
THE PEDALER'S PAGE

*A Quarterly Newsletter for Epilog & Xenotech Owners brought to you by Brewer Sales
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Editor: Jeanette Brewer-Richardson

LaserBits Clinics come to Texas!

We've been asked numerous times over the last year what we thought of the *LaserBits Laser User Clinics*. Since we've heard nothing but good reviews from attendees, we decided to make arrangements for three of these clinics in Texas during 2003.

I'm also trying to talk daddy into a clinic in Hawaii in November. I need all you laser owners in Hawaii to call, fax or email to let him know what a great idea that is! Additionally, any of you from the continental US that might want to combine a vacation and an educational experience should sign our "***Come on, daddy, let's do a clinic in Hawaii petition***" too! *Mahalo!*

NOTE: *Y'all think I'm kidding – but I'm not.* If we can figure out a way to pull it off, we're seriously thinking about a Hawaiian venue since our customers in Hawaii don't get this opportunity very often.

If you own a laser (*any laser*), you'll want to seriously consider spending a couple of days (Friday evening & Saturday morning) with us in Dallas at the first-ever *LaserBits-Texas Clinic*.

Don't own a laser yet? This would be a fabulous opportunity for you to see a laser in action and to network with current laser owners who might have some advice to be used in your decision-making process.

These 8 hour clinics will be conducted by Mike Fruciano, the president of LaserBits. Mike has presented these clinics across the country to rave reviews.

Mike will cover both basic & advanced processing techniques and will discuss the latest laserable products available. Mike will also

highlight system maintenance, laser safety and the latest/greatest software packages.

The next *LaserBits-Texas Clinic* will be in Galveston (following the annual **Texas Trophy & Awards Show** in August). Finally, we'll wrap up 2003 with a clinic in San Antonio in October.

Pick the clinic closest to you (or the most convenient date) and register ASAP. Seating is limited & pre-registration will be necessary. The charge is \$75 per person. See **Page 4** for your Registration Form.

DALLAS

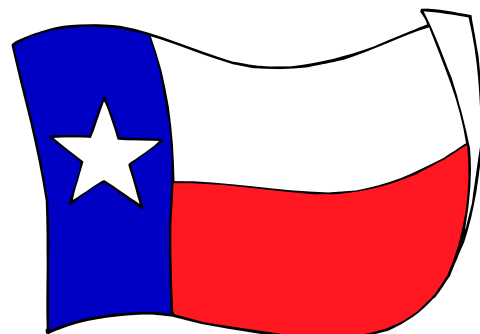
June 13 (5:00 pm - 9:00 pm) & 14 (8:00 am - 12:00 pm)
Holiday Inn Select Dallas North

GALVESTON

August 10 (9:00 am - 5:00 pm)
Moody Gardens Hotel & Resort

SAN ANTONIO

October 24 (5:00 pm - 9:00 pm) & 25 (8:00 am - 12:00 pm)
TBD



For more information, call me at (817)460-8122 [201]!

CorelDraw 11 Review

by Roy Brewer

Corel 11 is by far the best “first release” ever. Incredibly stable! No installation problems reported by newsgroups which blasted version 10 for its potential installation problems.

Compared to previous releases, there are fewer new tools/features, but it appears Corel Corp. has been listening to engravers/signmakers because many of the new tools/features apply directly to what we do. The PhotoPaint Cutout tool (*see article below*) is my favorite.

Here are a few of the features on which I've come to rely:

Several new tools allow us to do things the way we did in CAD. Pen tool (new) combines Freehand Tool and Bezier Tool. Polyline Tool (new) allows combination of lines and (spline) curves. Between the two of these, we can now manually trace a graphic just like we did in CAD and get it “right on” – the first time!

3point arc, 3point ellipse and 3point rectangle: these new tools, among other things, allow creation of these objects at any angle rather than creating orthogonal and then rotating.

Eleven allows us to create a symbol library

which reduces overall file size of large complex drawings; very useful but still not quite what we want because the library can only be attached to individual documents. Stay with the Scrapbook for your squiggles!

Text features? Finally, we can convert paragraph text to curves (allowing mirroring on acrylic, *e.g.*). We can bring in text from most word processing formats and maintain the formatting.

HPGL export is better than 10 but still not completely fixed (hatch fill still doesn't work – keep version 9 or earlier if you use Corel to hatch fill).

Corel 11 has one problem when used in win98. Specifically, on several laser engravers, the percentage of Power (as set up in the print driver dialog) is *not* sent to the laser. This means the user must manually set Power at the laser. This is *another* powerful reason to consider upgrading to winXP (or win2000, winNT).

In this salesman's humble opinion, Corel 11 is a must have! NOTE: If you are not using winXP, winNT or win2000, keep at least v9 around *just in case*.

PhotoPaint Cutout How-to

My favorite new tool is fantastic for anyone using laser or sublimation for photographs! It's almost as good as *Knockout* (\$250) and is far easier to use. More good news? It's *free* in *Corel Graphics Suite (CGS) 11!*

The main use for this tool is to remove the background from a photograph. It is also the best way to get rid of the “white box” behind **any** scanned graphic. For those who have not found this great new tool, try this:

1. Open a portrait-type photograph
2. **Image | Cutout**
3. “Highlight” the object (person)
4. “Fill” inside the highlight
5. Click **OK**

Now with the object selected, copy into clipboard & paste into an existing CorelDraw layout. Drag it over existing objects to see that its background is transparent – no white box, though it is still a bitmap! *Slick, huh?!*

Tiling with CorelDraw to Laser

by Roy Brewer

Have you seen some of the massive murals (4' x 6' or larger) lasered onto marble or ceramic tile? Yes, third party software is available to do this, but do you know how to do it in CorelDRAW just as easily?

Some may say, "Why not just use the Print dialog Tiling function?" While this *can* be done, it is not as accurate and certainly not as versatile. For instance, the following procedure will allow you to re-engage one or more of the tiles if necessary (*to go deeper, that is, since I know you'd never make a mistake*). The steps work equally well for sublimation, screen printing and other processes.

1. Create a page the size of the individual "tile".
2. Create a page frame (quick way is to double-click on the rectangle tool).
3. Use the **Transform | Position** to duplicate the tile vertically and horizontally as many times as appropriate.

4. Select all rectangles and Combine them (**Arrange | Combine**).

5. Import bitmap or other graphic into the layout and set width/height to the appropriate size.

6. Select the bitmap/graphic.

7. **Effects | PowerClip | Place Inside Container**. With the resulting "pick arrow", click on the edge of the combined rectangles.

8. With "clipped graphic" and combined rectangles still selected, **Arrange | Break Power Clipped Curve Apart**.

9. Increase the number of pages (**Layout | Insert Page**) in the document to equal the number of tiles. Center each tile on its own page.

10. From the Print dialog, specify which tile (page) to print/engrave.

ARA Show Info

The **ARA Vegas Show** is sneaking up on us! Show dates: Thursday (Feb. 27) - Saturday (Mar. 1) with Education Day on Wednesday (Feb. 26). Be sure to stop by the Epilog booth (#533, 633 & 639) and Xenetech booth (#903) to say hi to daddy & Randy! If you need more information on the show (or to register), go to ARA's website www.ara.org & click on Trade Shows.

Xenetech has a few spots left (as of press time) at the Xenetech User Clinic on Wednesday (26th) at 8:30 am. Email Xenetech for your registration form

or for more information. (Jessica@xenetech.com) This will be an intermediate level clinic. \$50/person.

The **ARA Southwest Region Education Weekend** is scheduled for March 15-16 in Dallas. Contact Tom or Fran Carville (225)929-6026 or carco@eatel.net for your registration form or more information. All attendees must be pre-registered. There will be no on-site registration.

Brewer Receives Award

Epilog names Brewer Sales as Top Distributor for the year 2002. Thank you to each of our customers who helped make this honor possible!

LaserBits Texas Registration

(See Page 1 for more info!)

- June 13 (5:00 - 9:00) & June 14 (8:00 - 12:00) – Dallas
- August 10 (9:00-5:00) – Galveston
- October 24 (5:00 - 9:00) & October 25 (8:00 - 12:00) – San Antonio

Company	Phone
Contact	Email
Number attending _____ x \$75 = \$ _____ * <i>[NOTE: please send check or CC# now to reserve your seat. We will not deposit your check (or charge your card) until 45 days before the selected clinic.]</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check Enclosed <i>(payable to Roy Brewer)</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Charge the amount above* to my VISA or MASTERCARD #	
Name on Card	Expiration Date
Signature	

Mail form to PO Box 120322, Arlington, TX 76012-0322 * FAX form to (817)469-8560 * Call (817)460-8122 {201} to register