Overview

This chapter discusses exporting graphics from Igor graphs, page layouts, tables, and Gizmo plots to another program on Windows. You can export graphics through the clipboard by choosing Edit→Export Graphics, or through a file, by choosing File→Save Graphics.

Igor Pro supports a number of different graphics export formats. You can usually obtain very good results by choosing the appropriate format, which depends on the nature of your graphics, your printer and the characteristics of the program to which you are exporting.

Unfortunately, experimentation is sometimes required to find the best export format for your particular circumstances. This section provides the information you need to make an informed choice.

This table shows the available graphic export formats on Windows:

Export Format	Export Method	Notes
EMF (Enhanced Metafile)	Clipboard, file	Windows-specific vector format.
BMP (Bitmap)	Clipboard, file	Windows-specific bitmap format. Does not use compression.
Igor PDF	Clipboard, file	Platform-independent and high quality. Igor PDF with CMYK color does not support transparency.
EPS (Encapsulated Postscript)	File only	Platform-independent except for the screen preview. Supports high resolution. EPS does not support transparency. Useful only when exporting to PostScript-savvy program (e.g., Adobe Illustrator, Tex).
PNG (Portable Network Graphics)	Clipboard, file	Platform-independent bitmap format. Uses lossless compression. Supports high resolution.
JPEG	Clipboard, file	Platform-independent bitmap format. Uses lossy compression. Supports high resolution. PNG is a better choice for scientific graphics.
TIFF	Clipboard, file	Platform-independent bitmap format. Supports high resolution but not compression.
SVG	Clipboard, file	Platform-independent vector graphics format. A good choice if the destination program supports SVG. As of this writing, few Windows programs support SVG.

Metafile Formats

The metafile formats are Windows vector graphics formats that support drawing commands for the individual objects such as lines, rectangles and text that make up a picture. Drawing programs can decompose a metafile into its component parts to allow editing the individual objects. Most word processing programs treat a metafile as a black box and call the operating system to display or print it.

Enhanced Metafile (EMF) is the primary Windows-native graphics format. It comes in two flavors: the older EMF and a newer EMF+. Igor "dual EMF" by default. A dual EMF contains both a plain EMF and an EMF+; applications that don't support EMF+ will use the plain EMF component. EMF+ is needed if transparency (colors with an alpha channel) is used. You can export using the older EMF format if the destination program does not work well with EMF+ - see **Graphics Technology** on page III-506 for details.