

Picture Perfect Graph-

Retouching photographs or making elephants fly...
 You can do it all, thanks to some amazing graphics programs



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TIPS ON GRAPHICS **Miniature text**

You need to create tiny images and buttons with text on them (logos, for example). How do you retain the legibility of the text, yet manage to fit it in the limited space available?

Use a sans serif typeface such as Arial, Tahoma or Gill Sans. These typefaces are legible even at a smaller size, specially when placed against a dark background. Before you start working on a logo, create two views of the same image. Zoom in on each character of the text and edit the pixels in one view, while the other view displays the image in its normal size. You can use the normal-size view to see how the effects would show in the original icon.

**Graphics**

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Make changes in enlarged view and see the results in the other normal-sized view

 **Get your pixels right**


Gamma correction ensures that what you see on your screen is similar to what you can expect to see in print or in scans. It is a factor that helps you standardise display on your monitor and helps you achieve conformity between more than two monitors or applications.

PCs do not have built-in gamma correction utilities, but if you are aiming at becoming a graphics pro, go in for newer graphics cards (like the Matrox Millennium II, or Number Nine Revolution) that bundle gamma correction programs. Applications such as Photoshop have the gamma correction utilities by default. You need to calibrate your system for accurate gamma correction.

 **Keep it light**

If you colour your layouts at night under artificial light, chances are that they may not look the way you would have wanted them to. This is because the colour perceived by our eyes depends upon reflected light. Different lighting

conditions make us perceive colours differently. Thus, it makes sense to have a low, stable light at your workspace. For enhanced accuracy, opt for light-coloured, preferably neutral grey, walls and curtains. The same applies to your desktop wallpaper.

 **For fluid movements**

It is wiser to save animation frames created using your favourite 3D program in the GIF format. You can later open these files in a GIF animation program and save them as a single GIF file to get smoother animation.

GRAPHICS FOR THE NET **Interlace JPEG graphics**

Large file sizes and a busy Internet connection make it difficult to download a picture from the Net. So if you are creating JPEG graphics for the Web, know the difference that interlacing can do to your pictures.

In non-interlaced graphics, the 'n' lines are read and displayed first and then the next 'n' lines and so on. In interlaced graphics 1, n+1, 2n+1...etc lines are read and displayed first, followed by 2, n+1, 2n+2...etc. In case of smooth interlaced pictures, some browsers even stretch the loaded lines to fill the rest. This creates the illusion that the image is getting loaded faster.

Do not try this for GIF images as it will increase the file size and unnecessarily hamper the browser as it tries to tile and render the image.

 **Banners bonanza**

Want more people to know about your site? Create an attractive Web banner advertisement for your site and sign up with banner sites. Most sites accept graphics in the GIF format only and that too those not larger than 10K (yes, the same applies to animated banners). Before submitting your banner, check out the rules on your Banner Exchange site—some demand banners that are 468 pixels wide and 60 pixels high.

 **Go in for GIF89a**


Why is it that certain pictures on the Net seem to live, breathe and move? Probably because they are in the GIF89a file format. This is a standard that lets you create

files with multiple GIF images. Your browser then displays these images one after the other, creating an illusion of movement. The GIF89a format also includes playback information, such as timing and looping.

Since GIF89a animations do not require plug-ins, the browser downloads the image file from the server once; if the animation repeats, the browser just reloads the images from the cache. This means that the visitors have to contend with bandwidth issues only once for every page.

 **GIF or JPEG?**

Working on Web graphics requires a very skilful balance of maximum content and lowest possible file size. While some sites need to be more graphics-intensive, others need to be informative and easy to navigate. If your Web page focuses more on providing information, save your images in the GIF format. But if you plan to design a site for, say Toyota, where images play a prime role in the sale of cars, save your images in the JPEG (JPG) format. GIF format is better for all images under 24-bit and JPEG format for those above 24-bit.

 **Size-wise**

So you have this great-looking wallpaper that you simply must put up on your Web site. Well, first resize your image to suit the requirements of the Web. A 32-colour GIF, for example, does not show a significant difference (in quality) when compared to a 256-colour GIF, but consumes about 4,000 bytes less.

GIF images are usually smaller in size as they are limited to 256 colours, and the colours used are stored in a 'Palette'. Secondly, GIF uses LZW compression, which is very efficient in compressing repetitive data, to compress image data. This means a larger section of the same colour can compress better.

PAINT SHOP PRO 4.0 **Star attraction**

Want to liven up your documents? Use this special effect in the background. Create a new image in Paint Shop Pro 4.0. Set the background colour to black and select a foreground colour other than black. In this image, we simply type, say,



Liven up your images by using a starry background

the letter 'D'. Next, stretch the text by a pixel or two. Click on **Image > Other > Dilate**. Blur the image by selecting **Image > Blur > Blur more**. Next, click on **Image > Blur > Gaussian Blur** and set the slider to 2 pixels.

Click on **ReTouch** and change it to the **Smudge** mode. Set the **Brush Tip** size to 7 and **Opacity** to 70. After this, draw lines outwards from the border of the letter to create the 'starburst' effect. For your letter to stand out, type 'D' on your image again. Use a different foreground colour this time.

Words that glow

To add a touch of glimmer to your homemade birthday cards, give it a neon-light effect. Create a new image on a black background and place text on it using a



Words glow with the Dilate and Blur effect

bright foreground colour. Expand the text by clicking on **Image > Other > Dilate**. Dilate and Blur (**Image > Blur > Blur more**) the text further to enhance the glow effect. Use a different foreground colour and superimpose new text over the blurred text.

Rainbow letters

For colourful projects and presentations, use vignettes or add a rainbow effect to your characters. Create a new

image on a white background. Select another colour for your (text) foreground. Type the text on the image and select it. Next, click **Layer > Merge > Merge all**. Choose a different colour and, using the **Shapes** tool (rectangle), divide the letter into rectangles. Finally select **Image > Blur > Gaussian Blur** and

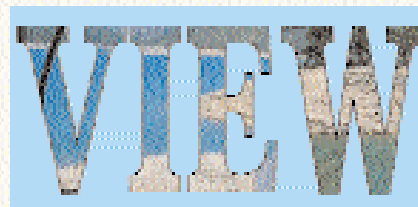


Splash a rainbow across words

set the radius to 7. Separate the text from the coloured rectangles that you put across the text. For this, click **File > Selections > Invert**. Revert to the original background. Finally, click **Edit > Clear**. This will fill the selected area with your background colour.

Picturesque words

Here is how you can create two-dimensional text with pictures embedded



Design blockbuster banners using Image-

within. Open the image you want to embed inside. Click on the image area that should appear inside the text. Select the typeface and the size and uncheck the **Floating** option. This should now display only the outline of the actual text. Next set the text background colour and click **Image crop to selection**.

Three-dimensional text effects

Want to create jelly-like 3D text for your Web site? Create a new image and type the



Chisel 3D effects on your letters

name of your recipe (or, any other text). Select a thick font such as **Timpani**, size 26. Use **Selection > Invert** to highlight the area around the text.

To give the three dimensional effect select **Image > Effect > Chisel**. Next, select an image filter to give that extra effect to your text.

Smooth and Sharp text

To smooth the edges of text in your image, first increase the number of colours to 16 million by clicking on **Colors > Increase color depth**. Then check the anti-alias box in the **Add Text** dialog box. To stretch text in **Paint Shop Pro**, use the **Image > Resize-Resample** option.

Pattern-filled text

To fill text with patterns of your choice, create a new image with any text or object. Increase the number of colours by selecting **Colors > Increase Color Depth > 16 Million (24-bit)**. Open the image that contains the pattern you want. Next, click on the flood-fill image tool and change the fill style in the flood fill control to **Pattern**. Click **Options** and select the new pattern source, which is the picture you have opened. Click **OK** and then click on the shape of the letter that has to be filled with the picture pattern.

There is another method. Open or create the image containing the pattern-filled text or shape. Click on the dropper image tool. Right-click the picture that has to be filled with the pattern. Copy the image to the clipboard, open the picture containing the pattern and paste as **Transparent**

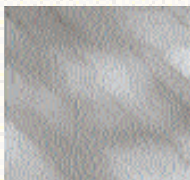


Drop patterns on your images

Selection. Now that you have another image superimposed over the original picture, deselect all selections and then use the image selection tool to cut and paste as a new image.

Airbrush a marble texture

Ever wondered how those cool marble texture backgrounds are created? You can do the same. First choose a white background for the image. Click the airbrush



Airbrush a marble floor

tool and select the foreground colour as black. Set the tip size to 5, opacity to 70 and a no-paper texture on the control toolbar. Now, scribble all over the image.

Once the entire area of the image is covered click on **Image > Blur > Motion blur**. This will 'smear' the lines you made. Set the direction to 90 degrees and intensity to 40 pixels. Repeat this process and this time, change the direction to 135 degrees.

Finally, click on **Image > Other > Dilate** till you get the image you want to see.

Metallic floodfills

To create metallic textures in your images, use the Floodfill tool. Select **Image > Noise > Add** and set Noise to 100% and style as Uniform. Next, click on **Image > Blur > Motion blur**. Set the direction to 90 degrees and intensity to 40 pixels. To set the colour you want, use menu colours, and click **Colorize**.

If you want to convert the image into a seamless pattern, first click on the selection tool and decide if you want to draw a rectangle, circle, ellipse or a square. Click on the image and draw the outline. Finally click on **Selections >**



Adding noise results in a metallic frame

Convert to seamless pattern.

Bright sunny skies

Web sites with 'seamless' backgrounds are pleasant to view. To design one, create a new blank document with these specifications: Height and Width 150 pixels, Resolution 72 dpi, and RGB colour mode.

Next, select your current foreground colour as sky blue, and white as the background.

From the **Filters > Render** menu, choose **Clouds** to fill the frame with blue sky and white, puffy clouds. If you don't



Clone a background using Rubber Stamp

like the effect you get, press **[Ctrl] + [F]** to re-apply the filter until you are satisfied with it. Touch up the clouds using the **Brightness/Contrast** controls under **Image**. Next, use the **Filters > Other > Off-set** command to shift the image around in the frame, moving it 75 pixels down and 75 pixels to the right. Also, make sure the **Wrap Around**

button is selected.

Next, select the **Rubber Stamp** or **Clone** tool and choose **Aligned** in the **Options** palette. Choose a fairly large brush size, click in any of the four quadrants, then clone a bit of that area over one of the centre seams. Repeat until you have gently obliterated all traces of the seams, producing the image of a bright and sunny day.

Two-in-one

Want to merge two pictures to create an unlikely event? Make a photo montage



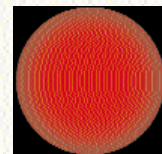
using Paint Shop Pro. Choose and open the images you want to make a collage of. Click on the **Clone** brush image tool and right-click the image you want to copy. Next, point your mouse on that spot of the second image where you want to copy the first image and click.

See-through pictures

To see right through your image, use the dropper image tool and right-click that area on your image that you want to turn transparent. This changes the background colour to the transparent. Select **File > Save As** and save the file as GIF89a format. Click **Options**, and select the third radio button. Finally, set the transparency value to the background colour.

Creating a button

Create a new image (size 50 x 50 pixels) with **Black** as background. Click on the **Selection** image tool. Set the **Selection Type** to **Circle** and check 'Anti-aliased' in the control dialog box.



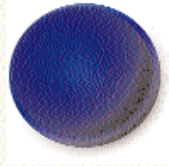
Next, draw a circle in the middle of your image. Click on the **Paint Bucket** tool and choose **black** as the background and **light grey** as your foreground colours. Set the **Fill Style** to **Linear Gradient**, **Opacity** as 100, **Match Mode** as **None**, and **Options** to 0 degrees. Reverse the **Background** and **Foreground** colours to suit your liking.

To give your button that professional look, create a ring around your button—make a smaller circle (use a contrast shade) inside the new circle. Click **File > Selections > Modify > Contract**. Set this value to 2. Reverse or switch the foreground and background colours, and click the centre of the circle to paint it with the new gradient.

To create the final bulge-effect for the button, paint another circle inside. Follow the same steps except for the grey shade—replace it with



the colour of your choice. Zoom into this image and using the airbrush tool, spray a little white colour on the top edge of the button.



Pushed-in button

To change the button image indicating for example, that it is pressed, create a new button. Using the Selection image tool, draw the 'bullet button' circle as you did above. Flood fill the circle with the background and foreground colours of your choice. Click Selections > Modify > Contract—choose the pixel size as 2 or 3. Press Delete and then Flood fill the empty area. You have now created a gradient button. Click Image > Effects > Cutout. Check off the Fill interior with foreground color check-



box and set Offset to -4, -4; Opacity to 70 and use black for the shadow.

Shapes and shadows

Using Paint Shop Pro you can also experiment with new shapes or distort original ones like the picture here. Create a new image with a white background. Use the Shape tool to draw three rectangles, with smaller rectangles linking them. Set the foreground colour before you draw them out.

To smoothen the edges for a more 'roundish' effect, select Image > Blur > Gaussian blur. To make the picture look sharper, select Color > Adjust > Brightness/Contrast. Set Brightness to zero and Contrast to 90. Create a shadow with Image > Effects > Drop shadow and use the Magic Wand tool for more effects.

Varied vignettes

To apply gradient fills to your pictures, create a new image of your choice. Select the background and foreground colours. Next select the Flood Fill tool and set the fill style to Linear gradient, Opacity to



100, Match Mode as None. Click Options and set the direction to 90 . Now click on your object to fill it with the gradient colours. Finally, merge or blur the difference between the colours using Images > Noise > Add and setting the noise (between 2 and 4 percent in this example).

PHOTOSHOP



Render your lens to flare up an image

Star bursts

If you want star bursts to highlight an event (for a brochure) or a Web site, open Photoshop. Load your image or create a new one. Select Filter > Render > Lens Flare from the menu. Select Brightness and Flare type. Place the cross-hair on the image and click O.K. This effect looks great when combined with neon glows.

The drop shadow

If the Layers option in Photoshop intimidates you, this exercise will help you get familiar with the tool. Apply cool shadow effects to your words and images using this option.

First create a new image and a new layer (shape). Select the text marquee tool and type the text you want. Fill it with any colour or texture. Without deselecting your marquee selection, create a new layer (shadow). Fill it with the colour you want. Now drag the layer-shadow below the layer-shape so the shadow appears behind your text. Go to Filter > Blur > Gaussian blur (radius 4.7). Select the Move tool and move the shadow to wherever you want it to be (using the keyboard arrows keys). Finally, move it 4 pixels to the right and 2



Use layers with contrasting colour and fonts for an Out of this World effect

pixels down.

X-Files unveiled

If you want to impress your friends by creating the X-Files logo yourself, follow these steps. Create a new image (7 cm x 7 cm). Click on Layer > New Layer and set background colour to black. Click on the Type marquee tool and type 'X'. Use a normal font (Times Roman and Filter > Distort > Ripple). Set the foreground colour to Green. Press [Alt] + [Del] keys simultaneously to fill 'X' with green. You can try this on different text to get the final effect. Alternatively, you can try using the Magic Wand tool to fill the text



Photoshop makes you a Pro in image edit-

with an appropriate colour.

Add shadows and colour

Old image files can be made to look new again. In this example, not only has the shadow been reduced, the colours have been changed and enhanced. Create a duplicate of your image by clicking Image Duplicate and set the mode to greyscale. Next, select Filter > Blur > Gaussian Blur, and blur the image such that all details are lost (Radius value between 3 and 6 pixels). Click the original image to bring up the window, then choose Select > Load Selection, and use the greyscale copy as your selection.

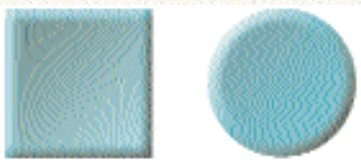
Set the background channel to Black, check the **Invert** box, and click **O.K.** After loading the selection, you should see a dotted line around the shadow areas. You can deselect the small areas outside the figure with the Lasso tool while holding down the [Alt] key.

Now choose **Edit > Fill**. Under **Contents**, select 50% grey. Under **Opacity**, enter 100%. Under **Mode**, select **Color Dodge**, then click **O.K.** The resulting image should have the shadows reduced.

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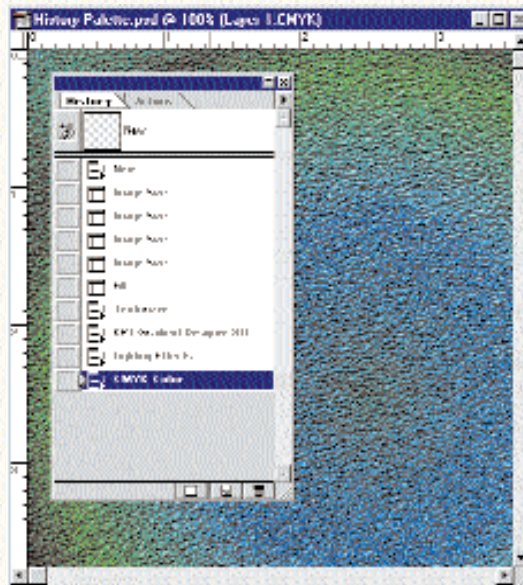
Buttons with a layered look

To create bevelled buttons, open a new image in Photoshop and create a new



Layers and Gradients enable smooth looks

Layer (Outside). Select the Marquee tool for a rectangular or circular button. Next, choose lighter and darker tones of the same colour. Select the gradient tool, click the top-left corner of your marquee selection and drag to the bottom-right. Create a new layer (Inside). Click **Select > Modify > Contract** and then on **Smooth**. (If you are working with a rectangular shape don't smooth the selection.) Select the Gradient tool and repeat the above step but start at the bottom-right and drag to the top-left of your selection. Press [Ctrl] + [D] to deselect. For a smoother effect, click **Filter > Blur > Gaussian blur** on the **Inside** layer.



Flash back using the History Palette

History in action

If you haven't been making active use of the History palette, you don't know what you are missing. This palette maintains a list of all the recent actions, allowing you to backtrack to any previous stage in your image-editing process. You can also take snapshots of your project on the way. When using this palette, you can either delete a step or undo these steps. However, you cannot return to a step and change its parameters.

The History brush can also be used to paint the contents of a prior version of the image on to the latest version. For example you can apply a Gaussian Blur to your entire image, remove it and then use the History Brush to paint the Blur on some areas of the image.

Nudging

For small-sized-image-adjustments, use the arrow keys—these can help you correct minute errors since one pixel is moved at a time. For fixing small patch-ups on your image: use the rubber stamp cloner, hold down the [Alt] key and find a good area to steal from and position it, then use the arrow keys again.

Control

When moving selections (marqueed, ellipse, lassoed...) use the [Shift] key to constrain the movement. For example, selecting an area and moving it away with

the [Alt] key depressed will drag a copy of the area. If the [Shift] key is depressed, the dragging is constrained to be exactly horizontal or vertical or at an angle of 45 degrees. This action works even if the [Shift] key is pressed after the dragging is already underway. Example: Move text horizontally only. This trick is particularly good with the blend tool and can be used to create gradients that are truly vertical/horizontal.

Layer effects

This feature of Photoshop facilitates adding shadows, glows, bevels, and embossing to text or to any other item that resides on a layer. Every time a change is made to a layer, the effects are

automatically updated. For example, if you move the text, the shadow associated with it also moves. This feature is available in Photoshop 5.

Magnifying Glass

With the magnifier tool selected, click-and-drag marquees a rectangle. The current window is maximised and the marked section is magnified to fit. Double-click on the magnifier to reset to the default value of 1:1. The maximum magnification is 16:1. Note that the Magnifier tool will retain the window dimensions and zoom within those boundaries, whereas the Zoom In/Out function under Window will actually change the window dimensions as well as the zoom status.

FLASH

Fading text


Create a new movie. Use the text tool and type a word. Convert the typed text to Symbol (Insert > Create Symbol) to give it a faded effect. Call it Fade and for behaviour choose **Graphic**. If you see a little crosshair in the middle of your selection, then you know it's a symbol.

Right click on frame 10 and choose **Insert Key Frame**.

If you want to Fade in, click on frame 1, For a Fade out click on frame 10. Go to **Modify > Instance**, select the **Color Effect** tab and set it as **Alpha**. Click on the Alpha fader and drag to 0,

then click O.K.

Next you need to add the fade motion. Make sure frame 1 is still selected. Click on **Modify > Frame**, choose the **Tweening** tab and select **Motion** from the pop-down menu and click O.K.

Press [Enter] and play the animation.
 **Slow motion**

Create a new movie. Select the Pencil tool and choose the Rectangle from the pencil mode pop-down menu. Draw out a small square to the right of the work area. Choose a colour from the colour palette. Now fill the square with that colour using the Paint Bucket. Click **Edit > Select All** and press [Ctrl] [G].

Click frame 10. Now right click and choose **Insert Key Frame**, this will be the end point for this movie. With the square still selected, hold down the left arrow key until the square reaches the left of the work area.

Next click on frame 1, Go to **Modify > Frame** and choose the **Tweening** tab. Then choose **Motion** and click O.K.

Press [Enter] on the keyboard to see the animation play.

To loop any of these movies, Click on frame 10, Go to **Modify > Frame** and choose the **Actions** tab, and add an action to this frame by clicking the left [F] and set to **Go To**, then make control Go to and play on your current scene/frame and click O.K.

CORELDRAW

Lightning

The Natural Pen Tool in Corel Draw allows you to create many visually stun-

Corel Double-Click Tricks

Pick tool: Selects all objects on the Page at once.

Rectangle tool: Creates a rectangle the size of the page and behind all other objects on the page.

Outline Tool: Displays Pen attributes.

Fill Tool: Displays Special Fill attribute.

Zoom Tool: Displays View Manager.

Shape Tool: Displays Node Edit dialog box.

Ruler: Displays the Grid and Ruler setup.

Eraser tool: Erases everything from the page (PhotoPaint).

Double click any of the first three mask-



A Pen can Light -
en up the sky

ning effects. In this image for example, the lightning was created using the Pen Tool and the image was saved as a CPT file. To enhance the image, Corel's image-editing tool, PhotoPaint, was used. The image created in CorelDraw is opened in PhotoPaint as a mask. This mask can be inverted, blurred or filled with special effects that generate a very realistic final picture.

Changing colours

If you want to change parts of images to a different colour, you can create 'Templates' of your designs. The original objects remain the same, but the specified



Change
Colours using
the Colour
Style Docker
tool

colours change on a regular basis. CorelDraw also enables you to draw Quilts, those geometric patterns of different hues and colours. The Color Styles Docker tool can autcreate colour styles, create shades, edit colours and assign a new colour style.

From CorelDraw to GIF Files

This is not the same as saving the file with a different file type. Your images in CorelDraw may have wonderfully smooth Bézier curves and lusciously polished gradient fills. These will look grainy when you convert them to Web graphics.

Though there is no way to stop this (depending on your hardware), you can still use those tools to design your illustration. But before you convert them to GIF format save your images as a CorelDraw files.

Next select the objects that will be

part of the Web image. Click on the **Export** button in the CorelDraw 8 toolbar. Enter a file name in the **Export** dialog box, and from the **Save As Type** dropdown list, choose **CompuServe Bitmap (GIF)**. Finally, click on the **Export** button in the dialog box.

COREL PHOTOPAINT

Neon Signs

To create Neon signs, create a new image. Set the colour mode to 24-bit RGB, paper colour to black, 500 x 200 pixels at 72 dpi. Alternatively you can use a dark blue background like RGB 3,



Mask the letters and they will Glow

0, 93. Next choose the **Text** tool and type 'NEON'. Selecting a bold sansserif font. Align the text, using **Align Object** to open the **Align & Distribute** window and choose **To Center of Document**. Mask the text by clicking the **Create Mask** button. Delete the text since we need only the mask. Create a new object by clicking on **New Object** button in the **Objects Docker**. Choose a colour from the palette. Select the **Paint Tool** and open the **Tool Settings** property attribute. Choose **Art Brush** and reset brush type to its default settings. Most importantly, set the **Paint Mode** to **Divide**. Finally, with the **Paint Tool** selected, choose **Edit > Stroke > Stroke Mask**. Set the **Choose Stroke Position** to **Middle of Mask Border**. Press O.K. to apply. There! Your neon sign is ready.

To improve your image further, paint the mask and connect all the letters with small rectangles using the polygon tool. Make sure that the **Render to Object/Selection** button on the **Property Bar** is not selected and the **Fill** colour is **White**.

Click the **Paint on Mask** button in the standard toolbar. With the **Paint Tool** selected, choose **Edit > Stroke > Stroke Mask**. Set the **Choose Stroke Position** to **Middle of Mask Border**. Press O.K. to apply.



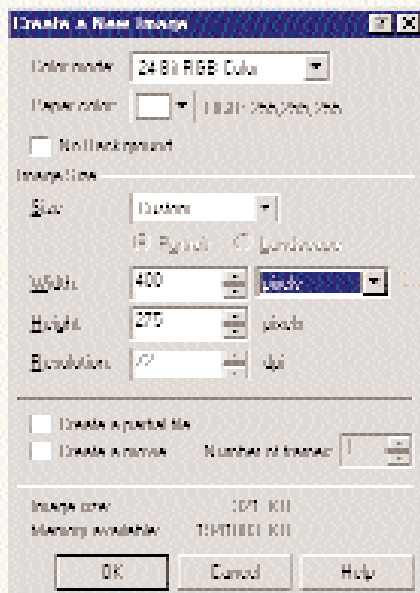
Design a Credit Card

For all those who have wanted to have a visiting card or credit card of their own, here is a step-by-step way to create one yourself.

Step 1: First create a new image. Assign the following attributes:

Color mode: 24-bit RGB color, Paper color: White, Size: 400 x 275 pixels, Resolution: 72 dpi

Step 2: Now to create the card. First create a new object and place four



Setting image attributes

guidelines on the page. Next, click Object > Create > New Object. Alternatively, you can click on the New Object button in the Object Docker window. Move your mouse pointer and click Tools > Guidelines Setup. Add two Horizontal guidelines (One at 50 and one at 225 pixels). Add two Vertical guidelines (One at 50 and one at 350 pixels). Check both the Show guidelines and Snap to Guidelines checkboxes. Click O.K.

Step 3: Select this new (empty) object and create a rounded rectangle within the guidelines. For this double-click the Rectangle tool to bring up the tool settings dialog box.) Set the Roundness level to 18. Click and drag the mouse closely within the guidelines to create a rounded rectangle. So far so good. Hide the guidelines. Click View > Guidelines to uncheck the guidelines and hide them from view.

Step 4: Create a mask from the new

rectangle and reduce the shape by 3 pixels. For this click on Mask > Create from Object(s) then click Mask > Shape > Reduce. Set the width to 3.

Save this mask as a channel for future use and remove the mask. For this click Mask > Save > Save as Channel. Name the channel as 'rectangle' and click O.K. Click Mask > Remove or click the Remove Mask button.

Now to resample and paste an image of your choice into the image. For this click Edit > Paste from File. In the Paste an Image from Disk box, select a photograph then select Resample in the drop-down box next to Files of Type. Click O.K. In the Resample Image box, set Width: 300, Units: pixels, Check the Maintain aspect ratio box, Resolution: 72 dpi, Check the Identical Values box and click O.K.

Step 5: To fit your image into your card, 'clip' the photo object to the rectangle by clicking the empty box to the left of the photo thumbnail in the Object Docker window. A paperclip icon will appear. The Object Docker window should now look like the illustration. Object 2 is now clipped to object 1 (Clip to Parent).

Step 6: To add depth, apply The Boss effect on the photo object (object 2). For this click Mask > Load > Rectangle (the mask channel saved in step 4). Next click on Effects > 3D Effects > The Boss. Set the Width as 20, Smoothness: 30, Height: 50, Brightness: 60, Sharpness: 30, Direction: 135, Angle: 90, Drop Off: Gaussian Click O.K. Click Mask > Remove or click the Remove Mask button.

Step 7: Apply a drop shadow on the first object. Click Object > Drop Shadow. Set to Flat, 315 degrees, Offset: 3%, Opacity: 50, Color: Black, Feather Width: 2%, Direction: Average.

Step 8: To ensure that your file size does not bloat up, you will have to crop the image. Since the 'invisible' outer edges of the photo (the edges that were hidden when we 'Clipped to Parent') has to be trimmed, you will leave this object out of the mask. Select Object 1 in the Object Docker window (this will also select the drop shadow), make a mask from the objects, and crop the image to the mask. For this select Object 1, then Click on

Mask > Create from Object(s), then click Image > Crop > To Mask.

Step 9: Your visiting card is now almost ready. To create the same effect with a different picture, simply delete the photo from the Object Docker window (currently object 2) and repeat steps 5 through 6. Make sure that the new photo is placed directly above the rectangle object (object 1) in the Object Docker window.

Step 10: To create the silver embossed text, type some words near the bottom/left corner of the image. Double-click the Text tool. In the font dropdown box, choose 'OCR A Extended', 30 pts. Color: Black, Click the Checkbox: Anti-aliasing. Type the text; click the Object Picker tool to create a



Emboss your name with a silver touch

new object for your text.

Step 11: Emboss the new text, and adjust the brightness level. For this click Effects > 3D Effects > Emboss. Set Emboss Color: Gray, Depth: 2, Level: 300, Direction: 45 Click O.K., then click Image > Adjust > Brightness-Contrast-Intensity. Set Brightness to 20, Contrast: 25, Intensity: 0 Click O.K. Use the arrow keys to position the text on your card. Repeat for the next line, using a smaller font.

Step 12: When you are happy with the results, combine all objects with the background. Click Object > Combine > Combine All Objects with Background.

Step 13: There! Print your new credit

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