



Pulling your resources

Preparing for the festivities? Let Ken McMahon **take you web shopping** without spending a penny.

It's that time of year again. We are once again rushing headlong towards the month when we eat, drink and spend too much. And, as ever, it's also time to start thinking about what your friends and family would like. However, with all the emphasis on giving to others, you shouldn't forget to treat yourself. Traditionally, at this time of year I like to go web shopping and check out all the design resources available to download – both the free and paid-for varieties.

There is, of course, a huge and ever increasing amount of this stuff around. From demo versions of commercially available software, clipart, animated gifs, stock photography, plug-ins, scripts, and shareware graphics utilities, to FAQs, tips and tricks, and full-blown tutorials. The difficult bit is finding the good stuff.

These are some of my most frequently visited web design resources. In most cases they have free stuff available for you to download and use immediately. The really good ones also have a sizeable archive of help material, either in the form of tutorials, hints and tips sections, or a searchable database of answers to commonly experienced problems. And if you're really lucky there will be links to other useful design sites.

Another good source of information is newsgroups. These are a more direct way of finding answers to your design problems, by talking to other people who may have found the answers. So if you want to know where to get hold of a particular font, or why your image editor

crashes when you try to export a particular file type, newsgroups are the place to look. For a short list of some of the more useful ones, see box.

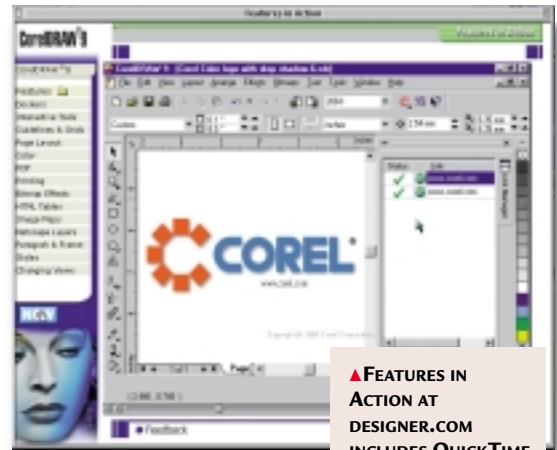
➔ www.designer.com

This is the design area of Corel's website. It has tutorials, tips, articles and freebies – including small collections of clipart, photos and brushes, templates and bitmap effects. Obviously, it's pretty much all about Corel products.

It has some of the best tutorial material available on the web. Its 'Features in action' are quicktime movies – complete with commentary – which demonstrate particular techniques. The Corel Draw feature includes dockers, bitmap effects, HTML tables and styles. There's also Corel's Knowledge Base, where you can search for solutions to common problems. See www.corel.com for product demos.

➔ www.adobe.com

As well as one of the best commercial type libraries in the world, Adobe's website contains tips and techniques for all of the company's products, including Photoshop, Photodeluxe, Acrobat, GoLive and Illustrator. Like Corel, it has excellent tutorials for each package. The lessons for Photodeluxe Business Edition include 'create your own black and white



▲ FEATURES IN ACTION AT DESIGNER.COM INCLUDES QUICKTIME MOVIE TUTORIALS

ad' and 'effective fliers'.

The free try-outs and betas section includes save-disabled versions of most of Adobe's products, including After Effects 4.0, Dimensions 3.0, Photoshop 5.0, GoLive 4 and PageMaker 6.5.

Past issues of *Adobe Magazine* as far back as 1995 include design-based features as well as Q&A sessions. There's also a gallery section where you can see what other designers are doing with Adobe products.

Check out the plug-in source catalogue of third-party plug-ins. Two current examples are Haberdash, a textile design plug-in for Photoshop and Compose 4.0, an Acrobat plug-in that provides batch processing, automated hyperlink and ToC construction. Demo downloads are available.

➔ www.macromedia.com

The free download area includes Shockwave, Flash and Authorware players and demo versions of products like Director, Fireworks, Flash and Freehand 8. There are also free Xtras – Macromedia's plug-in standard. Most of the software is available as 30-day trials.

➔ www.metacreations.com

Here you'll find downloadable demos of Bryce 3D, Infini-D 4.1, KPT 3, Painter 5 and Ray Dream 3D although, disappointingly, more recent packages like KPT 5, Painter 6 and Poser 4 are absent. There are tutorials for Painter 5 and

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Newsgroups are also a good source of information.

Check out:

alt.binaries.fonts
alt.corel.graphics
alt.fractal-design.painter
alt.graphics.gifanimation
alt.graphics.illustrator
alt.graphics.photoshop
alt.graphics.scanning

comp.graphics.apps.freehand
comp.graphics.apps.paint-shop-pro
comp.graphics.apps.photoshop
comp.lang.postscript
corelsupport.draw9-draw
corelsupport.draw9-printing_
scanning_color-management
corelsupport.photo-paint9
macromedia.fontographer
microsoft.public.win98.printing

Questions & answers

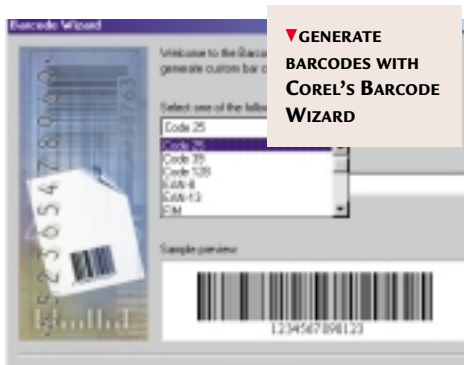
Q Using Acrobat Distiller and Exchange version 2.1, we have created a PDF version of one of our technical manuals. The introduction and contents have been produced as one PDF file and each of the 36 chapters has been produced as a separate PDF – linked to the contents page in the introduction document. It has subsequently become necessary to change the file-names of these PDFs and as a consequence all the links have broken. Is there a way

to update the links without having to re-establish each of them to the renamed file in Acrobat Exchange 2.1?

ROLAND DAVENPORT,
BIRMINGHAM

a Yes. Open the contents PDF in Word or any

other text reader and do a search and replace, substituting the new file-name for the old one. Then resave the PDF as a text file (keeping the .pdf extension).



Open the file in Acrobat Exchange or the reader and you should find that your links to the newly named files work just fine.

Q Is there such a thing as a barcode font?

ALEX PILLEY, KENT

a Corel's Barcode Wizard allows you to create barcodes in industry-standard formats. It has been included with every version of Draw since 6. Or go to http://shareware.netscape.com/computing/shareware/software_title.tmpl?p=PC&category_id=1&subcategory_id=9&id=18781 for Stellar Technologies' Windows Barcode Generator, which is shareware. Or try www.mecsw.com/fonts.html for WASP Fonts' TrueType barcode fonts for Windows which includes barcode symbols and the WASP FontWare utility which formats text strings for use in barcodes. This one costs real money though.

Painter Classic, as well as update patches for most products.

The technical FAQs provide answers to product queries, although there's nothing to suggest why – in certain circumstances – male genitalia are displayed outside a chap's trousers in Poser 4!

➔ www.quark.com

The Quark website contains demos for Mac and Windows versions of the ubiquitous page-layout application, which, unless you've got £700 to spare, is as close as you're going to get. Software updates and free Quark extensions include enhanced preview XT, which displays high-res preview images in place of low-res ones, import filters for versions of Word and Acrobat PDF files, a beta of the new HTML text export filter and Type Tricks 1. There's a fair smattering of Applescripts, though these will only be of use to MacOS Quark users. Other stuff includes tech docs and FAQs, a searchable knowledge base and techtips. Good stuff for Quark addicts, if a bit dull.

➔ <http://perso.club-internet.fr/gpl/>

This well-constructed and clued-up French site contains tutorials, reviews of commercial Photoshop plug-ins and downloads of freeware filters. The commercial plug-ins section lists 84



◀ THE CRAZY ABOUT PSP SITE IS HOME TO A NUMBER OF TUTORIALS

companies including Andromeda, Adobe, Extensis, Microsoft and Xaos tools, as well as the less well known ones like Harry the Raver, Thinkfish and Plastic Thought. The freeware section has links to 63 providers of something for nothing, including some commercial sites which offer older products and demo versions for downloading.

As well as the links to plug-ins there are tutorials in PDF format. These are rated for usability and interface, and there are miscellaneous goodies like Photoshop actions, a plug-ins FAQ, compatibility info and an excellent links page.

➔ <http://desktoppublishing.com>

This is a great all-round resource for designers – well-organised links to sites offering stuff commercially and for free. Take your pick from templates (for

Illustrator, Xpress and MS Publisher), stock photography, free font sites, clipart, icons, Photoshop actions, books, filters and graphics utilities.

➔ www.cablevision.qc.ca/renlev/psp5tut.html

This site, called Crazy about Paint Shop Pro 5 and 6, has a massive list of links to tutorials, tubes, brushes, dingbat (symbol) fonts and, weirdly, gemstones. To give you an idea of its scope, the alphabetical tutorials list

starts with animations through images, layers, masks, text, textures, tools and ending with tubes. Each category has anything from half a dozen to 50 links – there must be more than 500 in total.

➔ www.microsoft.com/typography

The Microsoft website has some excellent typographic resources and links. As well as news on technical type developments there are articles on TrueType and OpenType, FreeType utilities and fonts and a links database pointing to more than 500 typography related sites.

PCW CONTACTS

Ken McMahon welcomes your feedback on the Graphics & DTP column. Contact him via the PCW editorial office, or email graphics@pcw.co.uk