

Chapter 4



DrawPlus Tutorial

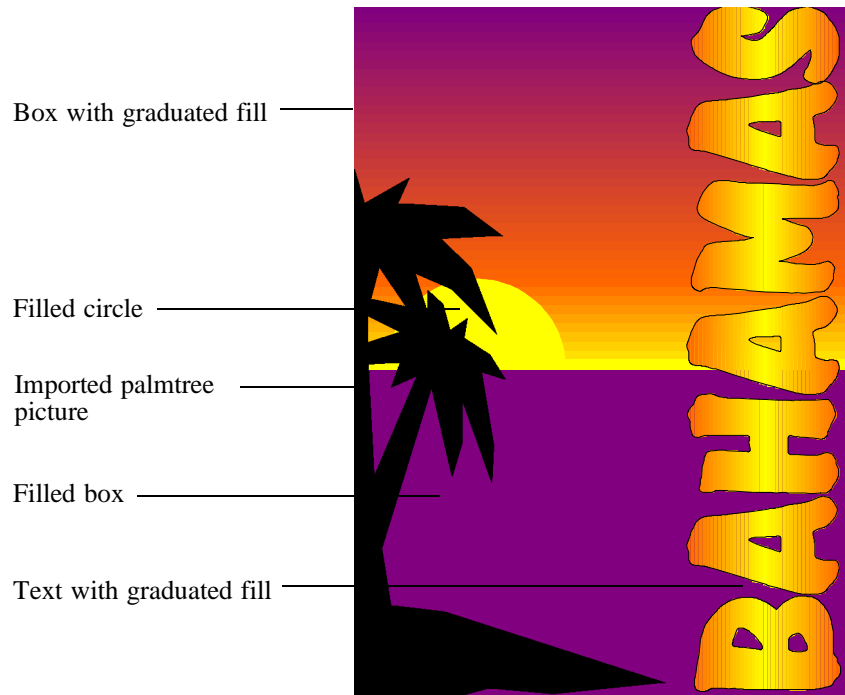
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Introduction

This short tutorial guides you through the creation of a simple but effective illustration which we'll call the *Bahamas* drawing. The aim of this chapter is to ensure that you are confident with the basics of DrawPlus.

- About the only thing this tutorial assumes is that you have run through the *DrawPlus Tour* chapter.

Below is a sample of how the finished drawing could look. Yours won't be identical, you may use a different font for the side heading, for example, but the basic look will be the same.



Starting the page

- ▶ Prepare for a new drawing.
 1. Start DrawPlus.

If DrawPlus is already running select **File/New** (just click **No** if prompted to save). If the StartUp Assistant appears, click on **Blank Page**. You're now ready to begin your work of art!
 2. Make sure DrawPlus is at Designer Level.

Click on the **DrawPlus Level** button in the Status Bar until the Title bar shows "Serif DrawPlus Designer - [untitled]".
 3. Make sure that Snapping is turned on.

The **Snapping** button should be down. If it's not, click on it now. The **Snapping** button has a magnet icon but if you can't find it, remember to use the ToolHints or HintLine for help.

The Bahamas drawing

We'll begin the Bahamas drawing by creating three shapes with colored fills to create the background of sky, setting sun and sea. Then we'll complete the drawing by importing a palm tree clipart image and adding the text. It's then ready to be saved or pasted into another Windows application.

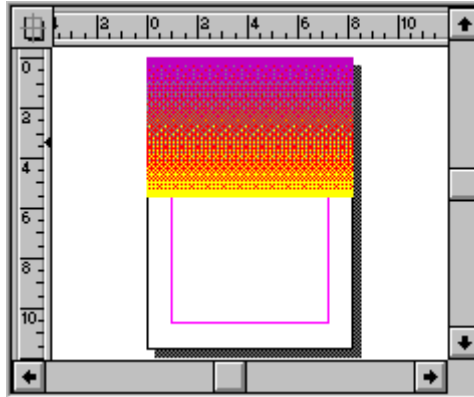
The three filled shapes

- ▶ Draw a QuickBox shape with a graduated fill for the sky.
 1. Select the QuickBox shape from the QuickShape flyout (watch the HintLine to help find the QuickShape button) and move the mouse cursor over the page area.

DrawPlus changes the mouse cursor to a *cross-hair and lightbulb* to indicate that you currently have a QuickShape tool selected.

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2. Drag from the top left of the page down to the middle of the right hand edge of the page. A box which roughly covers the top half of the page is drawn.

Don't worry if your box isn't quite sized or positioned correctly. Select the Pointer tool and adjust the size of the box by dragging on the selection handles until it covers the top half of the page.



Problem? If you are having problems doing these operations, you probably didn't spend enough time going through the DrawPlus Tour. We recommend you run through the Tour again and return to this tutorial later.

► Create a new fill color for the drawing.

1. Make sure that the box is still selected (check the white highlight on the rulers). Double click on the **Fill Color** button to access the Edit Fill dialog.
2. Set the "Fill Type" radio button to "Linear".

The Edit Fill dialog will expand to allow creation of smooth fades between different colors, which are called graduated fills.

3. Click on the "Start" color marker (if it's not already selected) and choose "purple" from the list of colors.

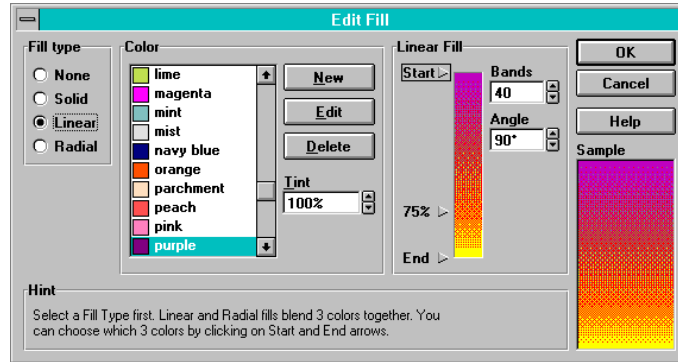
This controls the starting color of the graduated fill. Make sure that "Tint" is set to 100%.

4. Click on the "Middle" color marker and drag downwards until it reads 75%. Select "Orange" from list of colors.

Again, make sure that "Tint" is set to 100%.

5. Finally, click on the "End" color selector and select "yellow", from the color list. Click on **OK**.

The box at the top of the page should now be filled with a color which blends from purple through orange to finish with yellow.



Problem? If the screen takes a long time to draw, try reducing the number of bands the fill used. In the **Views/Preferences/General...** dialog, set "Fill Bands" to a smaller number, for example 10. This value only effects the way the fill is drawn on the screen, it does not effect the "bands" entry in the Edit Fill dialog which control how the fill is printed.

Next we need to remove the outline of the box and create a second box for the sea.

1. Make sure that the filled box is still selected. Set the box to have no outline by clicking the first button in the **Line Weight** flyout.
2. Select the QuickBox QuickShape and drag out a second box which fills the bottom half of the page.

This second box will have no outline because the default Line Weight is now set to "No Line" and will be filled with the graduated fill we created earlier as this is now the default fill. The defaults for newly created objects depend on the last object selected. This means it is easy to create objects with similar properties to objects already on the page. Simply select the existing object prior to creating the new object.

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3. Double click on the **Fill** button. In the Edit Fill dialog choose "Solid" for the Fill Type and "purple" for the color. Click on **OK**.

If the two boxes aren't sized or aligned correctly, use the pointer tool to resize them by dragging on any one of the eight selection handles. Don't worry too much about exact alignment because we'll be coming to the DrawPlus alignment tools soon.

To complete the background, we'll use a filled circle for the setting sun

1. Select the QuickOval QuickShape (second from left) and draw a suitably sized circle on the pasteboard.

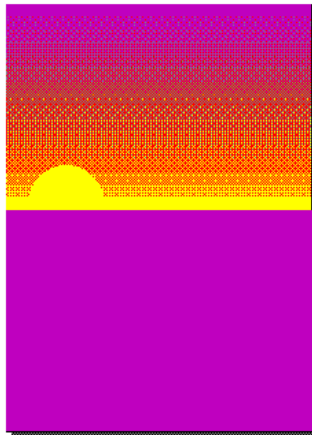
Remember to hold down the **SHIFT** key to constrain the oval to a circle.

2. Double-click on the **Fill Color** button and set the fill for the circle to be "Solid" Fill Type and "yellow" Color. Click on **OK**.
3. Click and drag with the Node tool to position the circle so that it sits on the mid left side of the horizon, overlapping both boxes.

Now is the time to use your own artistic skills. If you're not feeling too artistic, use the illustration at the start of this chapter as a visual reference.

4. Select **Back One** from the Arrange menu.

This changes the overlap order so that the sun is now behind the second box, giving a "sunrise" effect. If your "sun" doesn't overlap correctly, it's probably because you created your objects in a slightly different order. Use the commands in the **Arrange** menu to adjust your drawing so that it look like the one below.



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That's the background completed (we may want to adjust it slightly later on). For now, we'll move onto the palm trees at the left side of the drawing.

The imported palm tree picture

The palm trees are created by bringing in one of the Serif Art & Borders clipart pictures supplied with DrawPlus. We need to import the picture, flip it around then position it in the bottom left corner of the drawing.

► Import the palm tree picture.

1. Click on the Import tool on the left toolbar.
2. Make sure "Art" type button is checked.
3. Change the category to "Holiday".
4. Click on the PALMTREE file.

The dialog shows a preview of the palmtree so that you can see you have the right picture.

5. Click on the **Open** button.

DrawPlus imports the picture and displays a *cross-hair with box* cursor, indicating that it is ready for you to position the picture.

6. Click on the pasteboard to drop the palm tree picture.

This imports the picture at its natural size. You can also click and drag to set the picture size manually.

► Flip and size the picture.

1. Click the **Flip Horizontal** button in the top toolbar.

This causes the palmtree picture to be mirrored so that the trees are on the left.

2. Use the Pointer tool to resize the palmtree.

Make it about two thirds of the height of the page

► Position the picture using the alignment tools.

1. Select **Arrange/Align Items...**

The Align Items dialog appears.

2. Select the "Left" and "Bottom" check boxes and click on **OK**.

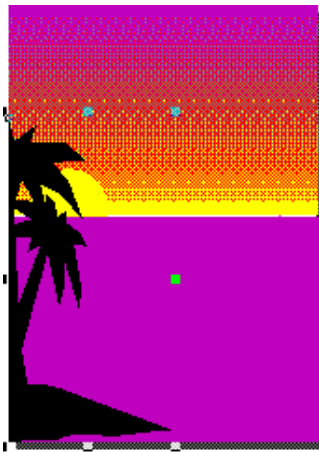
In this case the align buttons are being used to align with the page. You can also use these buttons to align multiple objects with each other. To do this you need to create a multiple selection of all the objects to be aligned with each other.

Now is a good time to check out the alignment and position of all the objects which make up the drawing so far.

- Align and resize the background objects.

1. Use the Pointer tool to select the box at the top of the page.
2. Use the "Left" and "Top" options in the **Arrange/Align Items...** dialog to position the top box.
3. Select the box at the bottom of the page.
4. Use the "Left" and "Bottom" options in the **Arrange/Align Items...** dialog to position the bottom box.

If there's now a blank space between the two boxes , use the Pointer tool to resize the bottom box until it meets with the top box.



Right, what's left to do?

The Text

To complete the Bahamas drawing we'll add some text with a colorful graduated fill.

► Create the text using the Text tool.

1. Select the Text tool from the DrawPlus left toolbar.
2. Click on the pasteboard area to open the Edit Text window.
3. Type in BAHAMAS then click on OK.

► Format and color the text.

1. Click the **Bold** button in the top toolbar to make the text bold.
2. Use the Pointsize combobox to select a large size (try 120pt) from the list of sizes so that the text can be seen clearly.
3. Use the Font combobox to pick an appropriate font from the list of fonts.
If you have the sample fonts installed, try out "Accent SF".
4. Click on the second button in the *Line Weight* flyout to give the text a thin outline.
5. Select "Black" for the line color by using the *Outline Color* flyout.
6. Double-click on the *Fill Color* button.
7. Create a Linear Graduated fill from orange, to yellow, to orange. Click on **OK**.

The text should now be filled with a colorful graduated fill.

Next we'll rotate the text through 90 degrees .

► Rotate the text using the Rotate tool.

1. Select the Rotate tool from the left toolbar.

The text should still be selected and the eight black selection handles change to indicate that the text can now be rotated or sheared. If the text is not selected, select it before selecting the Rotate tool.

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2. Move the mouse cursor over the top left corner of the Bahamas text.
DrawPlus will change the cursor to include the Rotate symbol, to indicate you can rotate from here.

3. Hold the **SHIFT** key down and drag the top left corner so that the text is rotated through 90 degrees clockwise.

Holding the **SHIFT** key constrains rotation to 15 degree increments. Watch the HintLine for feedback on the exact angle of rotation.

► Size and position the text using the Pointer tool.

1. Select the Pointer tool from the left toolbar.
2. Click and drag on any of the eight black handles to size the text to fill the area you want.
3. Click and drag in the center of the text to position it as required on the right of the background.

Again, use your own artistic skills or use the illustration at the start of this chapter as a guide. Remember the alignment tools - you may want to align the text to the right hand side of the drawing.

Finishing up

That's the Bahamas drawing just about finished. If it's not looking quite right, select the Pointer tool and carefully adjust the sizes and positions of objects.

► If, say, the sun needs moving horizontally along the horizon, move it now using the Pointer tool.

1. Select the Pointer tool from the left toolbar.
2. Click on the yellow circle to select it.
3. Start moving it (by dragging). Then press the **SHIFT** key to constrain the movement to one direction, then move the sun across until it looks right.

OK, that's the drawing finished!

Saving your work

Now's the time to save your drawing - DrawPlus saves files in a similar way to all Windows applications.

► Save your work now as a DrawPlus file.

1. Select **File/Save**.
2. Type a filename (e.g. *tutorial*) into the File Name box.

You should type just 1-8 characters, nothing else. You don't need to type in the extension, DrawPlus will add the extension .DPP for you. The extension is important as it's this that controls whether DrawPlus will list the file when you later show the File Open dialog.

3. Click on **OK**.

Print your page

► Try out a sample print of your tutorial drawing...

1. Select **File/Print...**
2. Check your printer settings, and then click on **OK**.

Your drawing should print.

Using your drawing

DrawPlus makes it simple to use your drawing in another Windows application. This can be done by saving the drawing as a Windows metafile or in some other graphic format you require, by using the Windows clipboard or by using OLE (Object Linking and Embedding). See the *Using DrawPlus* section of this manual for more information.

What next?

Your DrawPlus tutorial is now complete! Now take a quick look at the reference to see how you can use the other powerful features of DrawPlus.