

CandyFactory

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Chapter 1

CandyFactory

1.1 CandyFactoryPPC Documentation

C A N D Y F A C T O R Y P R O

Instant Graphics Creator

By Milan Pollé

©1998 MotionStudios

P L E A S E S E L E C T

Introduction

Functionality

Installation

Configuration

Usage

Legal

Feedback

Benchmarks

History

1.2 Legal stuff

L E G A L

Candy Factory Pro is a commercial program. Copying is prohibited.

This program was made by an Amiga enthusiast for all Amiga enthusiasts out there. If you care about the future of the Amiga at all, buy the software you use.

CandyFactory is copyright ©1998 Motion Studios.

1.3 Introduction

I N T R O D U C T I O N

People making webpages, computer games or video titles often need to create logos or buttons. This could be accomplished using a paint package or a raytracer. Both require a lot of effort to be put into it as well as a certain amount of expertise with the software.

Browsing different internet pages one can notice the most often used effects for creating logos. Effects like shaded bevels, glows and dropshadows are the most common.

As computers become faster and memory becomes cheaper, many creative programs offer fast feedback on the changes the user makes to his design, which helps the creative process enormously and often gives pleasing results which are hard to predict in advance. The faster the user is presented with the results of his actions, the easier it becomes to tweak the settings until the desired result is obtained. Candy Factory Pro offers you the most popular effects coupled with both simple controls and fast feedback where possible, for fast and fun graphics creation.

1.4 Functionality

F U N C T I O N A L I T Y

Source Material:

- Greyscale mask image, preferably anti-aliased.
- Or add anti-aliased text from within the program, using Compugraphic fonts.
Variable size, width, emboldening, rotation and shearing.

Available Effects:

- Material
Realtime Color, Highlight, Highlight sharpness and Ambient color adjust.
Nonshaded, shaded or reflective material.
Use a standard or custom environment map.
Realtime environment map positioning.
Load and Save materials.
Copy and swap materials between the object and the background.
- Beveled edge
Variable width, height, shape and smoothing.
- Dropshadow
With variable smoothing.
Realtime color, intensity, distance and light dependant position.
- Glow
Normal glow with variable size and falloff.
Diffuse glow with variable smoothness.
Realtime center color, edge color and intensity adjust.
- Bumpmapping
Add noise, fractal, turbulence, fractal turbulence or custom bumpmap.
Realtime resizing/stretching, height and clipping adjust (PPC).
- Color texture
Add a color map to the object or background.
Variable sizing/stretching and positioning.
- Lightsource
Change the lightsource position and distance in realtime, in the canvas window or using the lightsphere.

Other features:

- Load/Save/Merge projects
Store your effect settings.
Merge selected parts of a stored project with the current one.
 - Render image
Remap image to 2 to 256 colors, with dithering.
Use zero background color for webpage or video use.
 - Save alpha channel.
Save image transparency for compositing in a graphics program.
 - Refine passes
-

Quality render passes for shading, reflection and bumpmapping.

- Truecolor mode
Apply all effects simultaneously and display the results in realtime 24bit or a realtime 8bit dithered representation.
- Settings
Change the screenmode from within the program and save the settings together with the current effect window positions.

1.5 Configuration

C O N F I G U R A T I O N

Minimum recommended configuration:

68030 CPU with FPU
16MB of memory
AGA (using NewWPA8)
Harddisk

Recommended configuration:

PowerPC card
32MB of memory
Graphics card

1.6 Installation

I N S T A L L A T I O N

- * AGA users please copy NewWPA8 to c: This speeds up chunky to planar conversion, it shouldn't be used with GFX boards, it will have some glitches with overlapping windows, but nothing problematic. You can execute NewWPA8 from the shell or your user-startup. Using AGA you could try an interlaced screen, giving an impression of the speed you could get with a gfx card.

NEWWPA8 OR PATCHWPA8 ARE ESSENTIAL FOR CANDYFACTORY TO WORK RIGHT WITH AGA!!!!

This is because the normal OS WritePixelFormat8 trashes the chunky source. The patch won't start from the WBStartup drawer.

- * The patterns directory holds the standard reflection/noisebump patterns and should be in the program's directory.

1.7 Usage

U S A G E

Starting Candy Factory Pro for the first time will bring up a screenmode requester. The minimum resolution available is 326x300, so everything still fits on the screen. Please select your desired screenmode. Using a 24bit or 16bit mode with a graphics card will give you realtime truecolor feedback. Using an 8bit mode will represent truecolor images in a standard palette with dithering. You can use the render option to show the image in a better quality.

You can supply a greyscale picture, preferably anti-aliased and load it with the 'Load Mask' menu option from the project menu. After loading CandyFactory will scan the picture.

Another option is to add anti-aliased text with the 'Add Text' option from the projects menu.

After this Candy Factory Pro will show a nonshaded version of the picture or text, anti-aliased if the truecolor option is activated. You can change this to shaded or reflective by using the materials window.

Now you can apply some effects to it:

Windows Menu:

- Material
Change Material settings
- Lightsource
Change Lightsource settings
- Inner Bevel
Add Bevelled Edge to object
- DropShadow
Add Dropshadow to object
- Glow
Add Glow around object

Bumpmap
Add Bumpmap

Color Texture
Add Color Mapping

Image menu:

Invert Mask
Invert Object/Background mask

Render Image
Render/remap image

Clear Image
Clear image

Settings menu:

Screenmode
Selects a screenmode

Realtime
Realtime settings

Paths
Filepath settings

Save Settings
Save current settings

Project menu:

New project
Open a new canvas window

Open project
Open or merge a project

Write Project
Save a project to disk

Add Text
Create anti-aliased text

Load Mask
Load mask source image

Save Mask
Save mask image

Save Image
Save final image

Save Alpha
Save image transparency

1.8 Object/Background Material

M A T E R I A L (change the material of the object or background)

- Edit: Select editing object or background material.
- R,G,B: Change the Red, Green and Blue components of the current material element. Using metallic or environment mapped materials this color setting will determine the reflection color.
- Color, Specular, Ambient: Select Color, Specular (highlight) or Ambient (color of dark areas) element.
- Shading: None/Normal/Metal/Envmap, select no, normal or metallic-reflection shading. Select envmap to use your own image as a reflecting environment (see next option)
- Environment Map: Filename of the image used as the reflected environment. Very blurry images give the best results. Click the '?' button to select an image.
- Glossiness: Change the highlight's sharpness.
- Load/Save: Load or save the current background or object material.
- Copy/Swap: Copy selected object or background material to the nonselected background or object material.

When using a metallic material, add a very bright specular with very low glossiness for the best results.
If you subtract the Color RGB values from the specular RGB values you will get very smooth highlights.

1.9 Lightsource

L I G H T S O U R C E (change lightsource settings)

- Distance: Set the distance of the lightsource or reflection. Maximum distance is an infinit lightsource, like the sun.
 - X/Y Pos: Horizontal and vertical position of the lightsource. Change it by entering a value here or clicking/moving in the shaded sphere or the main picture.
-

1.10 Inner Bevel

I N N E R B E V E L (add a bevelled edge to your object)

- Bevel width, height: Size and height of the bevel.
- Smoothing: From a sharp, to a rounded bevel.
- Top/Bottom slope: Change the shape of the bevel as previewed in the profile box.
- Carve: Invert the bevels height, as if it where carved out. You can make the object darker than the background to make the effect more pronounced.
- Render: Render the bevel.

When using metallic or environment mapped materials, keep the height of the bevel low.

1.11 Dropshadow

D R O P S H A D O W (add a soft dropshadow, this will set the background to non-shaded)

- Smooth How smooth or sharp the shadow will be, smoother shadows take longer to render.
 - Intensity Intensity of the shadow, you can fade it in and out.
 - Color Change the color of the shadow.
 - Distance Distance of the shadow to the object.
 - Render Render the shadow.
-

1.12 Glow

`G L O W` (add a glow around the object, this will set the background to non-shaded)

- Size Size of the glow with normal glow. Smoothness of the glow with diffuse glow.
 - Intensity Glow intensity, you can fade it in and out.
 - Central color Glow color near the object
 - Edge color Glow color as it moves away from the object.
 - Falloff How thick or thin the normal glow is.
 - Diffuse Different type of glow, normal glow is sharper and faster to render.
 - Render Render the glow.
-

1.13 Bumpmap

`B U M P M A P` (add a bumpy look to your object/background)

- Select Select object or background bump settings.
-

Uncheck to move the lightsource again.

- Apply Apply/Remove the texture.

When using a metallic or environment mapped material, the color texture will act as a reflection map, determining which colors will be reflected.

1.15 Invert Mask

I N V E R T M A S K

Invert the object's mask, creating a cutout effect.

1.16 Render Image

R E N D E R I M A G E

Reduce the truecolor image to 2 to 256 colors.

- Number of colors 2 to 256 colors
 - Dither Add an error-diffusion pattern to optically extend the number of colors and reduce banding.
 - Background 0 Use color index 0 instead of the background useful for internet (transparent background) and video-title work.
 - Refine shading/bumpmap texture Turn on interpolation/supersampling for bumpmap or texture for a smoother look. Or the shading refine for smooth shading and specular highlights.
-
-

1.17 Clear Image

C L E A R I M A G E

Using this option will clear the mask, which will remove the object, all effect settings will remain. Now you can add new text.

1.18 Screen Mode

S C R E E N M O D E

Selecting this item will bring up a screenmode requester. Supported screenmodes are 8bit (also AGA), 15bit, 16bit and 24bit modes. The selected screenmode can be saved with the 'Save Settings' menu option. Minimum screensize is 336x336, because of the window sizes, hires modes are really recommended.

1.19 File Paths

P A T H S

Here you can set the default filepaths Candy Factory Pro will use when opening images, projects and fonts.

1.20 Realtime Settings

R E A L T I M E

These settings are to improve the speed of the program on slower machines by giving lower quality representations of the graphics. Truecolor modes on 8bit or AGA screens will be displayed with a special dithered mode. It is recommended to do a render or turn on Rendered Display in 8bit modes to get a better impression of the image. On PowerPC machines with graphics cards, all the slowest options can be used.

- Realtime Fast/Truecolor Select a fast representation when moving the lightsource or modifying colors, or a realtime truecolor mode..
- Display Fast/Rendered/Truecolor Display quality after moving or modification. Fast, remapped colors (set settings with the render menu option) or truecolor
- Auto Render Bevel/Shadow/Glow Render effects immediatly after modifying a parameter, recommended only on fast machines.
- Refine Shading/Bumpmap/Color Texture Automatic high-quality render pass after moving the lightsource or modifying colors, sizes etc. Recommended only for fast machines.
- Sliders Enable realtime update of the image when dragging sliders. Recommended only for fast machines.

1.21 Save Settings

S A V E S E T T I N G S

Saves the settings for the selected screenmode, which windows are opened, as well as their positions, the realtime settings and the default file paths. Will be automatically loaded at program startup.

1.22 New Project

NEW PROJECT

Open a new canvas window. This will remove the current image and mask. You can select the x and y size, the window should fit on the screen. The effect settings will remain the same.

1.23 Open Project

OPEN PROJECT

Load or merge a previously saved project. You can check the parts you want to load, these will replace the current settings. Unchecking the maskpath checkmark will apply the effects to the current mask. The image settings checkmark will load the invert-mask setting. Checking effects that are not applied in the project file will reset those effects.

1.24 Write Project

WRITE PROJECT

Save the current project settings to disk. You can select which parts you want to save. The applied effects are checked. It is recommended to save the maskpath as well, so the mask will be automatically loaded with the project and the effects are shown as they where meant. The image settings checkmark will save the invert mask setting from the image menu.

1.25 Add Text

A D D T E X T

Add anti-aliased text using a standard Compugraphic Font (CG).

- Fontname Name of the Compugraphic font to use. Click '?' button to select a font. Only the scalable Compugraphic fonts will be shown, because bitmapped fonts cannot be used for antialiasing. The size doesn't need to be set here.
- X Size Width percentage of the text characters; 50 is half the width 200 is twice the width.
- Y Size Size of the font, the aspect ratio will remain the same.
- X,Y Pos Position of the text. You can position the text by clicking and moving in the canvas window.
- X,Y Bold Variable emboldening, this is a standard bullet.library function and doesn't work too well with higher values.
- Shear Makes italic text, value in degrees.
- Rotate Rotates the text, value in degrees.
- Spacing Adjusts the spacing between the characters.
- Style Changes the kerning style between normal and design kerning.
- Text Text to be printed.

This tool uses the standard bullet library functions. Unfortunately there seem to be some bugs in the bullet library, causing some combinations of settings not to work right.

1.26 Load Mask

L O A D M A S K

Load a mask file as a basis for you object. The mask should be a non 24bit IFF image file. You can use an image file with background color 0, or an antialiased greyscale image with a dark background and light foreground, for an antialiased image. Loading a mask will remove the current mask or added text.

1.27 Save Mask

S A V E M A S K

save the mask image you are currently using. Useful for saving the mask you created with the 'Add Tekst' tool, so you can edit it or load it again. To save the mask created in Candy Factory Pro with the project, save the mask to disk and reload it, when saving the project, check the mask checkmark.

1.28 Save Image

S A V E I M A G E

Save the final image to an image file. You can select truecolor or indexed colors mode. You can set the number of colors to use, whether or not to dither the image and whether you want to use color 0 as the background color. Set the refine checks for high-quality shading, bumpmapping and color texturing.

1.29 Save Alpha

S A V E A L P H A

This option will save the image's transparency information to a 256 color greyscale IFF file. This image can be used for compositing in an image editing program.

1.30 Feedback

F E E D B A C K

Send bug reports and suggestions to:

milan@davilex.nl

1.31 PPC Benchmarks

B E N C H M A R K S (using the CandyFactory example picture)

Bevelsmooth, Dropshadow and Diffuse Glow now use a different, much faster algorithm, speedups noted at the bottom of the tables.

(innerbevel drawing only partly optimized on 68K)

INNERBEVEL (size 30, smooth 10)

CPU	060/50	604e/200	RATIO
v0.54b	33.48s	4.24s	7.9x
Current	16.28s	1.28s	12.7x
Optimized x	2x	3.3x	1.6x

BEVELSMOOTH (height or smooth change, smooth 10)

CPU	060/50	604e/200	RATIO
v0.54b	16.23s	3.29s	4.9x
Current	2.79s	0.21s	13.3x
Optimized x	5.8x	15.7x	2.7x

DIFFUSE GLOW (size 30)

CPU	060/50	604e/200	RATIO
v0.54b	48.36s	3.61s	13.4x
Current	3.46s	0.21s	16.5x
Optimized x	14x	17.2x	1.2x

DROPSHADOW (smooth 30)

CPU	060/50	604e/200	RATIO
v0.54b	1:09.30m	6.10s	11.4x
Current	5.28s	0.24s	22x
Optimized x	13.1x	25.4x	1.9x

1.32 History

H I S T O R Y

- Candy Factory Pro 1.0:
Debuts at the Computer '98 fair in Cologne at November 13th (Friday!)
1998

Future:

Please not that buyers of this program will be able to download free patches from the internet or get them from magazin's cover-CD's. These patches will contain bugfixes and/or improvements to the current version.
