Sensitive Font Control and Manipulation

This is another area in which AlphaPaint excels. No other paint program on the Amiga addresses fonts with the options included in this first release of AlphaPaint, though it's reported that ToasterPaint 4 will also address some of these operations. To begin with, AlphaPaint can accept three of the most useful Toaster font file formats: Toaster Fonts, ColorFonts, and PostScript. Toaster Fonts come in banks and were the fonts included with the Toaster. They are not nearly as adjustable and resizable as PostScript fonts. ColorFonts constitute a registered Amiga font family that come already filled with various textures, from gold to marble to clouds and fire. Toaster 3.0 added an extensive library of PostScript fonts which are resizable and look good at any size. AlphaPaint allows the use of any of these options. It really shines when PostScript fonts are chosen however, because it allows the user to wrap PostScripted text in adjustable oval/circular arrangements, a admittedly terrifying challenge to accomplish by hand. A full preview of the circular action is presented in a dedicated preview area of the font requester, as well as a ''rotation adjustment'' control. If you need to justify your purchase of this software, this attribute alone may be reason enough.

And Much More

Video artists are often called upon to enclose graphics in a linear frame in order to accentuate visibility against a busy background. AlphaPaint goes one better by adding a beveled appearance to a graphic frame (the frame size is adjustable via a slider) and adding adjustable glows as well. Both of these options are unique to AlphaPaint alone. There is also an ''Onion Skin'' option that allows the user to see a ghosted image of the buffer screen so that ''painting thru'' to another image can be accomplished with the expected results.

A Winner for Toaster Painters

The software comes with a thick indexed thirty chapter manual in loose leaf three-ring binder format, making it easy to read and work through. There are 14 deep tutorials, a reference section, and a thorough index (hooray!). I have used AlphaPaint in the creation of a series of screens for an instructional video, and find new uses for it every day. NBC, a stronghold of Amiga graphics and animation facilities, has ordered a shipment of AlphaPaint packages for its production department, and the other networks and broadcasting outlets that are Toasted are expected to follow suit. Like all InnoVision's wares, a dedicated work through of the manual should allow most users to store it away, relying instead upon their intuitive use of the software from that point forward. The software includes support for a graphics tablet by addressing such issues as pen pressure and other options. Instead of running away from ToasterPaint towards other wares to create needed graphics screens for the Toaster, AlphaPaint allows the Toaster user to remain within the Toaster environment while creating high quality professional results. I highly recommend this software as a replacement for ToasterPaint.

AlphaPaint MSLP: $699.95
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