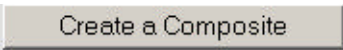


On-line Composite Creation

This PDF covers on-line composite creation. There are separate PDF files you can obtain from us covering (a) Uploading Files and Ordering Prints On-Line, (b) On-Line Editing, and (c) On-Line Stitching.

The first step is to click “Create a Composite” from your on-line directory. That will take you to a page which gives you various shells you might use, and gives you also a link to “go instead to a more complicated, **more flexible method.**” Take a look at the shells on this page. Most are very flexible, and give you a lot of options other than the sample illustrations. If you select one of these, a help screen appears to help you with that shell style. However, this PDF just covers the “**more flexible method**” option (inasmuch as it is more complicated). After you click that link, you get a page which gives you links to various help and example pages, and also allows you to click [start composing a new composite](#). Click that link.

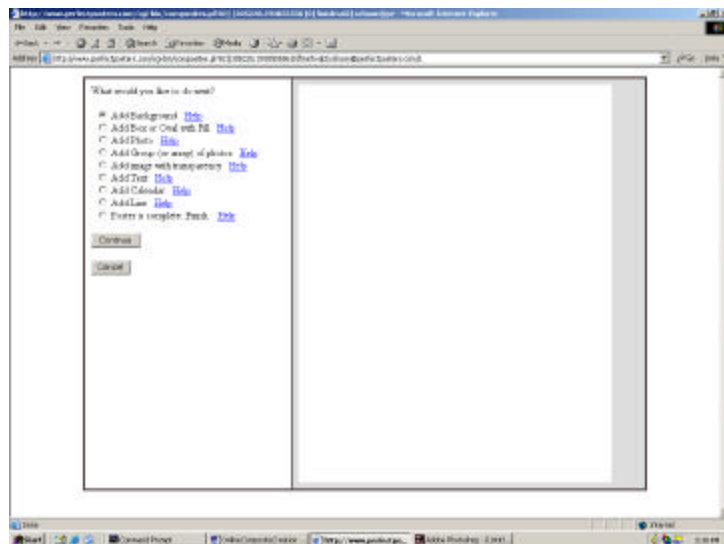


To create a composite, you will probably choose a background, then add items (e.g., photos, text, etc.) one item at a time. If, at any time, you don't like the last change you made, you can back up as many steps as you wish and start again from there.

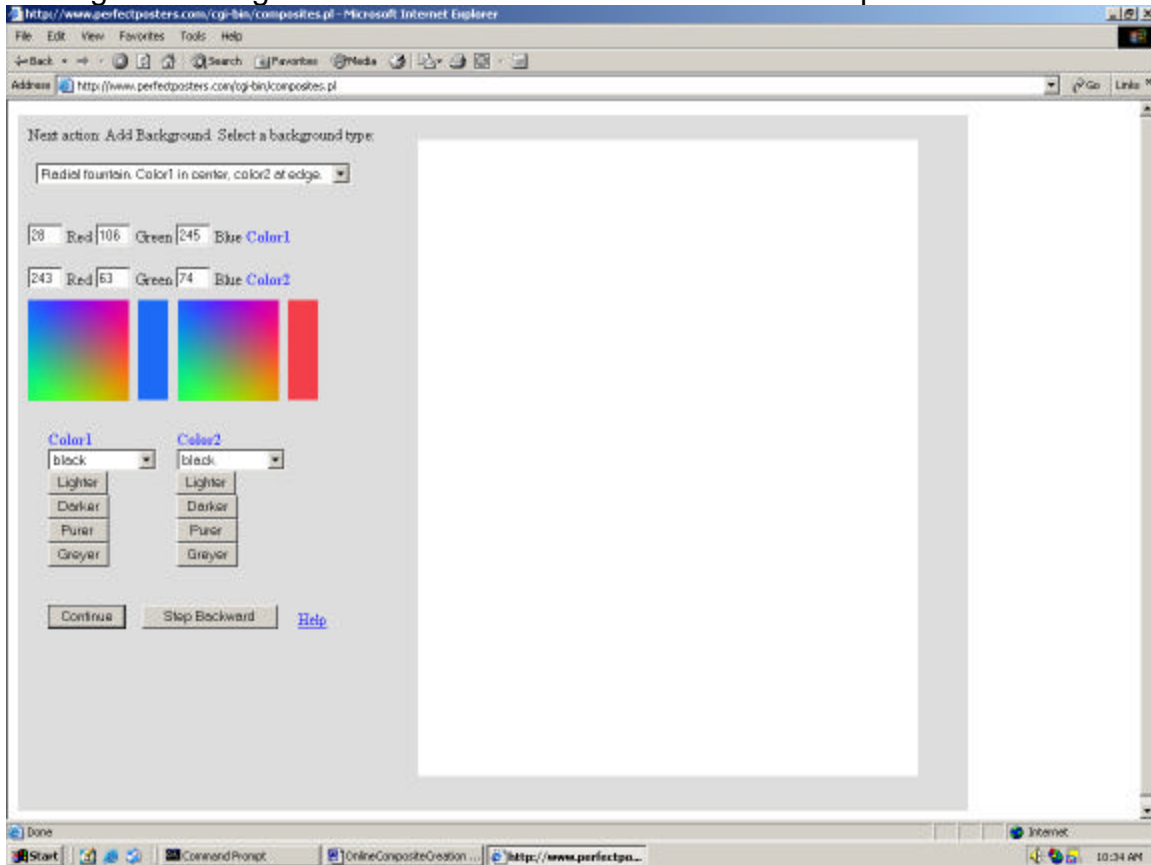
Next you will see a screen which asks you to supply the horizontal and vertical size (in inches) of your composite. Supply that information and then click Continue. (The size you supply will be the default size if you order prints. However, once your poster is in your shopping cart, you can then click the image of it and modify its size, if you wish.)

Your next screen will show you options for your next step, on the left, and your poster to date, on the right (see right).

In most cases, the first step will be to add a background (unless you want a white background, in which case you can choose another option.) For our example, we'll show the construction of a wall calendar, with a background. So start by



clicking “add background.” This results are shown in the example below.



To choose a background, you need to (a) choose a background type, from the top drop-down menu, and (b) choose (usually) two colors. You can choose each color in **one of three ways**:

--- Enter the red, green, blue coordinates (numbers from 0 to 255) in the Red, Green, Blue text boxes. This is the least user-friendly way to do this.

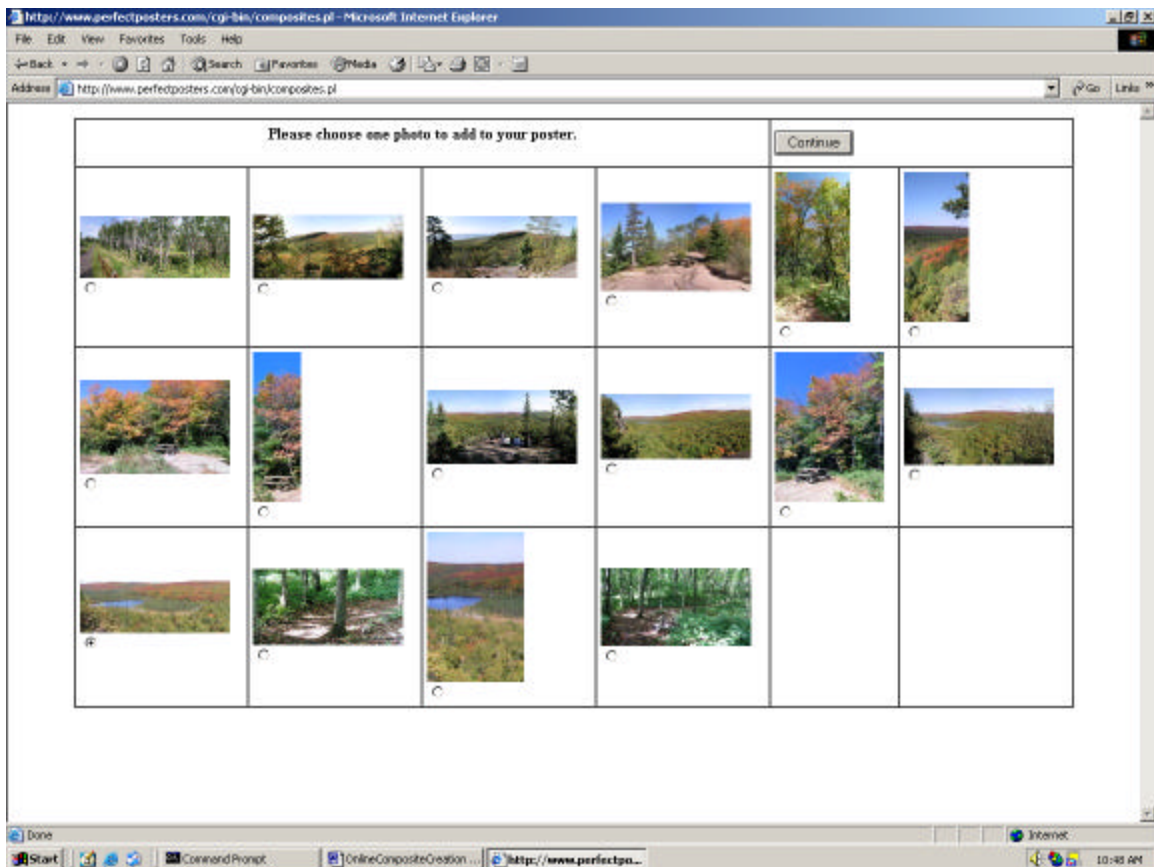
--- Left click your mouse within the color block. When you do this, a thin rectangle of the color you selected will appear to the right of the color block. (Click your mouse slowly, to make sure the system has time to record your mouse-click.)

--- Choose one of 16 colors from the drop down menu just below the label “Color1” or “Color2”.

Once you have chosen a color, you can *modify* the color by clicking “Lighter”, “Darker”, “Purer”, or “Grayer.” You can click these buttons multiple times to get the effect you want. You will see the thin rectangular color blocks change after each click. (This assumes that you have Javascript enabled on your computer.)

Once you have done this, click “continue.” That will bring you back to the screen that shows you your poster on the right, and asks for the next step, on the left.

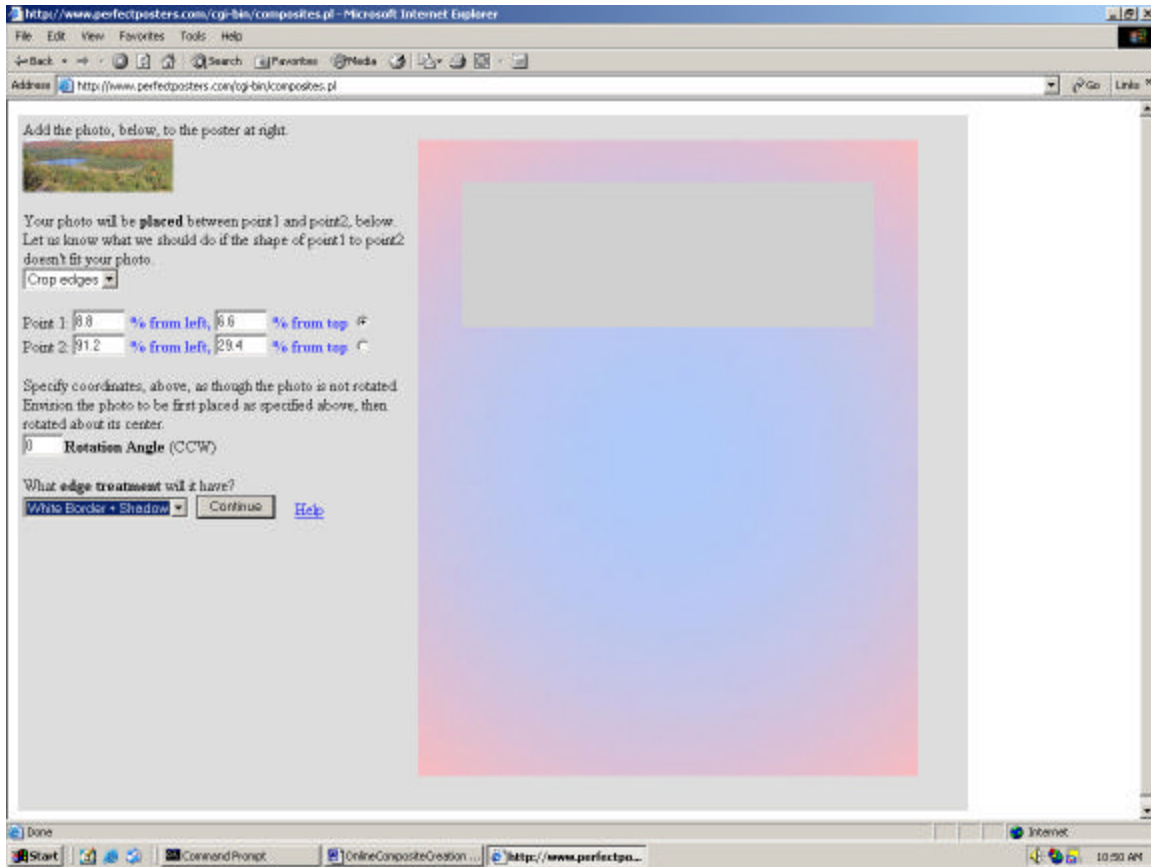
We will continue with our example of constructing a wall calendar. Our next step is to place a photo across the top of the poster, so we select “Add Photo”, then “Continue.” This brings us to a page that shows possible photos to add (see below).



We want the item in the lower left corner, so we click that radio button, and then click “Continue.”

The first thing we need to do is to tell the system where the photo is to be placed. We do this by left clicking the mouse on the poster image, where the upper left corner will go. Next, we click where the lower right corner should go. If all goes well, a light gray box appears between these two coordinates. Also, the numerical information appears in the text boxes labeled Point1 and Point2. If this hasn't happened, it is usually due to either (a) we didn't hold down the left mouse button long enough when we clicked it, or (b) Javascript isn't enabled. In any case, if the rectangle isn't in the right place, just click the coordinates again, 1st upper left, then lower right. If we get out of sequence, click the upper radio button (to the right of the text box labeled “Point 1”). In many cases it's easiest to 1st eliminate the old gray rectangle, so just click twice well away from where you

want the photo, to place a rectangle there, and then go back to placing the rectangle where you really want it.



Once the rectangle for placement is approximately established, you can, if you wish, fine tune it by changing the numbers in the text boxes. For example, if you want to make sure that the left edge of the photo is exactly as far from the left edge of the poster as is the case for the right edge, you can enter better numbers.

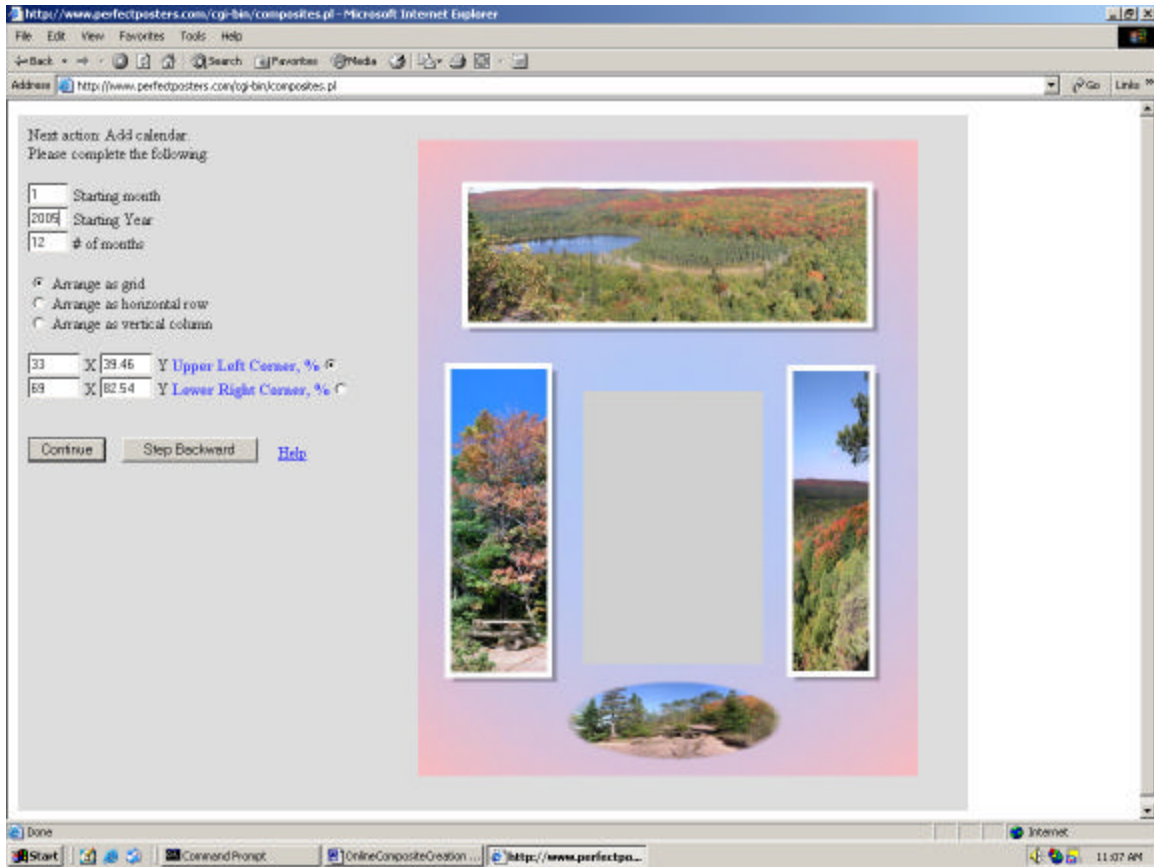
Once the position of the photo is set, the next steps are to

- Tell the system what to do if the aspect ratio (ratio of width to height) of the box is not the same as it is for the photo. Select “stretch to size” or “crop edges.”
- Tell the system whether you want the photo rotated or not.
- Tell the system whether you want any edge treatment (e.g., white border with shadow).

Once this is done, click “Continue” to proceed.

Our next step is to add three other photos. We repeat the step of “Add Photo” three times.

After that, we want to add the calendar. We click Add Calendar, to get the screen below:



Once again, our first step is to identify the box location where the calendar will go. We have done this by left clicking the mouse for upper left corner, then lower right corner. As before, we can fine tune these coordinates, if we wish, by using the text boxes.

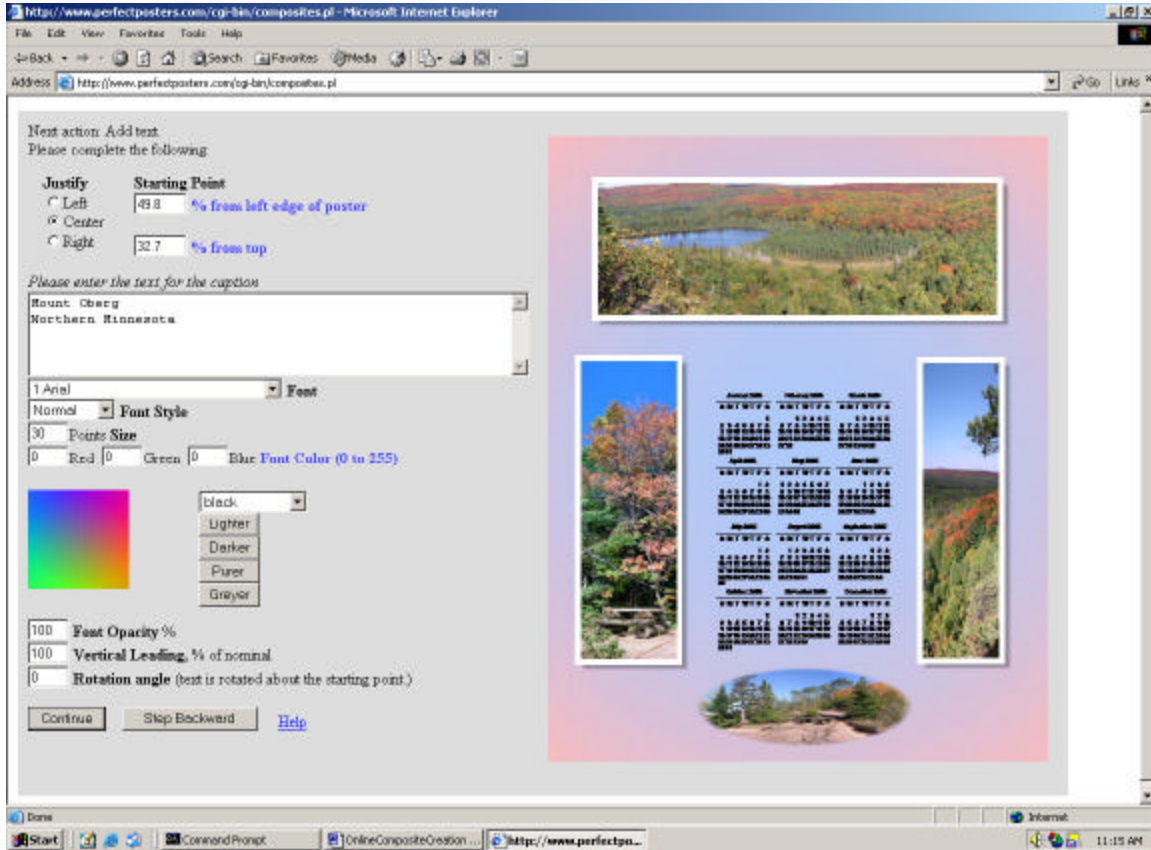
We also need to tell the system the following:

- The starting month (1, for January, in this case)
- The starting year (2005 in this case)
- The number of months (12, in this case)
- Whether the calendar is to be arranged as a grid, a row, or a column.

Once these selections are made, we click "Continue"

We're nearly done, but we just need to add some text above the calendar. So we click "Add Text", and get the screen on the top of the next page.

The first step is to tell the system where the text will go. We do this by (a) clicking the mouse at a point within the poster, this being the “Starting Point”, and (b) choose whether the text will be justified left, center, or right, based on this Starting Point. As before, the text boxes can be fine tuned if desired.



The next step is to add the text we want.

Next, we need to look over the rest of the boxes that follow, and change anything we don't like. In our case, we make a guess that about 30 point will be a good text size, so we choose that. The other boxes look OK, so we click “Continue”.

The next screen shows the completed poster. It looks OK, so we click “Finish” for the next step and click “Continue” again, and the poster shows up in our directory.



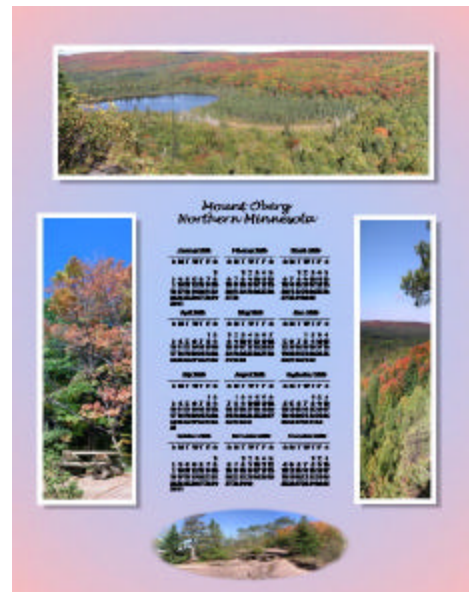
Continuing this example, though, let's say that after some thought, we decide that the font for the text should have been something else. So, we start again by clicking "Create Composite." Now the next screen is different than it was the 1st time – it has an image of this poster on the right side, and a link titled "Start, using a copy of this existing poster." We click that link, and get to a screen that shows the poster on the right, and various next steps to take on the left. Instead of choosing one of those, instead we click the box titled "Step Backward." (We can use this button as many times as we wish, all the way back to the black shell, if we wish.)

Now we see the poster as it was before we added the text. We want to redo that step, so we click "add text."

The next screen is just like it was when we finished making our choices the 1st time – the text is filled in, and the choices are the way we did them earlier. We just want to change the font, so we go to the font drop-down menu and choose Lucida Handwriting, instead. We click "continue" and we get our poster with a new font style.

We can now choose "Finish" for the next step, and have this poster also added to our on-line directory.

We can use the "Step Backwards" button to change anything we have done previously. As long as we choose the next steps (e.g., photo, photo, calendar, text) in the same order as we originally did, the menu items will fill in automatically. In this way, you can create a "shell." Once one poster is created, save it, start a new poster using a copy of that poster, and step backwards just changing the items you want to change. The important thing is to remember the sequence of steps (e.g., photo, photo, calendar, text) so that you choose your new path to resemble your previous one.



The choices available for the "next step" are the following:

- Add Background
- Add Box or Oval with Fill
- Add Photo
- Add Group of Photos
- Add Image with Transparency
- Add Text
- Add Calendar
- Add Line

Most of these are self explanatory, but the following pointers may help:

When adding an image with transparency, you identify a color which identifies the transparent portion. For example, let's say that you want to add your signature at the lower right corner of your photo. So you sign your name on a white background and scan it. When you get to the page for "Add Image with Transparency", the system will ask you to let it know how to determine what is transparent. We could choose "white" or "edge colors". The system also lets us choose a nominal or wider window. The wider window is helpful, e.g., if the white background isn't vary uniform, and the system should take a wider range of white and near-white colors to represent transparency.

It is important that whatever color is used to define transparency isn't also contained in the image. For example, suppose you photograph a person against a green background. Then you make a poster by starting with the background you want (either one of our backgrounds, or an image you've uploaded to be used as a background). Next, you add the person, telling the system to use the edge color to define transparency. That's fine, as long as the person isn't wearing a green shirt. If they are, then the background will show thru. When you choose the background when you take the picture, you should check to make sure that the background color will not be confused with non-background items.

Sometimes you might need to just lighten an area, so you can later add something over it. For example, you might have an area where you want to add a calendar, but it's too dark for that. There's an easy way to lighten it. Just click "Add Box or Oval with Fill", and put a box there, but choose an opacity less than 100%. For example, a white box with 50% opacity will lighten an area, but leave some of the background still showing.

Remember that what you see after each step is a thumbnail of your poster. If you order a print, the text and other line art will be redone at full size, to make sure that everything is as sharp and crisp as it possibly can be.

Be sure to take a look at the help screens and examples that are available on-line.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us at custservice@AutomatedPhotoTechnology.com

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