



Xenetech Project #191

Getting Adobe Illustrator files (.AI) into Xenetech.

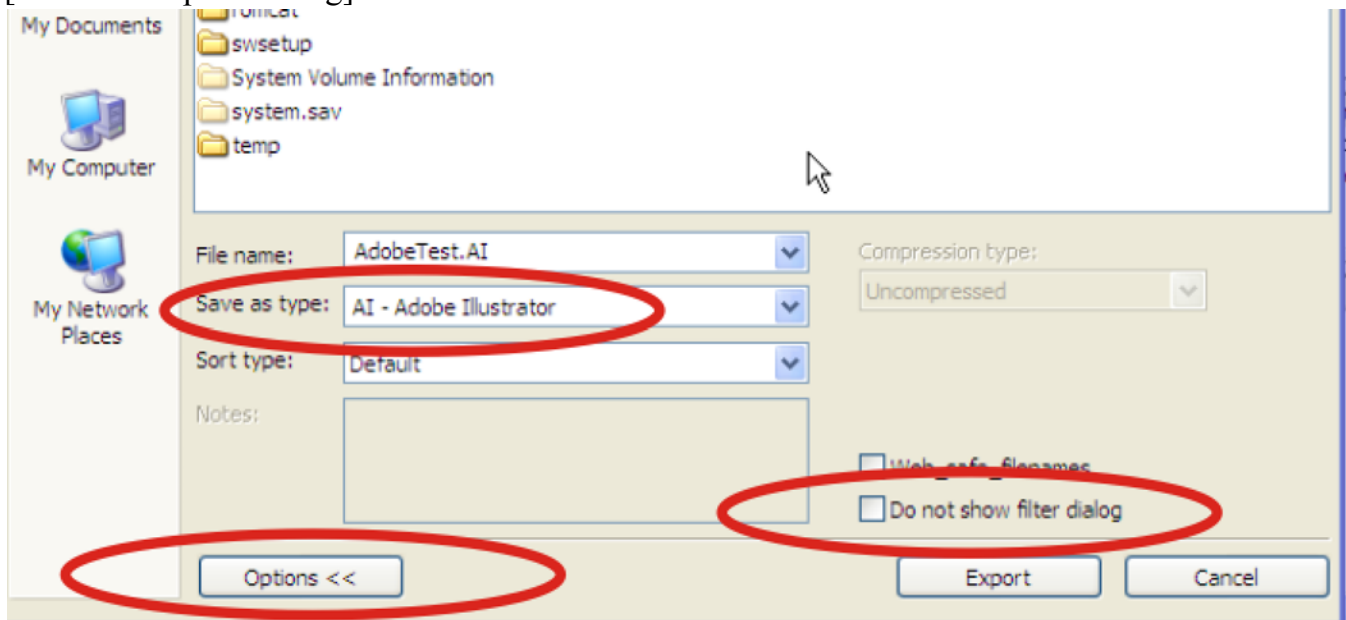
Note added 1/1/06: While the instructs in this project currently work most of the time, we can assure you that in most instances you'd be much safer to import the .AI into Corel and export it as a .WMF (Windows Meta File) to be imported into XGW. The .WMF has been extremely stable for almost a decade now; since the time this project was originally written (1998), Illustrator and the filters that work with the .AI format continue to change with each version.

As most have undoubtedly learned, postscript variant file import/export filters are a bit touchy on the PC platform. Xenetech has a good .AI import filter if it is given what it expects.

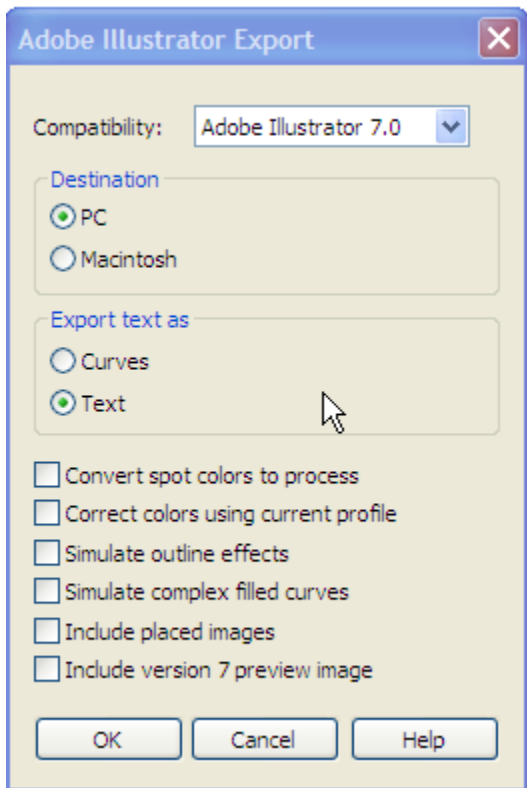
If you crash the program when you try to import an .AI file then use these workarounds (Corel 12 was used, but with a bit of "tweaking" the same concept should work on other versions):

1. Import the .AI file into CorelDRAW (won't import? gray box? extremely low res? see footnote 1 below)
2. (optional, but recommended) increase the size at least 2-3 times larger than you plan to engrave.
3. File>Export and chose the .AI filter, assign a filename and press OK.
4. When the advanced dialog appears, select Adobe Illustrator version 7 in the Compatibility pull-down.
Destination=PC
Text as = Text
Uncheck *all* the optional checkboxes
OK
5. File>To File Import... in XGW using the .AI import filter.

[Corel 12 Export Dialog]



[Corel 12 Export *Filter* Dialog]



Notes:

1. Anytime you have trouble importing an Adobe Illustrator file (.AI extension) in CorelDRAW, then use the PS filter *not* the .AI or the .EPS filter. Similarly, do not use the "All Files" filter. If you don't understand the use of the word "filters," that is what is listed in the Save as Type: pulldown toward the bottom of the Import/Export dialog.
2. If the advanced dialog does not come up after clicking OK in the "first" Export dialog box then you may need to expand the "first" Export dialog by pressing the Options>> button toward the bottom of the dialog and confirm that the Do Not Show Filter Dialog checkbox is *not* checked.
3. If you want to be able to edit/adjust the text separately from the vector graphics, you should be sure the TEXTASLINES=1 in the Xenetech.ini file.
4. If you are still having problems, Import the same way, but Export as a .WMF whose XGW filter is even stronger!
5. As a result of the "Export text as Text" in the above Corel filter dialog, text will be converted into the default Xenetech engraving font when it comes into Xenetech. This typically results in much higher quality engraving.

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