

## OS X/Win XP native Photoshop 7 due for release this quarter

Adobe Systems has announced that it is very close to releasing its much-awaited Mac OS X/Microsoft Windows XP native upgrade to *Adobe Photoshop*.

*Photoshop 7.0* provides enhanced multi-processor support and interoperability with other native Adobe applications. High on the list of new features is the Healing Brush for re-touching images, removing dust, scratches, blemishes and wrinkles, while preserving shading, lighting, texture and other attributes.

The new File Browser allows users to locate, organize and visually manage images, as well as view EXIF information from digital cameras, including date captured, exposure settings, and associated metadata (such as creation and modification dates). A new painting engine lets users create custom brush presets, simulate techniques like pastels and charcoal, and add special effects such as grass and leaves, while the new Pattern Maker plug-in can create patterns such as rocks and sand. An enhanced Liquify plug-in provides greater control over image warping with zoom, pan and multiple undo capabilities.

*ImageReady 7.0*, the advanced Web component in *Photoshop*, allows Web designers to apply extra compression to images while maintaining the quality of text and vector shape layers, as well as exercise greater control over how transparency is maintained online. For interactive authoring, *ImageReady* now combines all slices, rollovers, image maps and animations in one palette, and an expanded set of rollover types allows for the creation of more effective navigation bars.

*Adobe Photoshop 7.0* will ship in the second quarter of 2002 for all platforms. The estimated street price is US\$609. See [www.adobe.com/products/photoshop](http://www.adobe.com/products/photoshop) for full details on features and upgrades.

## Creo releases new line of flatbed production scanners

At IPEX 2002 in Birmingham UK, Creo launched the iQsmart line of professional color scanners, a new line flatbed models featuring a true optical resolution of up to 5500 dpi from edge to edge.

The iQsmart scans any type of original—originals can be transparent (positive and negative), reflective, mounted slides, line art, printed material, and halftone-screened films. It scans up to 96 35mm slides at one time and generates up to 40 scans per hour.

The iQsmart scanners feature FireWire connectivity and use Creo's oXYgen scanning application for input. Images are scanned once and saved as a 16-bit digital transparency (DT) file that can be repurposed for as many different uses as required.

In addition, the iQsmart 3 scanner performs professional copydot scanning and descreening using Creo's new oXYgen



DOT Solution which borrows advanced algorithms from the Creo Renaissance copydot scanners.

Two new iQsmart scanners were demonstrated at IPEX, the iQsmart 2 and the iQsmart 3. The iQsmart 3 provides higher optical resolution, increased productivity, and enhanced workflow. iQsmart scanners run under Mac OS X (and OS 9.2). In the future, the iQsmart 2 will also connect to Windows workstations.

The iQsmart 2 will sell in Canada for less than \$16,000; the iQsmart 3 will list at about \$26,500.

For more details, point your browser at [www.creo.com/scanners](http://www.creo.com/scanners).

## Alias|Wavefront drops price on Maya Complete to US\$1,999

Alias|Wavefront announced that it has reduced pricing for its *Maya Complete* and

a volume-market product, *Alias|Wavefront* hopes to make *Maya* accessible to more people than ever before.

In conjunction with this repricing the company is offering an upgrade special to its current customers on annual full maintenance whereby those with *Maya Complete* licenses for the IRIX, Linux or Windows platforms can upgrade to *Maya Unlimited* for \$1,499. Moreover, the company is moving to an operating systems policy more consistent with that of other volume software products.

*Maya Complete 4* includes modeling, rendering, animation, dynamics, *Artisan*, *Paint Effects* and *Maya Embedded Language* (MEL), an open interface for programming and scripting. *Maya Unlimited 4* includes *Maya Fur*, *Maya Cloth* and advanced modeling features. Get all the details at [www.aliaswavefront.com](http://www.aliaswavefront.com).

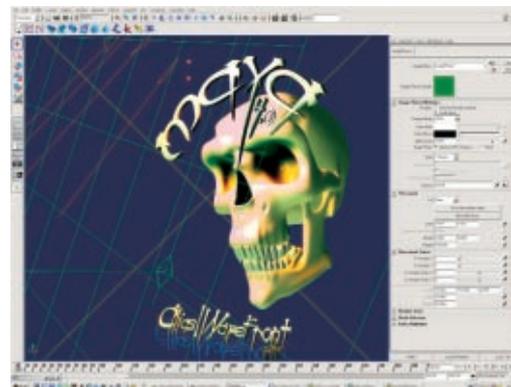


ILLUSTRATION BY RICK KOGUCKI, ALIAS|WAVEFRONT

*Maya Unlimited 3D* animation software packages. *Maya Complete*, which was formerly priced at US\$7,500, now sells for US\$1,999, and *Maya Unlimited*, formerly US\$16,000, is now priced at US\$6,999.

By positioning this popular software as

## Avid responds to desktop competition with Xpress DV v3

Avid Xpress DV v3 portable video editing solution, offering more than 100 customizable real-time effects and multiple simultaneous streams in a complete DV editing studio, has just been announced by Avid Technology. Xpress DV v3 features real-time effects that include dissolves, titles,



color effects, picture-in-picture and motion effects—with multiple simultaneous real-time streams.

Avid Xpress DV v3 effects are fully customizable and preview on-screen as they will appear when rendered. Other new features include a new user interface featuring customizable tool sets; a new keyframe model with bezier controls and keyframes per parameter; a switch to channel horsepower to maximize either performance or image quality; a new Avid DV codec that withstands multiple generations; eight video tracks with unlimited nesting for dynamic multi-layered compositions; and low-cost DVD burner support plus five times faster MPEG encoding.

Avid Xpress DV v3 in standard configuration sells for US\$1,699 and includes Boris FX LTD, Boris Graffiti LTD, Sonic DVDit!, and Discreet Cleaner EZ for quick export of Real Player, Windows Media and QuickTime streaming media files. The Xpress DV v3 PowerPack at US\$2,999 also includes Avid Image Stabilization for correcting camera shake, Avid Filmmakers' Toolkit, Avid Illusion FX Pack, Pinnacle Commotion 4 for paint and rotoscoping; Sonic DVDit! SE for enhanced DVD creation, and Knoll Light-Factory AVX.

Avid pre-qualifies hardware for all its solutions. A list of qualified systems to date for Avid Xpress DV v3 for Windows is at [www.avid.com/products/avidxpressdv/specs](http://www.avid.com/products/avidxpressdv/specs). Requirements for a Mac version (due mid-2002) will be announced separately. Look for more details at [www.avid.com/xpressdv](http://www.avid.com/xpressdv).

## Macromedia springs Flash MX and Sorenson Spark codec

Macromedia has just introduced the newest enhancements to its Flash development environment, and with it a significant new partnering arrangement with Sorenson Media.

According to Macromedia, Macromedia Flash Player is used by more than 98 percent of the online population, and more than two million users download Flash Player every day.

Flash MX, the latest version of the Macromedia Flash environment, now includes support for a wide range of common video formats, and to add to that, the Sorenson Spark codec for compressed, high-quality video playback.

Pre-built user interface components in Flash MX help developers through customizable scrollbars, list boxes, and other standard interface elements. Flash MX

supports ECMAScript, HTML, MP3, Unicode, and XML.

The integration of the Sorenson Spark codec video in Flash MX and Flash Player 6 was announced in tandem with Flash MX by Macromedia and Sorenson Media. Broad video support is a key new feature in Flash MX. Sorenson Spark is the enabling technology that lets designers and developers deliver compressed video as part of Flash content and applications.

Macromedia also delivered a preview of ColdFusion MX, its new server technologies for creating rich Internet applications with Flash MX, due to be shipped later this year.

Macromedia Flash MX for Mac or Windows is priced at US\$499, with upgrades at \$199. For more information, visit [www.macromedia.com/go/flashmx](http://www.macromedia.com/go/flashmx).



## Dynagram acquires DK&A INposition suite of products

Dynagram, manufacturer of DynaStrip Imposition Software, has announced the purchase of DK&A INposition's product line, effective immediately.

DynaStrip is a standalone product, a full-featured solution that can handle the most complex impositions; INposition is the most popular extension available for imposing native QuarkXPress files as well as EPS files from any application. Dynagram confirmed its intention to upgrade the existing INposition and bring out a new version of the product.

Sales and technical support services will be provided from Dynagram's new offices in San Diego, U.S.A, and London, England, as well as from its headquarters in Quebec City, Canada.



## QuickTime streaming technology enables unlimited resolution

Image streaming technology for QuickTime 5 with fast initial display of images



and on-demand viewing of fine details—regardless of image size—has just been released in a product called Zoomify.

The new QuickTime add-on allows users to interactively zoom in and explore gigabyte images, objects and cubic panoramas. QuickTime users encountering Zoomify-prepared images on the Web for the first time automatically receive Zoomify's 100K component. Any image can be easily converted to stream using Zoomify's \$199 plug-in for Adobe Photoshop (Mac and Windows), and no special server software or hosting configuration is required. Demos can be found at [www.zoomify.com](http://www.zoomify.com).

Special Report

# New IntelliSpot may redefine CTP imaging

by Lerrick Starr

It's not often that an appellation which has been around since the beginning of digital imaging on paper and film gets retired. But after its most recent announcement at IPEX in Birmingham, UK on "IntelliSpot" technology—a half-Gaussian, half-traditional, bar-shaped imaging spot—Agfa may force us to rethink the term "spot" in "spot size".

## THE BASICS OF LASER IMAGING

In order to understand the significance of the IntelliSpot, we must review the basics of creating a printing plate.

It takes a laser to image a digital plate. At first, lasers were big, clunky, energy-slurping collections of power supplies and laser tubes, with the beam emitting from one end. However, today they are tiny efficient solid state devices like the ones in your CD player.

In all cases you find scanning mirrors, lenses and other complex bits of mechanical anarchy, each demanding tight coordination in order to focus on or "address" every part of the plate surface with the laser beam.

There are three ways to coordinate the plate and the imaging system: (1) fix the plate to a flat bed and roll the plate past a fixed imaging system, (2) slide it into an internal drum and run the imaging system down a track at the centre, or (3) clamp it to the outside of an external drum where lasers blast the image into the plate as it rotates by.

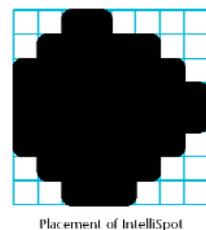
Fans of each methodology argue about tiny but measurable differences between imaging methods, spot shapes, thermal vs. violet, and other minutiae. But practically speaking, imaging quality today is so high that it comes down to plates per hour, maintenance, automation, and part replacement costs.

## MEMS AND XCALIBUR

Micro electro-mechanical systems (MEMS) are part of a brand new technology that starts with standard microchips. But instead of just etching the circuitry, small little machines are created on the surface of the chip. All kinds of sub-miniature devices are being constructed, including levers, gears, torsion bars, mirrors, ratchets, capillary tubes and analyses engines—right at the chip level.

Silicon Light Machines, better known for its pioneering work in high definition television, and Agfa have now co-developed a new imaging system based on MEMS technology that far surpasses anything previously in existence. It starts with a diode bar comprised of eight side-by-side imaging lasers which when activated produce what is essentially a 'ribbon' of laser light. This unusually wide beam is aimed at the Grating Light Valve (GLV), tiny mirrors mounted on the surface of a

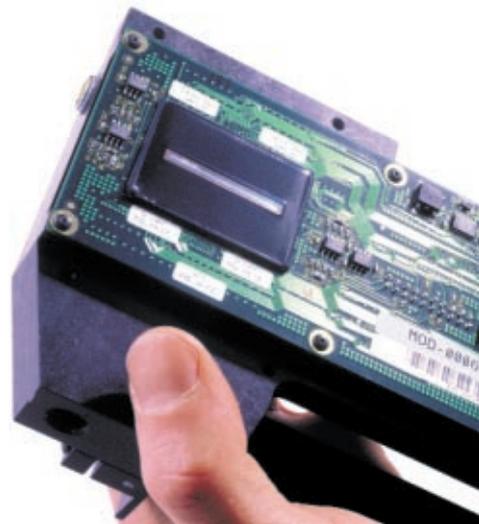
microchip that pivot under the direction of a controller. These micro-mirrors deflect the beams and image the plate as the laser ribbon plays on their surfaces. All of this technology is packed into a



Micro electro-mechanical systems (MEMS) enables Agfa's new Xcalibur 45 platesetter to image bar-shaped "spots" which are unlike any laser imaging technology seen up until now.

line illumination module (LIM) small enough to hold in one hand.

Agfa's new Xcalibur 45, an eight-up, external drum machine available in a range of automation levels, is the first platesetter to use this micro-mechanical technology. Xcalibur is a thermal device that operates at 830nm, and images Agfa's Ther-



Laser imaging technology in the new Xcalibur 45 platesetter is controlled by the Grating Light Valve (GLV), a series of tiny mirrors mounted on the surface of a microchip that pivot under the direction of a controller.

mostar P970 and other plates. It can image a 1% to 99% dot at 200 lpi and produce a 2400 dpi plate up to 45.66" x 32.29" in size and between 0.15 to 0.40 mm thick at a rate of twenty per hour.

By rotating its external drum at 190 rpm, and by using this ribbon of light, the Xcalibur can image dots as small as 10.6 microns high (by the width of the bar diode) in one contiguously imaged spot. This virtually eliminates the chief criticism of external drum platesetters—slow imaging performance. By exposing a ribbon of the plate at a time, the imaging head eliminates dead time, in contrast to standard single beam systems which must "settle" between movements. It also reduces the stitching or 'gaps' that can occur with single beams.

This first generation of MEMS imaging technology looks like it might give the Xcalibur 45 a major advantage over other current systems, which is a good thing for Agfa since it has an exclusive grip on MEMS implementation.

## MAJOR OVERHAUL FOR APOGEE

I confess to a bias with respect to home-built PDF workflows. While every prepress manufacturer has its own, I prefer to maintain independence by building mine from non-proprietary software.

That's why I'm glad to see that after years of tight integration, *ScenicSoft Preps* is now an option in Agfa's latest *Apogee*

workflow upgrade instead of a required part. In the new *ApogeeX* you can now use any imposition program that can read a Job Ticket or Preps template.

*ApogeeX* also eliminates the dizzy array of windows that formerly existed in *Apogee Pilot*, leaving just one global view of what's going on with the most useful information upfront. A message board warns users if a job needs attention. You can prioritize, hold or cancel jobs in progress, or approve, correct and resubmit them, all within one interface. Clients, prepress, pressroom and MIS or production planning systems can all be connected to *ApogeeX* so that everyone can track a job's progress. The user interface has been totally revamped—job plans are built by pulling icons representing different prepress activities into a linear graphical representation of the process (in fact, it looks a lot like Creo's *Prinergy*).

Of importance to the packaging industry is *Apogee's* new integration with Artwork Systems *PowerStepper* and *PowerLayout* step-and-repeat software. That means *ApogeeX* can take die-line information created in CAD/CAM applications and use it to position and nest digital art, then generate a JDF (Job Definition Format) file.

The JDF contains production information, including color strips, markers, nesting and other job parameters. *ApogeeX* then reprocesses the file according to the instructions in the JDF, and out comes nested imposed output.

Agfa has installed the complete *Pitstop Server* library in *ApogeeX* instead of the former partial implementation of a small set of *Pitstop* action lists. Full-fledged PDF preflight, editing and certifying functions are now right in the workflow.

Digital trapping, using Agfa's InRip algorithms, brings incredibly useful functionality to the prepress desktop. Objects and bitmaps are trapped at output device resolution with vector-based traps calculated at the display list level (the RIP's internal intermediate format before screening); trapping information is added to the

PDF on the comments layer.

The result is a page-independent, trapped CMYK PDF with embedded fonts, ready to go on press. In its Job Ticket are directions for the job's final imposition (if it's being produced elsewhere), or it can also consist of imposed PDFs. And to facilitate digital sign-offs, there's a web approval tool that allows off-site approvals of flats or pages.

#### DOT-FOR-DOT PROOFING

One of the weaknesses of digital proofing is the lack of halftone dots in the proof. And when you have a halftone dot, things that shouldn't be—like type or high resolution bitmaps—are also halftones.

The introduction of dot simulation in the *Apogee* Proofer RIP and Grand Sherpa means packaging proofs can now contain a mix of halftone and error diffusion techniques. Images get halftoned, but type and high resolution bitmaps retain their sharpness by being error diffused. The result is a proof that is not only high in color fidelity but also lets you check for physical moiré or other artefacts not readily visible in today's digital proofs.

More information on Agfa's latest products can be found at [www.agfa.ca](http://www.agfa.ca). ☎

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*Lerrick Starr is an industry consultant specializing in workflow, training, prepress and marketing. He can be reached at [lstarr@tube.com](mailto:lstarr@tube.com).*

*"Thanks for teaching me so much in the short time we had."*

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## Canon gives away US\$115,000 in Digital Creators Contest prizes

The Canon Digital Creators Contest 2002, a competition that encourages artists to explore new directions in digital visual expression in the Internet era, is providing professional and amateur artists of all ages with the opportunity to showcase their talent and compete for awards that include first place prizes of US\$20,000 in each of four digital imaging categories.



Canon launched the contest two years ago. Last year's contest accepted more than six thousand submissions from 57 countries.

This year's contest will comprise four division categories—

Digital Photo (Print), Digital Graphics/Illustration (Print), Digital Movie, and Web. Over 60 prizes totaling more than US\$115,000 in money and products will be awarded.

Submissions will be accepted until September 3, 2002. Winners will be announced Friday, December 6, 2002 in Tokyo. Information and entry guidelines are available directly on the Canon website at [www.canon.com/cdcc](http://www.canon.com/cdcc), or as a link from the Canon Canada site at [www.canon.ca/cdcc](http://www.canon.ca/cdcc). All submissions in North and South America must be sent to Canon Digital Creators Contest, New York Secretariat, c/o DCA Advertising, 666 Fifth Avenue, 9th Floor, New York, NY 10103.

## Iomega offers new plug-and-play USB or FireWire hard drives

Iomega Corp. has announced two new hard drives, both available in FireWire or USB 2.0 configurations. The drives are hot-swappable and plug-and-play, and will include Iomega *QuikSync* software, which provides automatic on-the-fly backup.

The HDD Portable Hard Drive is available now in USB (20 GB US\$199 or

## Corel updates Designer 9 for integration with CorelDraw



Corel Corporation has announced the availability of *Designer 9*, the technical illustration package which was added to the company's product line with the acquisition of Micrografx in October 2001.

Designed for engineers and technical illustrators, *Designer 9* offers a combination of drawing, annotation and creative tools for both print and electronic output. It includes *Corel Picture Publisher 9*, a professional image editor used for image capture, editing, color correction and photo retouching. It has also been updated to facilitate the integration of *Designer* into a technical graphics workflow alongside the company's creative package, *CorelDraw*.

*Corel Designer 9* provides users with the ability to annotate drawings with associative dimension lines and callouts and to create schematics and diagrams with sticky lines. Drawing tools similar to those in AutoCAD let users trim, extend and bevel objects. By choosing from a selection of line styles, users can represent a variety of materials, from zippers and stitches to wiring and air conduits. Users can add a close-up view of any area of a drawing using the Magnification Lens.

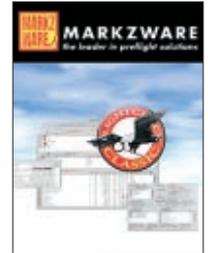
*Corel Designer 9* is available now at US\$449. For additional information, visit [www.corel.com/Designer9](http://www.corel.com/Designer9).

30 GB US\$259) and FireWire (20 GB US\$229 or 30GB US\$279) versions.

Iomega HDD External Hard Drive USB models are due to ship in May at list prices of US\$199 for 40GB, US\$299 for 80GB, and US\$349 for 120GB. FireWire versions of the 80GB and 120GB will be available for \$329 and \$379 respectively. Optional USB and FireWire interfaces and cables will be available by June—check [www.iomega.com](http://www.iomega.com) for more details.

## FlightCheck 4.5 preflights QuarkXPress 5 and InDesign 2

Markzware has announced an update for its popular software *FlightCheck* which allows users to preflight *QuarkXPress 5* and *InDesign 2* documents.



Version 4.5 for the Mac now also includes a Corporate Fonts feature, the ability to flag fonts which are not "company approved". The Collect Multiple feature allows the user to collect multiple documents and associated components to a directory or folder all at one time. Mismatched Color Values alerts users when a color is mismatched, e.g. two colors with different names that have the same CMYK values. *FlightCheck 4.5* also identifies native *Photoshop* files in a document.

For further details on *FlightCheck*, visit [www.markzware.com](http://www.markzware.com).

## HP, Adobe, Kodak endorse Exif Print standard for digital imaging

Exchangeable Image File Format 2.2 (Exif Print), an internationally supported, open standard file format that enables users to capture and display digital images with accurate colors, has been endorsed by Hewlett-Packard Company, Adobe Systems and Eastman Kodak Company in a recent announcement.



Digital cameras compress images into JPEGs, enabling applications that support JPEG to read the image. According to the release, Exif Print offers greater control by encoding information such as exposure time, contrast, white balance and color saturation by "tagging" it onto the standard header of JPEG files, and this assures continuity of image color composition, regardless of how images are captured, shared, enhanced, displayed and ultimately printed. With Exif Print, users experience improved quality and consistency of digital photos.

# what's on at gxo



## **ZOOMIFY AND MORE**

Take a first peek at the new Zoomifier browser plug-in—a rare opportunity to see alien skin pores in closeup detail on our latest cover—plus more new toys on-line.

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## **BOMB CHIANTI**

See what Bob Connolly describes in his Jan/Feb feature article “DVD Kills the Video Star”—QuickTimes and bonus material from the band’s groundbreaking DVD-Video.

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# The Shadow Knows



Xerox has confirmed that its iGen 3 digital press due for delivery this fall will sell for US\$510,000...Microsoft's contract to support Mac versions of key products expires in August and...hmmmm...Bill is still being mum...New iMacs are selling so well that Apple had to bump up pricing by US\$100 in March -- Canadians are paying \$200 more and we're still wondering why...By this summer, cool kids may be the ones with a biochip the size of a grain of

rice implanted under their skin -- the VeriChip (right) is about to be launched



by Applied Digital Solutions, now that the FDA has cleared it as an unregulated device... Adobe propped up money-losing Salon magazine with a US\$500K investment in March...The assets of bankrupt Belgian digital press maker Xeikon have been purchased by Punch International...Adobe has released a v10.01 patch for Illustrator 10...Just what every drinking establishment needs: Mitsubishi Electric Research Labs has come up with a prototype of the world's first pint glass that knows when it's empty -- fitted with a radio frequency coil, the iGlassware system automatically

sends a refill signal to computer-equipped waiters...The PowerBook 2400 bombed when it was released in Japan five years ago, but today it's a much-prized cult item -- check out a



Japanese PowerBook user's site devoted to the comparative beauty of the 2400's underside at [www.powerbook.org/2400/ura/adult.html](http://www.powerbook.org/2400/ura/adult.html)...



## Final Cut Pro chapter points now importable into OS X native DVD Studio Pro 1.5, unveiled at NAB

Apple kicked off the giant April, 2002 National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) show in Las Vegas by announcing the availability of *DVD Studio Pro 1.5*, now carbonized for Mac OS X.

*DVD Studio Pro* now works more closely with Apple's *Final Cut Pro* digital video editing software. *Final Cut*'s chapter points can be easily imported into *DVD Studio Pro*, creating frame-accurate jump points for DVD users.

*DVD Studio Pro 1.5* lets users create DVD video discs including still or motion menus, high-quality video and audio tracks, and slide shows. It encodes audio and video using the QuickTime MPEG plug-in and Dolby Digital 5.1 encoding software.

*DVD Studio Pro 1.5* lists for \$1,599 and ships with *PhotoPaint*, Corel's graphic editor, and audio editor software *Bias Peak DV*. Registered users can upgrade for \$299.

## Alien Skin ships carbonized Splat! filters for Photoshop and other image editors

Alien Skin Software has just released *Splat!*, a new filter set for *Adobe Photoshop* and other image editors.

*Splat!* combines frames, textures, edges, borders and mosaics, with the interface of *Eye Candy*. The Frame filter adds mattes and frames to any photo or other rectangular selection; Resurface adds high-resolution surface texture to any object, selection, or composition; Edges adds versatile, scalable, decorative edge effects to any graphic. Fill Stamp fills any selection with familiar objects, allowing a choice from over 100 stamp collections including leaves, buttons, coins, food, and flowers. Border Stamp applies the power of Fill Stamp to borders and works with any shape or selection, including text.

*Splat!* is carbonized for Mac OS X and is available from [www.alienskin.com](http://www.alienskin.com) at US\$99 for both Mac and Windows.