

# Dressing up Photographs

## A sorry beginning

As mentioned in the newsletter, this project began with a photo taken by a client. It was intended for use on a web site, selling beach city related T-shirts. The original is shown at the right. As you can see it, isn't very exciting. Sadly, this was one of the better shots she took.

Fortunately, Draw and Photo-Paint give me plenty of tools to turn an otherwise boring photo into an object of interest. The examples on this page were done entirely within Draw.

## Shaperizing

A fairly simple thing that can add drama to a photo, is to create a more interesting shape for it. Here are a couple easy ways to do this:

- ◆ Crop the photo, using the shape tool. In the first sample, at right, all I did was grab the upper left node and move it towards the center. With some white text on top of it, this is already becoming a much more interesting image than the original photo. (*Of course, I don't think an image with a rusty fence and flood-control sandbags is exactly the "Beach City" image she wants to convey.*)
- ◆ Another method, is to use one of the bitmap effects available to you in Draw (both 7 and 8). I first converted both the photo and drop-shadow text into a single bitmap, then applied *3D Rotate* to it.

## Colorizing

This photo still suffers from fairly boring colors, and that problematic rusty fence. So, what can we do to make it more exciting? How about putting a lens over it? Lenses are a great way to add some interesting effects to both bitmap and vector artwork. There are several advantages to lenses:

- ◆ You can experiment until you get the effect you like, without permanently changing the objects underneath.
- ◆ You can compound effects, by stacking one lens over another.

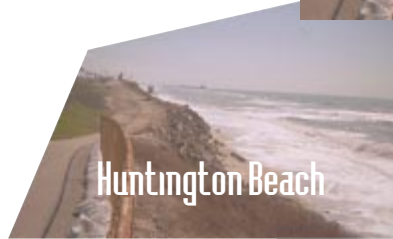
## Powerclipping

Another great way to shape a bitmap, is to place it inside a PowerClip. That is what I did for the last two examples on this page. You can create a PowerClip out of just about anything, including text. In the second PowerClip example, I took the eraser tool to it, to make an even more interesting shape. Keep in mind, that I can erase, trim, and weld to a PowerClip container, yet the contents are completely unaffected.

## Bitmap Effects

The last example was accomplished using bitmap effects available within Draw. I first removed the text from the PowerClip, then converted the PowerClip to a bitmap. Then I applied a single bitmap effect to it. Any guesses as to which one it is?

Fill-in Answer here: \_\_\_\_\_



# Sometimes Draw isn't enough...

## Enter Photo-Paint.

Well, not quite yet. The first image on this page, is actually a bit of trickery. It looks like something that would probably have to be created in Photo-Paint, using masks, but was actually created completely in Draw. *Any ideas how?*

Generally, though, images like this are more easily achieved in Photo-Paint. If you want to apply blurs or effects to only portions of an image, Paint is the tool to choose.

## Plug-ins

These are 3rd-party effects filters designed to enhance Photo-Paint. Some of them can also be used with bitmaps inside Draw. The Draw suite ships with a few. Actually, there were more in 7 than in 8. But, you can keep the filters that came with 7 and use them in 8. Also, there are lots of packages you can purchase. However, beware! Most are designed for Adobe PhotoShop. Many have been tested with Photo-Paint, but some are not compatible with both.

## Edge Effects

One of the plug-ins that comes with both 7 and 8 are the Photographic Edges from Auto F/X. Draw comes with a "lite" version of this plug-in. The sample at the right was done using the photo-edges. You have a choice when working with this tool of applying an outset edge effect, or both an inset and outset effect. The files used for this are not automatically installed on your hard drive. They can be found in a folder called Phot\_edg, on **Disk 1**, (not Disk 3) in Draw 8.

The best way to learn about this tool, is simply to experiment with it. The interface is a bit strange, but it does have a help screen.

## Vignette

This is another effect that is easy to apply, and creates a nice soft edge to a photo. It is found under *Effects/Artistic/Vignette*. The image at right had an elliptical vignette applied to it. The version below it, is the same image, with yet another effect applied to it, *Effects/Color Transform/Solarize*.

Note, that both of these particular effects are available within Draw.

## Combining effects and using Masks

It's evident, that a lot of what used to be done solely in Paint can now be accomplished within Draw, since a subset of Paint functions are now available in Draw. Where Paint shines, is the ability to apply a multitude of different effects, and to mask portions of the image, so that only a portion of the images is affected (or should I say "effected").

The last image on this page was done with a potpourri of effects, brushes, and masks. Don't ask me to try and recreate it verbatim, but I'll try to demonstrate some of the tools I used.

