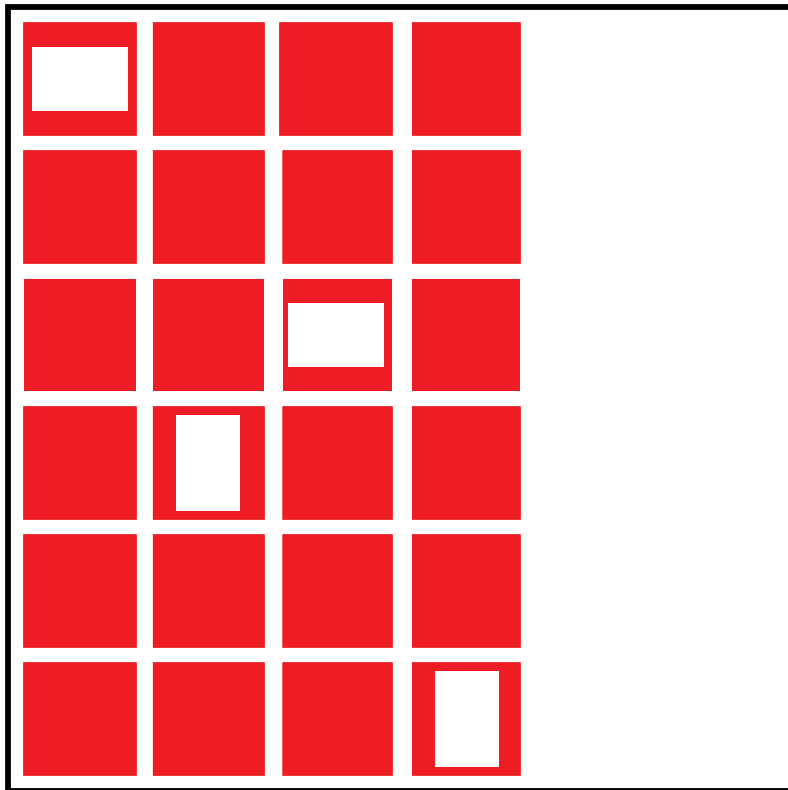


5: Connecting With Paths



5: *Connecting With Paths*

Arrange-It software uses paths to visually describe the order in which nodes in the presentation are displayed by a Photo CD player. Each node has a set of tabs along its left or right side for path connections. Paths always begin at a numbered or lettered tab and end at the top-most gray tab, called the home tab. A path can be undefined, connected to a different node, or pointed back to its node of origin. When a node is first created, its paths are undefined.

NOTE: Not all path tabs need to have a defined path. Be careful, however, not to create a situation where a node has no connected paths (an island node) or no paths connected to its home tab (an orphan node).

Menu node path tabs are located on the right side of the node. A menu node contains the following tabs:

- **Home tab** (gray tab) is the place where other nodes connect to this node.
- **P (Previous)** indicates which node displays when the Previous button is selected on the player remote control.
- **N (Next)** indicates which node displays when the Next button is selected on the player remote control.
- **T (Time-out)** indicates which node will display if the user does not make a menu selection in a predetermined amount of time.
- **E (Error)** is the path to the node that displays if an error has been made when selecting a menu path.
- **1 (Menu 1)** is the path to the first menu selection.
- **M (Menu)** is used to create more menu selection paths.

Sequence node path tabs are located on the left side of the node. A sequence node contains only the home tab and the Previous and Next tabs.

Creating Paths

There are three ways to create paths between nodes. You can use the

- Drag-and-drop method to create a path by dragging from the path tab of a node.
- Selection method to select a path destination point from the node of origin.

5: Connecting With Paths

- Path modification screen from the Edit Node dialog box to change the destination of paths associated with the selected nodes. Refer to Chapter 6, “Modifying Nodes,” for a discussion of this method for creating paths.

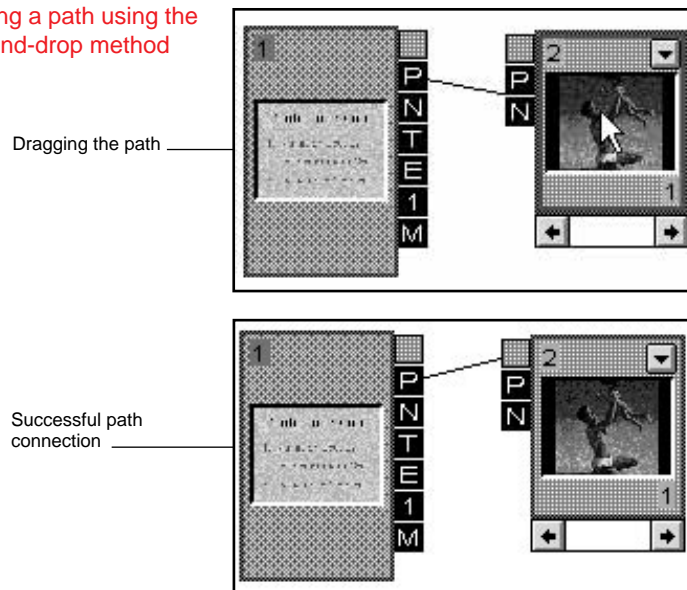
Using the Drag-and-Drop Method

To create a path using the drag-and-drop method:

1. Move the arrow pointer to a path tab from the node of origin in the document window.
2. Press and hold down the mouse button, and drag a path from the path tab to the center of the destination node.
3. Release the mouse button when the cursor is over the destination node.

The path tab connects to the home tab of the destination node. If you do not release the mouse button over a node, the path is undefined—it does not connect.

Creating a path using the drag-and-drop method



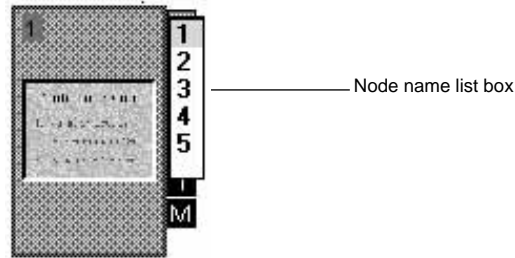
Using the Selection Method

To create a path using the selection method:

1. Move the arrow pointer to a path tab from the node of origin.

2. Press and hold down the ALT key, and press and hold down the mouse button.
A list box appears showing with the numbers or names of the nodes in the document.
3. Select the desired destination node from the list box.

Creating a path using the selection method



4. Release the mouse button and the ALT key.
The path connecting the node of origin and destination node appears.

Creating Menu Selection Paths

Every Arrange-It software document must contain at least one menu node. The startup node must be a menu node. Menu nodes can contain only horizontal (landscape) images.

The menu node contains one or more menu selections from which a path to another node may be chosen. Menu selections are optional paths that can be added to the document. When the final presentation is viewed on a Photo CD player, the numbered buttons on the remote control are used to make these selections.

Photo CD Portfolio discs can also be viewed on CD-I and 3DO players, which do not have a numbered remote control. For this reason, you need to create rectangular hot spots associated with each menu Item. When the final presentation is viewed on CD-I and 3DO players, the menu selection is made using the trackball or joystick to select the menu Item and then clicking inside the associated menu Item hot spot.

Menu nodes may have one or more numbered menu selection paths. The first menu selection path is automatically defined as path tab 1 for a menu node. The M path tab never has an associated path, since it is used to create additional menu selection paths.

You can create numbered menu selection paths from the M path tab using either method described to create paths. Once a path is created from the M path tab, the node redraws in the document window, so that the menu selection path just created now originates

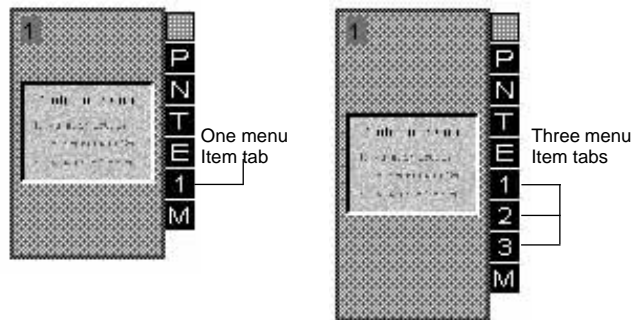
5: Connecting With Paths

from a numbered path tab and the M path tab moves to the bottom of the numbered menu path tabs.

New menu selection path tabs can be created without defining paths. To do this, simply click the M path tab. The menu node redraws and another numbered path tab is added to the menu node. Keep in mind that whenever you add a new menu tab, you also add a new hot spot to the menu node image. For example, if three numbered path tabs are displayed for a menu node, the menu image has three hot spots.

NOTE: You can also create and delete menu selection tabs using the Menu screen from the Edit Menu Node dialog box.

Menu Item tab connectors



Multiple menu node paths allow each of the menu node selection path tabs to be linked to a specific group of nodes. In terms of the presentation, these selection tabs are user choices that determine what information is played next.

For example, the MYDOC.ARR uses three menu Items. When the MENU.TIF image is displayed during the presentation, the viewer can enter the number 1 using the Photo CD player remote control to view Vacation Scenes, the number 2 to view Entertainment Scenes, and the number 3 to view Education Scenes.

Defining Hot Spots

To define and position a hot spot for a menu Item:

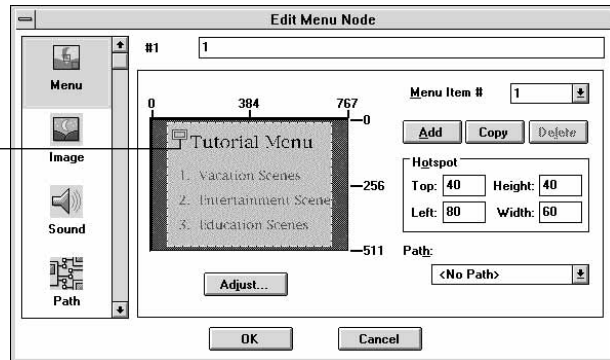
1. Click the Arrow button on the toolbar and click a menu node to select it.
2. Choose Edit from the Node menu.

5: Connecting With Paths

The Edit Menu Node dialog box displays the Menu modification screen. Hot-spot frames are initially located at the upper-left corner of the image. If there is more than one frame, the selected frame has a highlighted border.

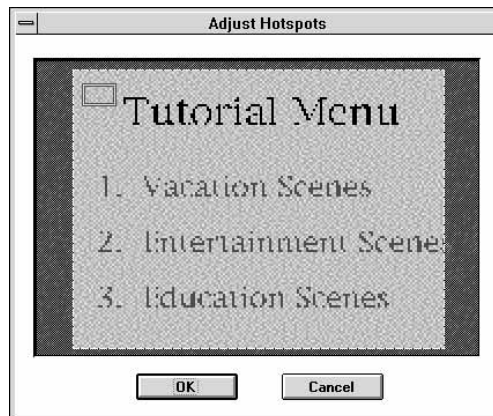
Menu screen from the Edit Menu Node dialog box

Single hot-spot frame



3. Use the drag-and-drop method to move a hot-spot frame over the first menu Item.
 - Click the center of a hot-spot frame to select it.
 - Hold down the mouse button and drag the hot-spot frame to the upper-left part of the menu Item in the image.
 - Release the mouse button.
4. Resize the hot-spot frame so that it encloses the first menu Item.
 - Click Adjust to open the Adjust Hotspots dialog box.

Adjust Hotspots dialog box



- Move the arrow pointer to the lower-right corner of the hot-spot frame.

5: Connecting With Paths

- Press and hold down the mouse button, and drag the corner of the frame down and to the right until it encloses the desired area for the first menu Item.
- Release the mouse button.
- Click OK to close the Adjust Hotspots dialog box.

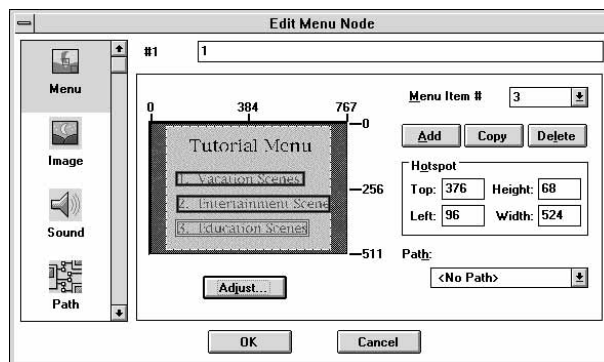
The values in the Hotspot section of the Menu modification screen update to indicate the dimensions (in pixels) of the hot spot that you just created. You can enter specific dimensions in the Hotspot text boxes to fine tune the dimensions for the Top, Left, Height, and Width of the hot spot. This is useful when lining up multiple menu Items.

To create a new hot-spot frame for the image displayed in the Menu modification screen:

1. Click Add in the Edit Menu Node dialog box.
The arrow pointer changes to a cross and appears on the image.
2. Move the cross to the upper-left corner where you want to begin to create a new hot-spot frame.
3. Press and hold down the mouse button.
The cross changes to a double-headed arrow.
4. Drag the double-headed arrow down and to the right until it encloses the new menu Item.
5. Release the mouse button to create a new hot-spot frame.

NOTE: Creating an additional hot-spot frame adds another numbered path tab to the menu node, producing the same effect as clicking on the M tab.

Three completed hot-spot frames centered over menu selection items



The values displayed in Menu Item # text box and the four values in the Hotspot section of the dialog box update according to the location and size of the new menu Item. To

select a different menu Item, click the Menu Item # drop-down list box, located in the upper-right corner of the Edit Menu Node dialog box, and select a menu node number.

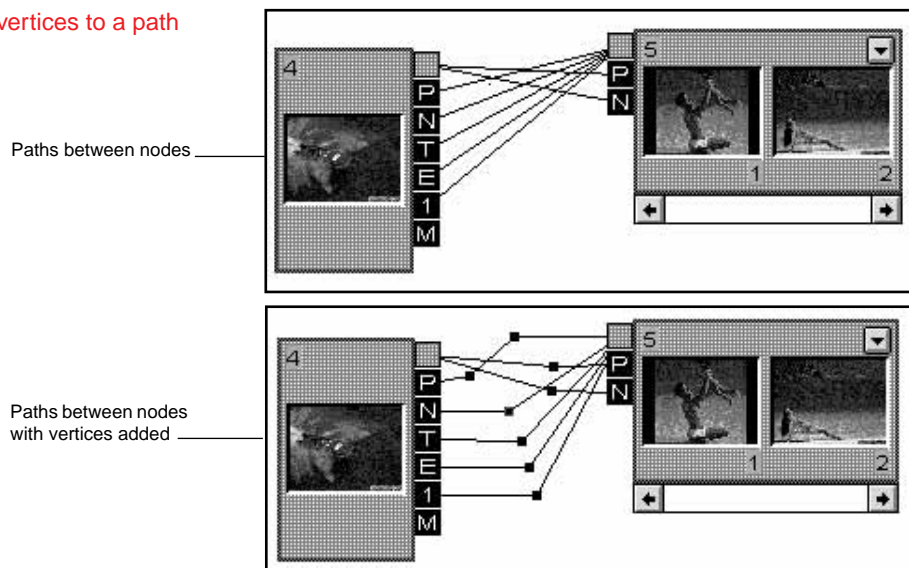
You can create additional hot-spot frames by clicking Copy in the Edit Menu Node dialog box to make a copy of the selected frame. To delete a hot-spot frame, select a hot-spot frame and click Delete.

Adding Vertices

As you begin to connect nodes in the document, crossing paths can quickly confuse the look of your presentation, making it difficult to read and understand. Arrange-It software lets you add vertices to a path, so that it is easier to follow the paths.

A vertex is a small square in a path where it can bend. Adding vertices can make it easier to find the node of origin and destination nodes of the path. There is no limit to the number of vertices you can add to a path. You can add vertices as you create a new path or to an existing path.

Adding vertices to a path



Adding a Vertex When Creating a Path

To add a vertex while creating a path:

1. Click a node tab to select it.

5: Connecting With Paths

2. Hold down the mouse button and drag the end of the path to a point approximately halfway between the node of origin and the destination node.
3. Press the ALT key while holding down the mouse button and continue to drag the path to the destination node.

The path bends at the point where you pressed the ALT key.

4. Release the mouse button over the destination node.

The path connects the node tab and the destination node with a vertex where you pressed the ALT key.

You can use the drag-and-drop method to move the vertex to the position that you want.

Adding a Vertex to an Existing Path

Arrange-It software provides three ways to add vertices to existing paths in the document window. You can

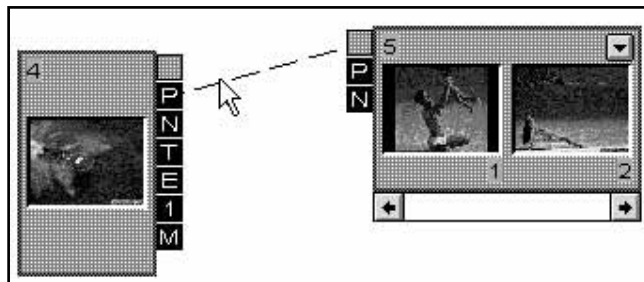
- Use the ALT key
- Choose Add Vertex from the Path menu
- Choose Arrange Nodes from the Node menu

ALT Key

To add a vertex to a path using the ALT key:

1. Press and hold down the ALT key.
2. Click a path to select it.

Adding vertex using the ALT key

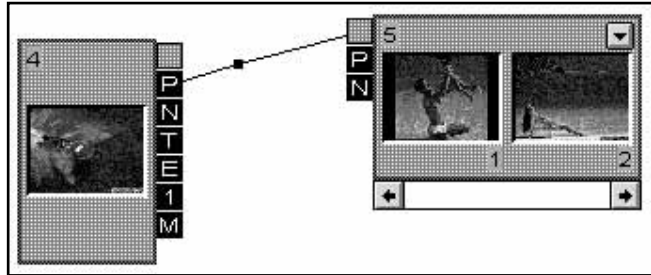


5: Connecting With Paths

3. Release the ALT key and the mouse button.

A vertex appears on the selected path at the point where you clicked.

Vertex added using the ALT key



To reposition the vertex:

1. Click the vertex to select it.
2. Hold down the mouse button and drag the vertex to the desired location in the document window.
3. Release the mouse button.

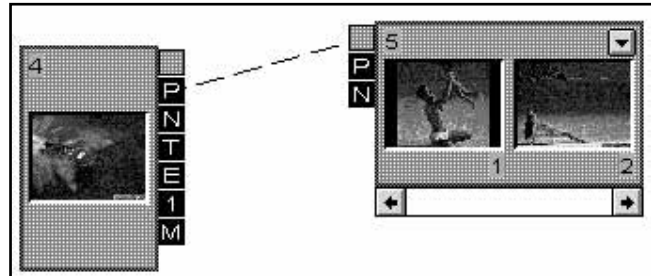
Add Vertex Command

To add a vertex to a path using the Add Vertex command from the Path menu:

1. Click a path in the document window to select it. You can SHIFT+CLICK multiple paths to select them.

The selected path appears as a broken line.

Adding vertex using Add Vertex command

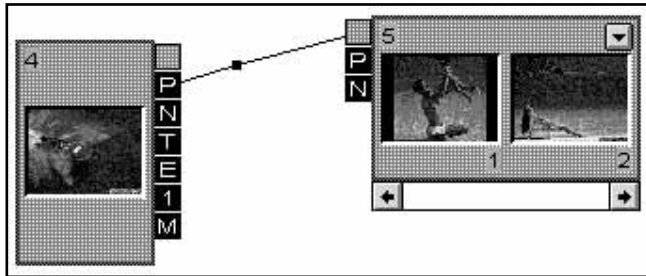


5: Connecting With Paths

2. Choose Add Vertex from the Path menu.

A vertex is added at the midpoint of each path that you selected.

Vertex added at midpoint
using Add Vertex
command

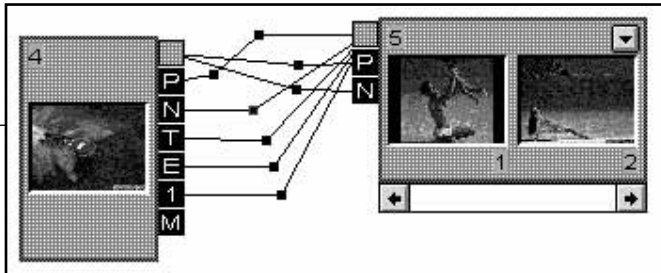


Arrange Nodes

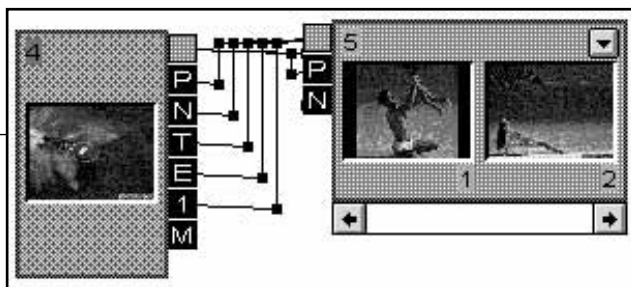
Arrange-It software provides an alternative to manually creating vertices on the paths or adding a vertex at the midpoint of the path. You can use Arrange Nodes from the Node menu to automatically redraw the nodes and paths, so that the entire document is more readable.

Paths before and after using
Arrange Nodes

Paths before using
Arrange Nodes



Paths after using
Arrange Nodes

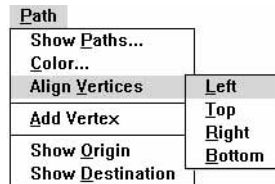


Aligning Vertices

Aligning vertices is another way to make your Arrange-It software document more organized and readable. To align vertices in the document window:

1. Click the first vertex that you want to align.
2. SHIFT+CLICK the remainder of the vertices to be aligned.
3. Choose Align Vertices from the Path menu.

Align Vertices cascading menu from the Path menu



4. Select how you want the vertices to be aligned from the cascading menu.

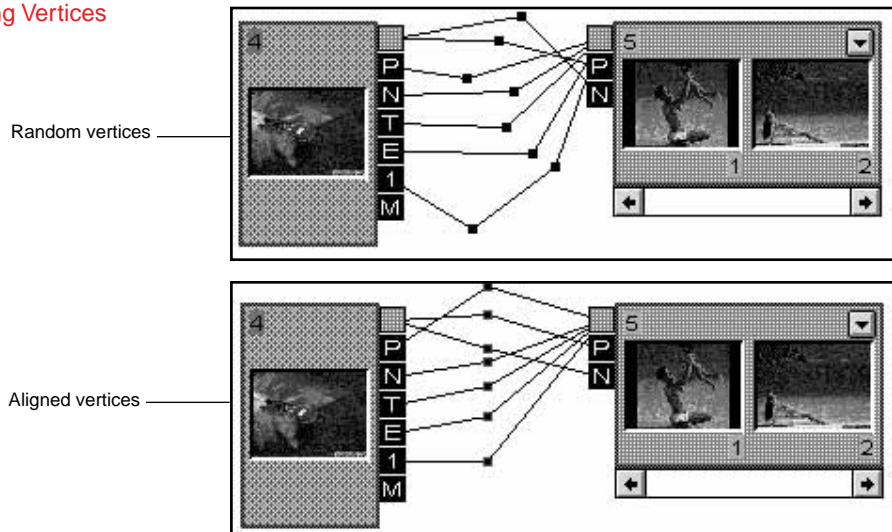
Left aligns along the left edge of the left-most vertex.

Top aligns along the top-most vertex.

Right aligns along the right-most vertex.

Bottom aligns along bottom-most vertex.

Aligning Vertices



Choose Undo from the Edit menu to return the vertices to their original locations.

5: Connecting With Paths

Showing and Hiding Paths

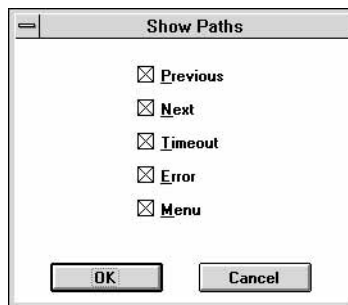
Arrange-It software lets you hide selected paths, which is helpful when the document becomes crowded. Paths can be hidden and displayed as necessary.

To show or hide selected paths:

1. Choose Show Paths from the Path menu.

The Show Paths dialog box appears showing the paths currently selected for display in the document window.

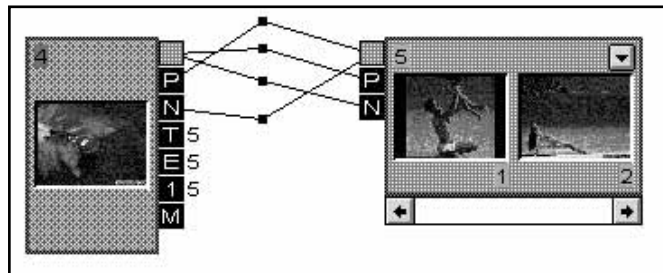
Show Paths dialog box



2. Click the check boxes to select or deselect the types of paths that you want to display in the document window.
3. Click OK.

The paths appear in the document window as you defined them.

Paths displayed in the document window



The number of the node for a hidden path displays next to path tabs that are connected by hidden paths.

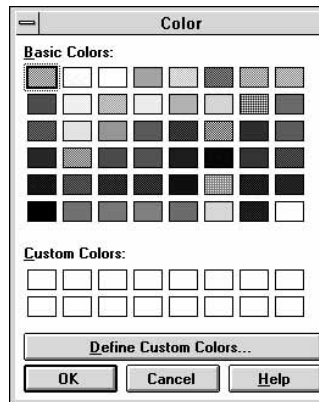
Changing Path Color

Arrange-It software lets you color individual paths for the selected node. To change a path color:

1. Click a path to select it.
2. Choose Color from the Path menu.

The WINDOWS software Color dialog box appears.

WINDOWS software
Color dialog box



3. Select a color from the Basic Colors or Custom Colors section.
4. Click OK or Cancel.

OK changes the selected path to the new path color.

Cancel leaves the path color unchanged.

Showing the Origin and Destination of a Path

Arrange-It software allows you to locate the origin and destination of any path in the document. To display the origin of a path:

1. Click a path in the document window to select it.
2. Choose Show Origin from the Path menu.

The node of origin appears in the center of the document window.

5: Connecting With Paths

To display the destination of a path:

1. Click a path in the document window to select it.
2. Choose Show Destination from the Path menu.

The destination node appears in the center of the document window.