SECOND·CITY·SOFTWARE

UPDATE

What It Is

Welcome to the first issue of UPDATE, the free newsletter for Second City Software customers. Each issue of UPDATE will cover new products, technical tips, and application ideas. UPDATE is distributed to registered owners of Second City Software products.

NEW PRODUCT: The Image Extractor

The Image Extractor is a program that allows SCS-Draw users to "extract" images from PrintMaster data files. It lets you display PrintMaster images on the screen and extract them for use with SCS-Draw. These images can be customized or combined with other SCS-Draw drawings.

Combine images with the Image Extractor.

You can also use the Image Extractor to browse through the images on your PrintMaster data disk or Art Gallery disk. Since the CP/M version of PrintMaster doesn't display images on the screen, this is a handy way to select individual images before printing.

Note that you can move images from PrintMaster to SCS-Draw, but not from SCS-Draw to PrintMaster. This is because your SCS-Draw drawings use every pixel (dot), but PrintMaster requires images made up of vertical bars.

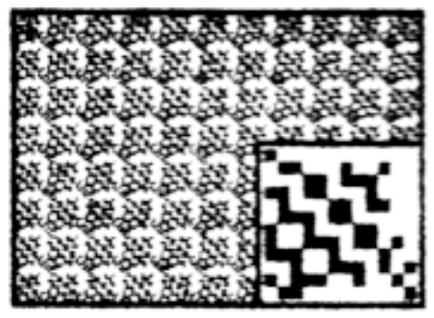
If you have both PrintMaster and SCS-Draw, the Image Extractor will let you combine your favorite images. It sells for $24.95, and can be ordered direct from Second City Software. If you purchased SCS-Draw before April 15th, you can get the Image Extractor for $19.95.

Creating Your Own Fill Patterns

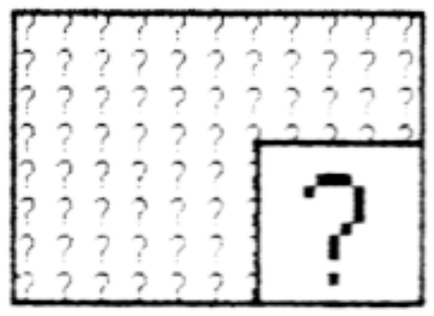
Perhaps you've noticed that one of the patterns in the SCS-Draw pattern menu is blank. That pattern cell (the one in the lower right corner) is reserved for you -- you can fill it with a pattern that you create, and then use that pattern for shading or special effects in your drawings.

To get a feel for how the user-defined pattern is used, try entering one of the patterns shown below. The complete pattern cell is shown enlarged in each example. (Refer to page 52 of the SCS-Draw User's Guide if you haven't entered a user-defined pattern before.)

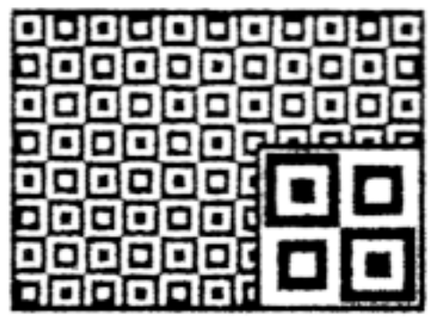
This pattern was created by using the Block Invert command to combine two images, which is a good way to search for new patterns.



You can enter a text character into the pattern cell. This one could be used to fill "unknown" shapes in a drawing.

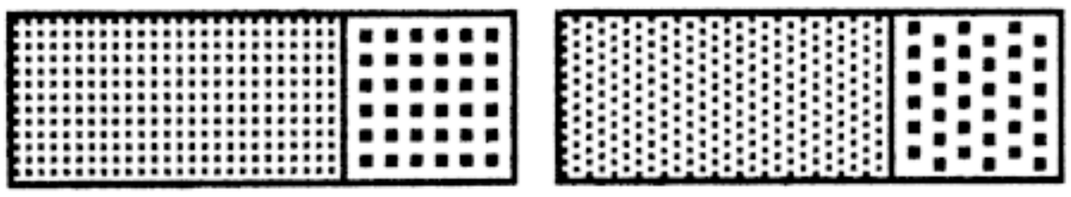


Notice how this fill pattern creates a "wobbly" effect, because of the two different sizes of black and white rectangles.



You can also use the user-defined pattern to modify one of SCS-Draw's pre-defined patterns. In the illustration on the top of the following page, note how the

texture of the modified pattern compares to the texture of the original pattern.



Original Pattern Modified Pattern

Speed Tips

If you want to get more done with SCS-Draw, it's important to cut down on unnecessary keystrokes. The following tips will help you save keystrokes:

1) Use a TAB command whenever you need to move more than 20 pixels. Don't just hold down an arrow key -- it's quicker to move a few pixels beyond where you're going (with a TAB command) and then move back.

2) Stay in Move mode and use the period (.) key and the space bar when editing individual pixels. This is much quicker and simpler than switching back and forth between Draw mode and Erase mode.

3) When using the Block (B) and Rectangle (R) commands, remember that you can start from any corner. Don't get in the habit of moving to the top left corner first, especially if you're already near one of the other corners.

"Image Librarian" Volunteers?

We've heard from many SCS-Draw users who don't have time to create the drawings they need. Many of these people would like to swap SCS-Draw image libraries with other SCS-Draw users.

To provide a way to swap drawings, we're looking for a CP/M RBBS operator who has room to put some SCS-Draw image libraries on-line. If you run a board that could help, let us know -- we'll list your board in future issues of UPDATE.

Meanwhile, if you have some drawings that you would like to share or swap with other SCS-Draw users, send printed samples to UPDATE (Box 442, Mount Prospect, IL 60056). In the next issue, we'll print some samples, along with the name and address of each contributor.

And if you have a "masterpiece" that you just want to show off, submit it for the Draw Gallery, which follows.

Draw Gallery

The drawings below and on the following page were created by SCS-Draw users from around the country. Some were obviously just for fun, and others were used in various types of work, but they're all good examples of what you can do with SCS-Draw.

If you have a drawing that you would like to submit for the Draw Gallery, send a printed copy to:

Second City Software, Draw Gallery
P.O. Box 442
Mount Prospect, IL 60056

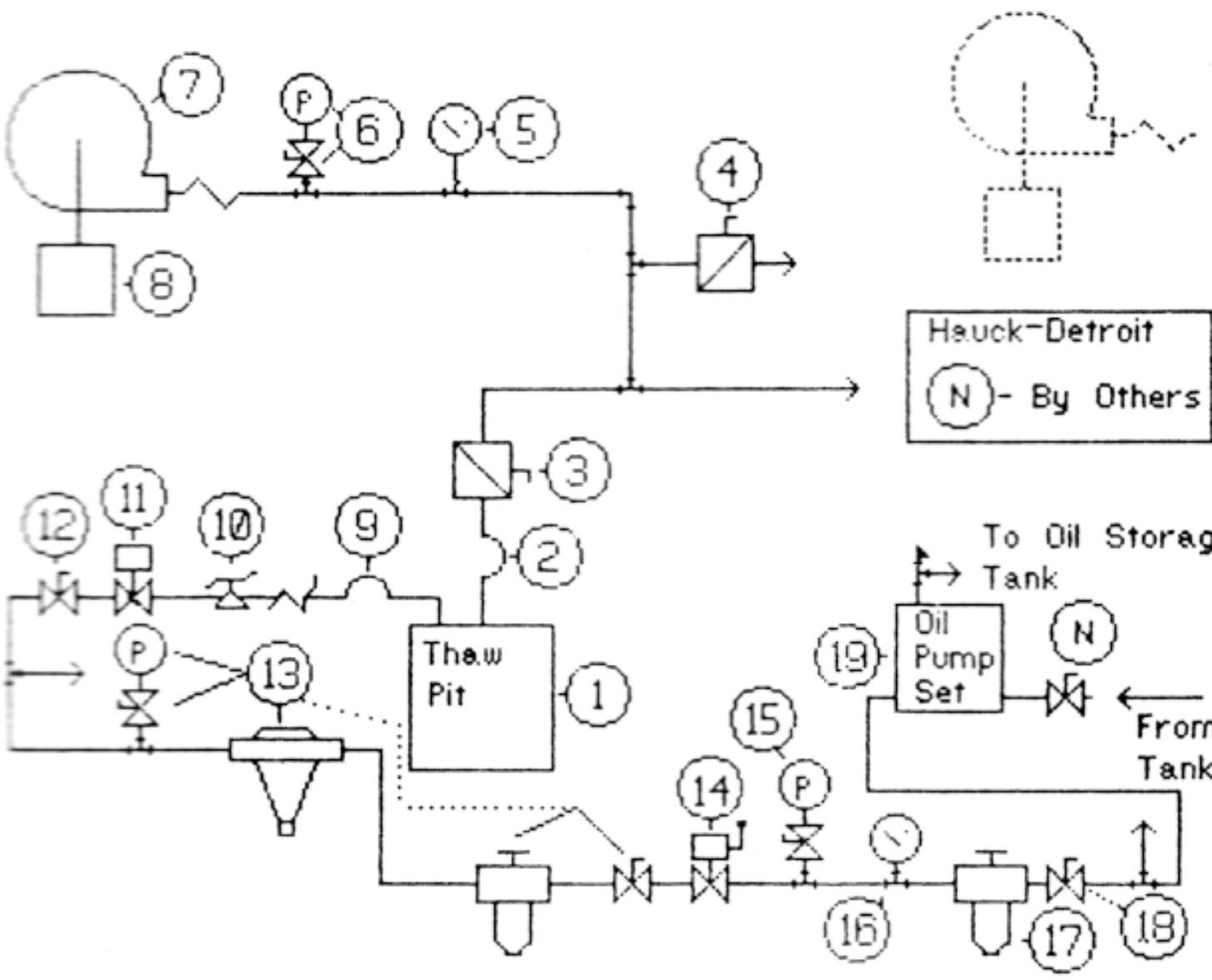
Print your image with the Bold Printing option ON, for the best reproduction. You may print more than one image on a page, but be careful not to fold through an image. Name credit will be given to all users whose images are included.

(If you have trouble getting a good print of an image, you can also send the image library on a floppy disk. This is the preferred method if you don't have a dot-matrix printer.)

This image was created by Pete Latino of Woodstock, Illinois, while "in the depths of Bears Fever." Note the choice of fill pattern and the smoothed, enlarged letters.

The three drawings to the right were created by Rev. James Brand of Norfolk, New York. The Christmas tree is a great example of how to create a drawing with the fixed-endpoint line command.

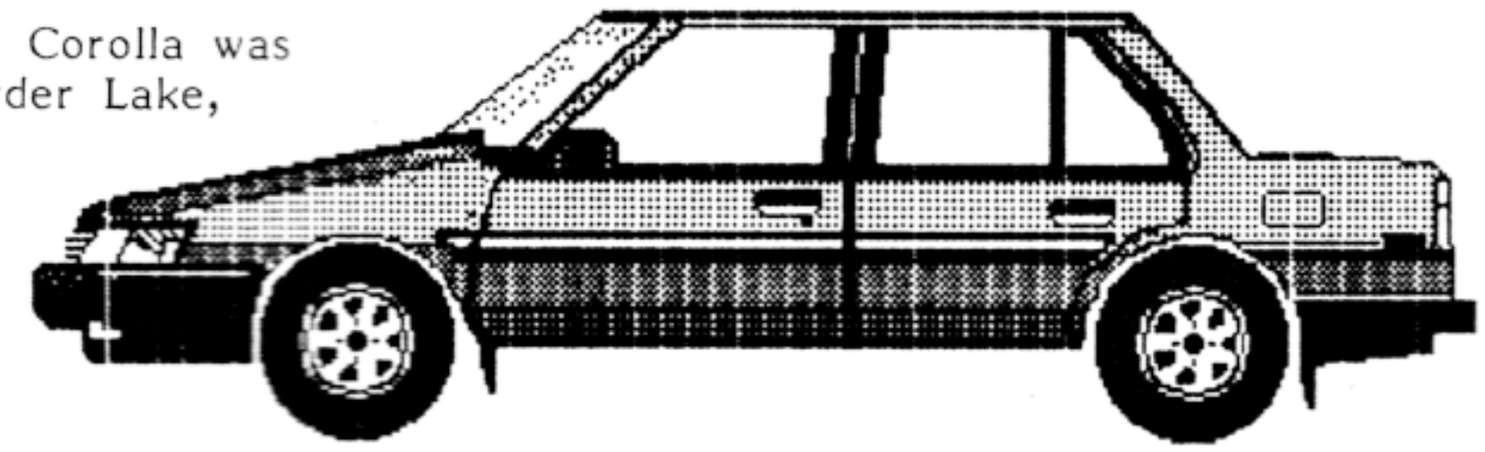
Suggested Piping Schematic: One or more zones



Sketch 24: Oil Fired, Low Pressure Air & Oil TPU-211 Series Thaw Pits

Donald Herman, a representative for an industrial burner company in Detroit, uses SCS-Draw to create schematic piping diagrams like the one shown here. He includes these "general" sketches with price quotations, to show customers how various combustion accessories are used with burner equipment.

This drawing of a Toyota Corolla was done by Joseph Ramsay of Larder Lake, Ontario shortly after he began using SCS-Draw. It's a great example of the realism that can be achieved by careful pattern-filling.



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New Application for SCS-Draw

There are many uses for SCS-Draw. Some of the most common applications include preparation of technical illustrations, signs, and banners, as well as simply drawing for personal entertainment. This shouldn't come as much of a surprise, since SCS-Draw was designed for these applications. Once in a while, however, we hear of a unique application that we hadn't anticipated.

Rev. Richard Wardlaw of Strathmore, California, for example, uses SCS-Draw in his work with orthopedically handicapped children.

With the help of an electrician friend, Rev. Wardlaw has attached an 8-position joystick to his Kaypro's numeric keypad. Children in his program at LNE Ministries can use this joystick, a head wand, or a mouth wand to draw pictures with SCS-Draw. According to Rev. Wardlaw, he chose SCS-Draw for this application because "the unique thing about it is that you can draw with one finger... this makes drawing with a head or mouth wand possible."

Rev. Wardlaw's work gives these handicapped children an opportunity to learn about computer graphics and improve their hand-eye coordination in a simple, fun manner. We wish both him and the children the best in this endeavor.

Coming in the next issue of UPDATE:

The next issue of UPDATE will feature information on Draw 1.1, the latest release of SCS-Draw. All of the new features and commands will be described, along with information on how to upgrade from SCS-Draw 1.0 to Draw 1.1.

There are several new commands in Draw 1.1, but the biggest changes are in the areas of printer support, combining text and graphics, and business graphics.

The cost of the upgrade (for registered SCS-Draw users) will be $10. Details on how to upgrade will be provided in the next issue of UPDATE.

Questions & Answers

Printed Image Size

Q: I'm using SCS-Draw for an application that requires specific printed sizes. How can I accurately predict the size of a printed image?

A: The size of the printed image is determined by two things: the size of the image in the sketchpad, and the resolution of your printer. To get the printed size (in inches), divide the size in the sketchpad by the resolution of your printer (in dots per inch).

Many printers have different horizontal and vertical resolutions, so be careful to use the correct number for each dimension. For example, if the image is 60 dots wide and 60 dots tall, and your printer has a horizontal resolution of 60 and a vertical resolution of 72, the printed image will be 60/60 (one) inch wide and 60/72 (5/6) inch tall.

Joystick Source

Q: I want to install a joystick for my Kaypro, but I can't find one that uses switches (instead of potentiometers). Where can switch-sticks be purchased?

A: ERAC Company (619-569-1864) has a supply of switch-sticks that will work with the Kaypro, for $5.50 each. (They don't have a common ground, so the schematic in the SCS-Draw User's Guide must be modified slightly.)

Ghost Lines

Q: When I run SCS-Draw or the Image Extractor on my system, the last line on the screen remains as a "ghost" image after exiting the program. Why does this happen, and what can I do about it?

A: This problem does not occur on stock Kaypros, but it can happen if you're using a non-Kaypro monitor ROM. You can get rid of the "ghost" line by pressing the RESET button.

The next release of SCS-Draw (due out in June) and the current version of the Image Extractor no longer show this "ghost" line on machines with non-Kaypro ROMs. The next issue of UPDATE will tell you how to upgrade to the new release, Draw 1.1.

Mail your questions to:

Second City Software UPDATE
Box 442
Mount Prospect, IL 60056