in the *image cache*. (Note that a 1 MB JPEG compressed file can take as much as 20 MB or more, once converted.) When you close the document, LivePix ensures that the size of cached files does not exceed 40 MB, unless you have set up a different limit through a custom installation of LivePix.

7. Working with Text

Creating large blocks of text in LivePix can create large project files and lessen the quality of the text resolution. This can also affect performance. We recommend keeping text blocks small and creating multiple text blocks if necessary.

8. Working with Thumbnails in the Gallery

It's important to remember that thumbnails for projects and photos are simply "pointers" to the real files. Each thumbnail represents the location for the real file at the time it was saved. Any changes to the real file after that (such as deleting, moving, or renaming the file) will affect the "pointer" to the file, and attempting to open the thumbnail will prompt a "cannot find this file" alert. To correct this, select Organize Gallery, delete the old thumbnail, and save a new one with the new location or name.

9. Using the Positioning and F/X Tools

Positioning Tools
Saving a project file that contains an object that has rotation, skew, and perspective applied may sometimes be difficult to select when the file is reopened. To select the object, zoom out and perform a Select All to see the object's selection handles.

F/X Tools
This section provides additional information about the F/X tools:

- The Remove Red-eye tool and the Distort tool work on different "layers" of the image in a photo. For that reason, if you plan to use both tools on the same photo, make the distortion first. Use the Remove Red-eye tool only when you have completed the distortion to your satisfaction.

- If you add a shadow to an object and then change the object's size, the relative positions of the object and the shadow will appear to have changed. This is especially noticeable when you make the object smaller--the object and shadow will appear farther apart. This occurs because neither the object nor the shadow moves; they only get smaller. As a result, the apparent distance between the two becomes larger.

To change the actual position of the shadow relative to the object:

    1. Select the object.
    2. Select the Shadow tool.
    3. Drag the shadow in the Direction & Distance area of the Shadow dialog box to
    the position you want.
    4. Click OK.

10. Window Management in LivePix

Note the following about project windows:

- When switching from the Gallery to the project window, click anywhere in the workspace to activate the project window.

- The Window menu lists all open project windows. If, however, you minimize a project window, you cannot use the Window menu to re-open the window. You must click the restore or maximize button in the project window's title bar. Also note that minimized windows do not have their titles highlighted.

- If a project window's title bar becomes entirely covered by the LivePix menu bar, so that you cannot drag the project window back into the workspace, choose Tile or Cascade from the Window menu. This will rearrange all project windows within the workspace.

11. Windows Screen Fonts

Windows 95 allows you to use two sizes of screen fonts for window titles, menus, and the like. We recommend that you use the small screen font. If you use the large screen font, you might find that some text in the LivePix interface is cut off.

Note: This setting will NOT affect text in your projects.

To change the screen font size:

1. Choose Settings from the Windows 95 Start menu.
2. Click Control Panel.
3. In the Control Panel, double-click Display.
4. Select the Settings tab of the Display Properties dialog box.
5. Select Small Fonts from the Font Size list.

You must restart Windows 95 for the new setting to take effect.

12. Installing/Reinstalling LivePix

Full Installation
The "Full" installation option is the only option that installs the full Templates by default. If you need to reinstall LivePix, we recommend that you first save the AlbumFile and ThumbFile (located in the same directory as the LivePix program files) by copying them to another directory. After the new installation, replace the newly installed AlbumFile and ThumbFile with the ones you saved.

Minimum Installation
The "Minimum" installation option does not install the full Templates. To install the full Templates, you must first uninstall LivePix and reinstall with a full installation.

To reinstall LivePix:

1. Choose Settings from the Windows 95 Start menu.
2. Click Control Panel.
3. In the Control Panel, double-click Add/RemovePrograms.

4. Select LivePix and click the Add/Remove button.
5. Reinstall LivePix with the "Full" installation option.

Note: If you reinstall the full Templates, you will lose any additions you have made to your AlbumFile and ThumbFile (the Gallery). If you choose to save your old AlbumFile and ThumbFile, you should not reinstall the full Templates.

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