TransGraphica

COLLABORATORS

	TITLE : TransGraphica		
ACTION	NAME	DATE	SIGNATURE
WRITTEN BY		April 13, 2022	

REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

Contents

Chapter 1

TransGraphica

1.1   TransGraphica - The ASCII clipart to IFF converter

```
                                    TransGraphica 1.5
                      Copyright © 1997-8 Francis G. Loch

                 This AmigaGuide was last updated on 20/11/98

                               Contents


            Copyright and distribution

            Note to magazines and CD-ROM publishers

            Disclaimer

            System requirements and tested setups

            Installation

            A message from the author

            Background

            Instructions

            Program history

            The future of TransGraphica

            Known bugs, limitations and bug reports

            Acknowledgements

            Contacting the author
```

1.2 TransGraphica - Copyright and distribution

            Copyright

This program is Freeware (not Public Domain) and is the copyrighted property of
the
            author
             .

Distribution

This program may be freely copied and distributed provided that no charge is
made for the copy and that none of the files are altered, omitted or added to in
any way, shape or form.

PD companies are permitted to charge for the program in order to cover any costs
or overheads provided that no more than £2.50 is charged per copy (this includes
postage and packaging). None of the files may be altered, omitted or added to in
any way shape or form without the permission of the
            author
             .

1.3 TransGraphica - Note to magazines and CD-ROM publishers

            Note to magazines and CD-ROM publishers

If you intend to include this program on a cover-disk and/or CD-ROM please
contact me first so that I can ensure that you have the latest version of the
program.

            Click here
             for contact address.

1.4 TransGraphica - Disclaimer

Disclaimer

This software is provided "as is". I make no guarantees about the performance of
this program and I will not under any circumstances accept responsibility for
any loss of data or damage to equipment as a result of using this program.

1.5 TransGraphica - System requirements and tested setups

System requirements

– An Amiga (or compatible) with OS 3.0 or greater

– Graphics hardware capable of displaying 32+ colours in hi-res modes (e.g. AGA)

– ReqTools.library by Nico François

– WebHead/12 font in FONTS:

– MultiView (recommended, but not essential)

N.B. It is unknown if this software will work with graphics cards.

Tested setups

TransGraphica has been successfully tested on the following setups:

– An unexpanded Amiga 1200

– An Amiga 1200 Power Tower, Blizzard 1230-IV @50MHz (no FPU), 2+32 meg of RAM,
Power Flyer IDE buffered interface, 8-speed ATAPI IDE CD-ROM drive, 1.2 gigabyte
IDE hard disk, 1.7 gigabyte IDE hard disk, two external floppy drives, Catweasel
Mk. II connected to a 3.5" high-density floppy drive, sound sampler, video
digitiser and MIDI interface.

1.6   TransGraphica - Installation

                   Installation

To install TransGraphica simply copy the TransGraphica directory to wherever you
want.

Ensure that your system meets the
                   system requirements
                   .

1.7   TransGraphica - A message from the author

                   A message from the author

If you use this program and like it, I would greatly appreciate any comments or
suggestions you may have regarding it. This would also let me know if it is
worthwhile supporting and updating this program because at present I do not know
if there are many people that would have a use for it.

                   Click here
                    for contact address.

1.8   TransGraphica - Background

```
Background
```

One day I got a hold of some pretty groovy ASCII clipart. Looking through some
of them I thought "Hey, wouldn't that look good as a proper graphic" and so
began the story of TransGraphica. The original program (imaginatively entitled
"ASCII>IFF") was quickly written and the ASCII clipart was then successfully
converted to IFF.

Several months later, I was looking for a programming project to do and after a
few brainstorming sessions I thought to myself "Hmm, perhaps I could re-program
ASCII>IFF". Work was promptly started on the new version of ASCII>IFF,
TransGraphica.

1.9   TransGraphica - Instructions

```
Instructions
```

Here is an overview of TransGraphica's functions:

```
   Project
   Load ASCII file...      - Loads an ASCII file.
   Save as IFF-ILBM...     - Saves the ASCII picture as an IFF-ILBM file.
   Help guide...           - Displays this READ_ME.guide.
   Information...          - Displays information about current picture.
   About...                - Displays details about TransGraphica.
   Quit...                 - Quits TransGraphica.

   Image
   View ASCII...           - Displays the current ASCII file as text.
   Increase scale          - Increases the picture size.
   Decrease scale          - Decreases the picture size.
   1x2 aspect ratio        - Toggles the aspect ratio between 1x1 and 1x2 pixels.
   Reverse video           - Toggles between black on white and white on black.

   Palette
   4-bit colour            - Selects 4-bit colour mode (16 colours).
   8-bit colour            - Selects 8-bit colour mode (256 colours).

   Misc
   TAB size...             - Alters the TAB size between 1 and 20.
   Save with aspect ratio  - Save the image with the current aspect ratio.
```

The icons which appear in the top left hand side of the screen are (going from
left to right) "Load ASCII file", "Save as IFF-ILBM", "Increase scale",
"Decrease scale", "1x2 aspect ratio" and "Reverse video".

The cycle gadget marked "ASCII filter" selects the conversion filter for the
ASCIIs.

The "TAB size" option in the "Settings" menu was added just in case an ASCII
file came along which used TAB sizes other than the usual 8 spaces.

Note: MultiView is required for "Help Guide" and "View ASCII" otherwise these
      options will be ghosted.

1.10   TransGraphica - Program history

Program history

ASCII>IFF
The original program that was for my own personal use. Never released.

Version 1.0
Initial release. Complete re-write of the original code.

Version 1.0.1
Corrected the save IFF routine as it did not save the pictures properly in
inverse video.

Version 1.1
Improved the viewer palette routines so that it will find the required colour or
the nearest one to it.

Version 1.2
The program now autoscales the pictures. Added the "Reset window" option.

Version 1.3
Fixed the autoscale routines as it did not scale the pictures exactly to the
correct proportions if you had a screen font with a size other than 8x8. Now
handles texts of different widths. Added the "Set TAB size" option. Removed the
window sizing gadget and the "Reset window" option (I felt that there was not
much need for these facilities). Fixed a bug in the routine for converting the
text. Removed the 150 lines limit, now you will just be greeted with an error
message saying "Unable to open window!" if the file is too big. Made some minor
tweaks and optimisations.

Version 1.3.1
Improved the save routine, now it saves as proper IFF brushes so that you do not
get the blank margin down the right hand side in some of the pictures.

Version 1.4
Changed the menu's layout. Added the increase/decrease scale factor options.
Also added an "Edit greyscales" option in the "Settings" menu although this
feature has not yet been implemented (should be by version 1.5).

Version 1.4.1
Made some optimisations to the code to improve the program's speed. Improved the
error checking and also changed the messages that you get when errors occur.
Also made a few minor tweaks, some general improvements and fixed a couple of
bugs.

Version 1.5
TransGraphica now opens on a custom screen and has a greatly improved GUI. Added
support for various IFF to ASCII converters. All of the character sets are
stored as external filters to make it easy to add new ones. Improved the drawing
routines which are upto almost 8 times faster. Added options to display the
current ASCII as text, information about the current project and TransGraphica's

docs and also a toggle switch for the aspect ratio and an option to allow you to save the image with the current aspect ratio. Added a new menu section called "Palette" which will allow you to switch between 4-bit and 8-bit colour (8-bit mode not fully implemented yet). Scaled images can now be saved. Updated the "Set tab size" option. Removed the "Edit greyscales" option as it proved to be too awkward to used. Made a lot of optimisations and improvements. Fixed a lot of bugs.

1.11 TransGraphica - The future of TransGraphica

                The future of TransGraphica

Depending on the response TransGraphica gets (see
                A message from the author
) the
following features (in no particular order) may possibly be added in future releases:

- Support for larger ASCII files
- Support for different languages
- Checking the file to warn if the user is attempting to load a non-ASCII
- Improved image scaling functions with optional image smoothing
- 8-bit palette mode
- Export images as BMPs and perhaps other picture formats
- Generate custom character set filters from fonts
- Configurable screen mode and font settings
- Some simple image processing features
- Line vector analysis mode
- Analyse the ASCII file to identify possible character set(s)
- Convert texts that use special codes for colour, etc...
- More detailed instructions
- An internal text viewer so that you do not need to use MultiView

1.12 TransGraphica - Known bugs, limitations and bug reports

                Known bugs and limitations

- If the text file is too big or the scale factor or aspect-ratio is too high for the image to be shown then an error message will be displayed.

- If there is an error opening a file then the previous picture will not be retained.

- Does not check if the file is an ASCII or not.

Bug reports

No bug reports at present.

Please send any bug reports to the
                author

.

1.13 TransGraphica - Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements

TransGraphica makes use of character sets generated by the following IFF to
ASCII converters:

- Asciimilator 1.0 by Mark Klocek

Special thanks go to Mark Klocek for his invaluable help with Asciimilator and
his suggestions for improving TransGraphica.

1.14 TransGraphica - Contacting the author

Contacting the author

I can be contacted via the following address:

        Francis G. Loch,
        9 Murrin Avenue,
        Bishopbriggs,
        Glasgow,
        Scotland,
        United Kingdom,
        G64 1SJ.

Or, my e-mail address:

        dreamland@flight-tech.demon.com