

review by Daria Aikens

.5 Stars - 1 Star Poor, 5 Stars Excellent

Product: Redneck Publisher

Version: 3.0

Developer: Staz Software

Price: \$29.95

Contact Info: <http://www.stazsoftware.com/>

Genre: Desktop publishing

Requirements: Mac OS 7.0, 2 MB of RAM, 4 MB of Disk Space

hh! They've Seen My Neighbors!

humorous that I'm in

backwoods, USA visiting family

while I'm writing this review. You

about a half-mile away from

isolated property, there resides

a family that has to have been the inspiration for Staz

t's really

see,

our

software
tool

Software's Redneck Publisher. The authors of this realized the niche in the market for a publishing

customized for inbred hicks like my neighbors. They recognized the need for fancy looking letters to parole officers, hunting certificates, and shotgun wedding invitations. Redneck Publisher provides all of these essential templates plus a collection of unbelievable clip art to go with it. Even city slickers will love how easily one can create a variety of original documents including post cards, shipping labels, cassette/diskette labels, and banners with Redneck Publisher.

t's Got Somethin' For Every Hick

After you get past the killer clip art and Sheriff Bubba, a cartoon hick cop who pops up from time to time to share hints and tips as you go about your work, Redneck Publisher looks a lot like a normal word processor. What makes this package very different from a word processor like ClarisWorks is that everything that you place on a page is called an object. For example, if you want to put text in your document, first select the text tool and create a text box. After typing into the text box, you can use the selection tool to stretch the text box into different dimensions. The advantage of using objects is that you can layer objects, resize, and rearrange them easily on the page. Redneck Publisher makes it easy to place text on top of a graphic, as I have shown in the below demonstration.

side from the ability to work with objects, this desktop publisher has quite a few useful items built in to its interface. Most of these special features fall under one of four "tools" categories that are represented by buttons on the toolbar. These tool groups are Selection , Text Group, Graphics Group, and Special Group Tools. One of the coolest tools is the Icon Tool, which brings up a menu of small black and white icons that can be used to accent letters and cards. Staz Software even included an icon image of everyone's favorite pet, Clarus The Dogcow! Other tools handle such tasks as drawing calendars, making frames, shapes and tables, and choosing clip art. If you happen to own a digital camera, Redneck Publisher will allow you to import pictures from the camera right into your document with ease.

et's Do Some Publishin', Ya'll!

anyone buy Redneck

Publisher when one could probably

accomplish the same projects with

ClarisWorks/AppleWorks? The

is simple. Preformatted

documents eliminate the guesswork

making business cards, labels, and

types of materials. This saves

and precious sanity.

in Redneck Publisher's

are templates that work in conjunction with Avery business labels and other standard media. Avery makes blank, printer ready sheets of labels for such things as diskettes, VHS tapes, cassettes, envelopes, name badges, file folder labels, and shipping labels. Avery labels can be found at your local Office Depot and used with virtually any printer. Staz Software doesn't stop with Avery labels; this program also has templates for post cards, index cards, greeting cards, and rolodex cards. You can even create banners and

Why would

answer

in

other

you time

Included

arsenal

posters of any size and orientation. Try all that with your word processor!

Making pretty pictures on your 17" monitor running at millions of colors under 1028 x 768 resolution is one thing, but getting that type of quality output on your Stylewriter II is like a whole different pickup-truck. What's a redneck to do? Redneck Publisher has it covered. The application automatically detects whether you have a color or black & white printer and adjusts your document output accordingly. I printed a variety of full color documents to my Stylewriter II printer and everything came out quite presentable. Items printed on an Epson color printer looked great as would be expected. Before you print, however, don't forget to spell check your work. Redneck Publisher is prepared with its own built in spell checker!

What's Your Preference?

When it comes to setting preferences in Redneck Publisher, there aren't a whole lot of choices, but this fact just adds to the program's ease of use. Users can change such things as sound, text and graphics behavior, or whether or not Sheriff Bubba pops up to offer advice from time to time. Document-specific preferences like setting columns, page numbers, rulers, and grids can be found under the "Document" window of the main interface.

Defending The 4.5 Star Rating

one more template. would have liked to see
like to print newsletters You see, rednecks often
local and county gossip. in order to help spread

Redneck Publisher loses half a star for not providing a simple way to create your basic newsletter. But, a 4.5 rating still means that Redneck Publisher fulfills all of its developer's claims and performs its tasks excellently. It's cute, easy to use, and effective, the way Macintosh software is supposed to be. The fact that the font menu (as shown above) presents all of the installed fonts with a preview will score big, big points in anyone's book. All told, Redneck Publisher is a great little package at an even better price. If you're looking for a combination of laughs and productivity, check out this offering from Staz Software.

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