What's in PagePlus 3.0

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What's it called?

This section lets you take a close look at the PagePlus window and the tools you'll be using. It's essential that you spend a moment browsing the following annotated screenshots as they define the basic terminology used throughout the Serif PagePlus documentation and Help.

The PagePlus window

Take a look at the following screenshots and find the Status Bar and the three floating palettes ToolBox, ChangeBar, and QuickHelp. These elements will be used throughout the tour and tutorial so it's good to be familiar with them all.

Serif PagePlus can be used at three different levels, Intro, Publisher and Professional, each designed to give levels of power and help appropriate to different types of users. Intro level provides a simplified range of features to minimize learning time, and the full range of built-in help. The higher levels provide more features, and less hand-holding. A professional or experienced DTP user would probably go straight to Pro level, while someone new to DTP or Windows would probably prefer to start at Intro level.

The ToolBox, ChangeBar, and Status Bar remain basically the same at each level, but additional buttons are made available.

We've included a picture of the PagePlus window when operating in each of the three levels so as you can take a look a the differences for yourself.

For a quick description of the function of any button, simply hold the mouse pointer over the icon for a few seconds. A yellow ToolHint will appear.

Intro Level

At Intro Level, PagePlus is designed to give you the essential DTP features with maximum simplicity and help. At this level, PagePlus serves as an ideal introduction for those unfamiliar with DTP and Windows. Find the ChangeBar and ToolBox and notice how the yellow QuickHelp window updates as you move the mouse pointer around the screen. QuickHelp gives you an instant hint about each element or button within PagePlus so use it to explore in more detail.

Menu bar · Title bar · Minimize · Maximize · ChangeBar · Scroll bar · ToolBox · Rulers · Scroll box · PasteBoard · Page · QuickHelp window · Status Bar · Zoom Area · Run WritePlus · PagePlus Level
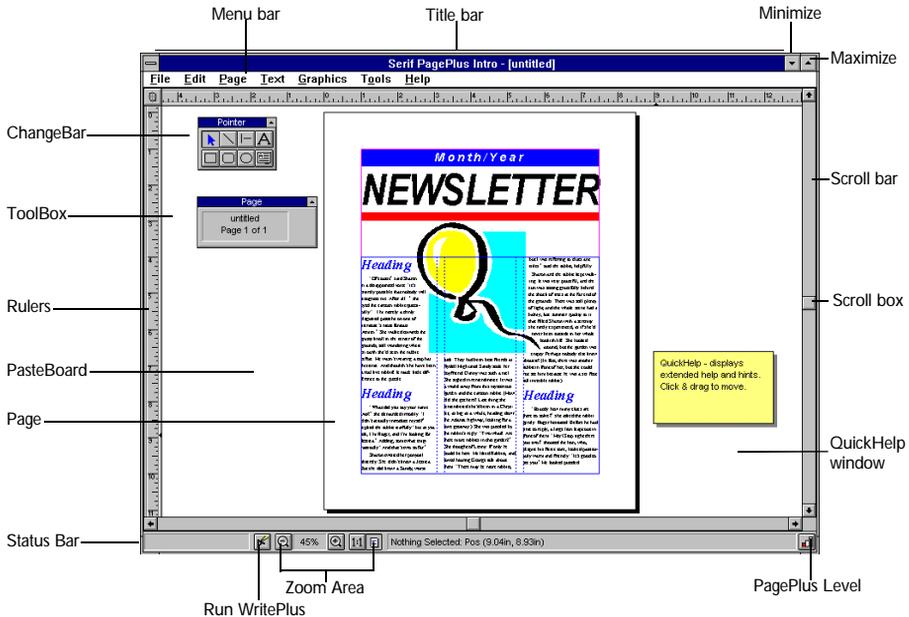
Publisher Level

Publisher Level extends the features of Intro but keeps plenty of help available. At this level PagePlus functions as an equivalent to most budget DTPs. Notice how the ToolBox and ChangeBar have an extra row of buttons. The Property Palette is also available for choosing a property for the ChangeBar to modify. Publisher Level gives support for multi-page documents so there's a page area on the Status Bar with buttons for page navigation.
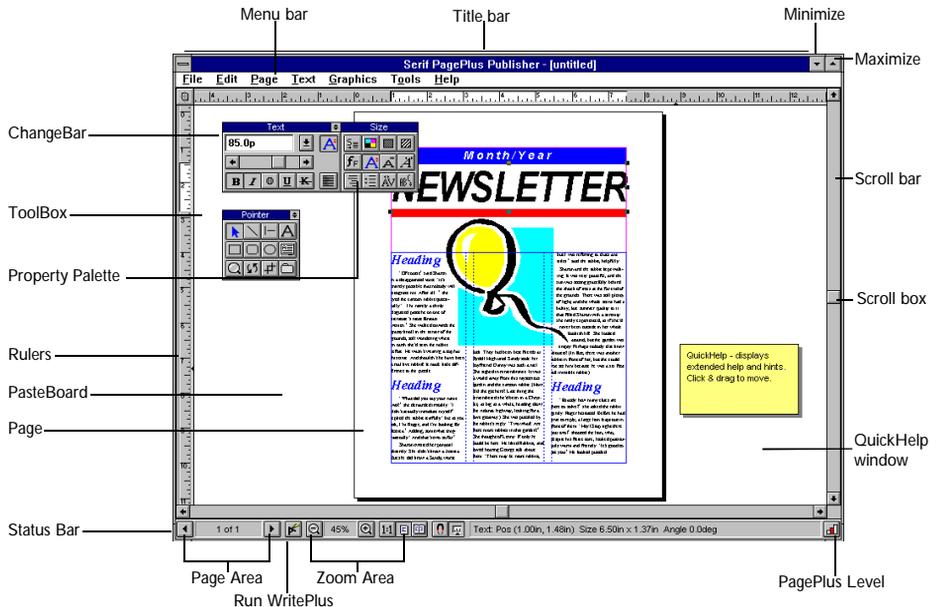
Professional Level

Professional Level gives you the full set of power DTP tools available in PagePlus. At this level PagePlus behaves like a typical high-end DTP, but is still much easier to use. The QuickHelp has been replaced by the HintLine to save screen space. Check out the extra buttons on the Status Bar. There are shortcuts for customizing the screen display and a button to access the Status Editor for super-fine object positioning.

Ruler Indent

ChangeBar

ToolBox

Property Palette

PasteBoard

Page

Status Bar

Page Area

Run WritePlus

Zoom Area

Status Editor

HintLine

ToolBox

Title bar

Show/Hide third row

Tools

Import picture flyout

Import
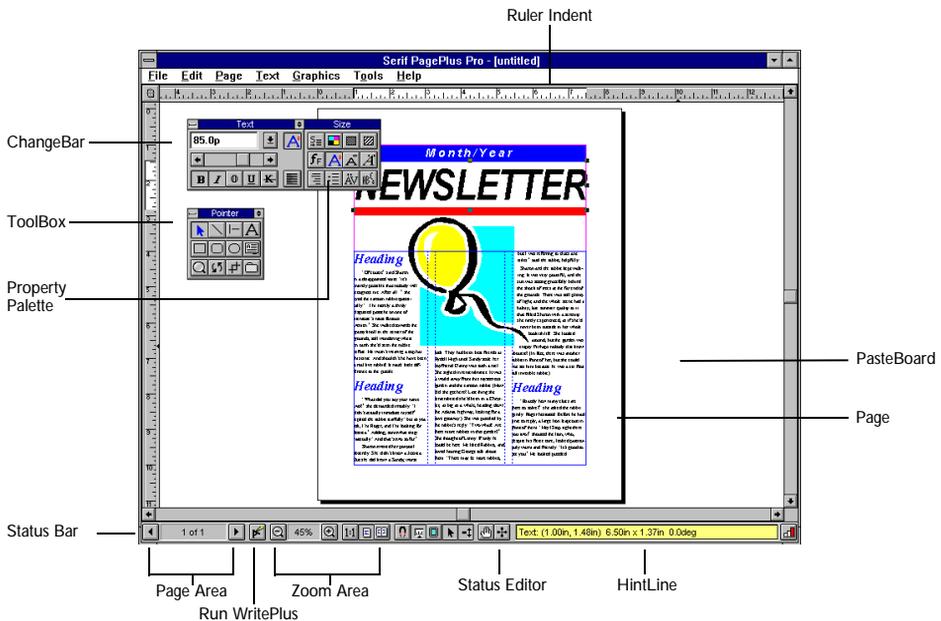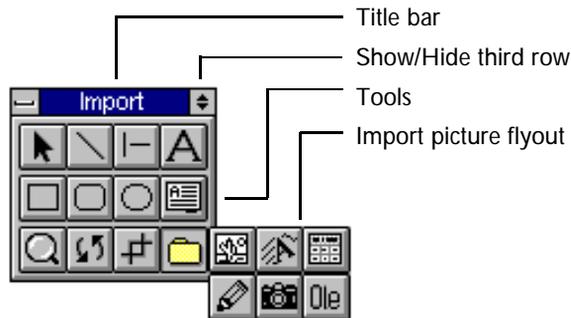
The ToolBox gives you instant access to tools for creating, editing and manipulating text, graphics and pictures. The screenshot shows the ToolBox from Publisher and Professional Levels which has three rows of tools. At Intro Level only, the ToolBox is simplified, with only the top two rows of tools available.

For a description of each button, hold the mouse pointer over a button for a couple of seconds until a pop-up ToolHint appears.

Notice how the *Picture Import* button (bottom right) gives access to the Import Picture flyout, with buttons for importing pictures, Art and Borders images, Serif Add-Ons and OLE objects.

ChangeBar and Property Palette

Title bar
Edit window
Slider
Property button
Wrap flyout

ChangeBar   Property Palette
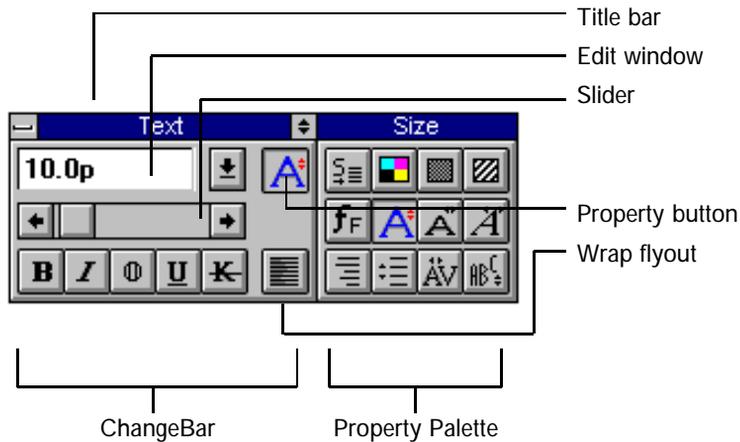
This screenshot shows the ChangeBar and Property Palette from Publisher and Professional Levels with a text object currently selected. It looks slightly different when a graphic, picture or frame is selected.

The ChangeBar allows you to apply fast, interactive changes to a property of an object instead of using menus. The Property Palette is used to choose which property to modify.

At Intro Level a simplified single property, two row, ChangeBar is available.

WritePlus

With PagePlus you can import text files from your word-processor, or you can use WritePlus which provides powerful integrated word processing functions. It is used for creating, editing and proofing text within your publication. WritePlus includes a full complement of writing tools. At Professional Level, Spell Checking, Thesaurus, Find and Replace, and Word Count are all available.

Style Combo Box — Serif WritePlus - sample.wri — Maximize

BodyText — ToolBar

Text Entry Window

BodyText
"Of course" said Sharon in a disappointed voice "it's entirely possible that nobody will recognize me. After all..." she eyed the cartoon rabbit quizzically "...I'm merely a thinly disguised pastiche on one of literature's most famous women." She walked towards the grassy knoll in the center of the grounds, still wondering where on earth she'd seen the rabbit before. He wasn't wearing a top hat this time. And shouldn't he have been a real live rabbit? It made little difference to the puzzle...

Selected Text —— BodyText
"What did you say your name was?" she demanded irritably. "I didn't actually introduce myself" replied the rabbit tearfully "but as you ask, I'm Roger, and I'm looking for Jessica." Adding, somewhat enigmatically "And that makes two so far."

Style Names —— BodyText
Sharon twisted her ponytail absently. She didn't know a Jessica... But she did know a Sandy, worse luck. They had been best friends at Rydell High until Sandy stole her boyfriend. Danny was such a rat! She sighed in remembrance. It was a world away from

HintLine — Cancel changes

HintLine   Accept changes

Key Features of PagePlus 3.0?

Serif PagePlus 3.0 is built on the foundations of Versions 1.x and 2.x and retains the feel of a free form layout area (the pasteboard) and a page.

However, PagePlus 3.0 has come a long way since those earlier releases. It now provides a raft of high-end features, and rivals Aldus PageMaker, Quark XPress and Corel Ventura for pure publishing power. Unlike its rivals, Serif PagePlus 3.0 also provides extensive ease of use additions and can be easily and quickly mastered by complete beginners.

If you're upgrading from Serif PagePlus 2.x you'll quickly pick up the changes and be able to use Serif PagePlus 3.0 to its full potential. Virtually all the familiar tools and functions are there, and you can get started by using PagePlus 3.0 without learning about any of the additional functionality.

The changes have given PagePlus 3.0 a combination of power and simplicity unmatched by any other DTP package. It's more powerful, yet easier to use, than its predecessor. So whether you're new, or upgrading, you'll find it a snap. In brief...

User Interface

The ToolBox and ChangeBar are central to PagePlus. They include all the tools necessary for creating, editing and manipulating objects. There's also plenty of neat shortcuts designed to make your DTP work simple and fast. The entire user interface has a three level approach to simplify learning and give you the right balance of available power and assistance.

Help, Demos, Hints, Assistants and more

PagePlus has always been easy to use, now it's very easy to learn too. Primarily, the three level interface allows gradual disclosure of more complex features and concepts without intimidating newcomers. A HintLine on the Status Bar can be expanded into the QuickHelp window which gives appropriate advice. ToolHints automatically pop-up from each button for a quick explanation. Extensive Hints and Tips provide further discussion of new concepts, and power features. Help in dialogs and context-sensitive cursors also make a welcome appearance. Interactive Demos are provided to illustrate key features of PagePlus, and several Assistants have been added together with a Layout Checker.

OLE

Serif PagePlus 3.0 acts as an OLE (Object Linking and Embedding) client. This allows Serif PagePlus to place OLE objects on to the page from the Serif Add-Ons TypePlus, TablePlus, DrawPlus, and PhotoPlus and many other Windows applications (such as an Excel spreadsheet or a CorelDRAW! graphic).

Graphics Manipulation

PagePlus supports colorize, flip, crop or rotate for graphics and OLE objects. AutoWrap automatically creates an irregular text wrap shape for a graphic. The Color Mapper allows colors to be changed and/or added to the color palette. Complex illustrations and multicolored fills can be created using DrawPlus.

TrueType

Serif PagePlus 3.0 works with all Windows supported fonts, and uses TrueType (the font scaling technology included as standard with Windows 3.1) as its own internal font format. Character shapes in any font can be distorted using tools in DrawPlus.

Full Color Publishing

To allow high-end quality color work, PagePlus 3.0 supports "image sub-sampling" for very large images, pre-separated files, automatic trapping, and Aldus OPI specification. Full color (24-bit) pictures can be imported and color separated. Pictures can be manipulated to adjust color, brightness and so on using PhotoPlus. And the entire publication can be prepared for commercial printing. For example, the Serif PagePlus 3.0 book covers and box were output to high resolution film (via a bureau) with process color separations.

Text Control

An integrated word processor, WritePlus, is included with Serif PagePlus 3.0. It gives a range of writing tools including Spelling, Thesaurus, Find and Replace, and Word Count. Text formatting includes slanting, auto and manual kerning, auto-hyphenation for all languages, and smart quotes. Text can be made to flow around or *inside* complex shaped graphics.

Styles

Libraries of styles can easily be created to quickly apply formatting and ensure consistency for both text and graphics.

Precision Placement and Rotation

You can rotate all objects (text, graphics and images) in 0.01 degree steps. You can now place and size objects (text, graphics and images) to 0.001 of an inch. And using the pop-up Status Editor you can directly enter values for position, size and rotation.

Tables

Create simple tables in PagePlus with tabs and leaders, or use TablePlus for more complex effects.

Import and Export

PagePlus 3.0 can import pre-separated TIFFs, JPEG, GIF and Kodak PhotoCD pictures. Directly scan into PagePlus using TWAIN. Include illustrations directly from CorelDRAW! in .CDR format. The latest WP formats, including Microsoft Word 6.0, are supported. You can create logos, headlines or complete pages and then save them as a graphic which can be pasted into any other application.

Templates

Templates are "instant publications" we've included for typical DTP projects. They'll save you time, and give your publications the designer look. You can also create templates for commonly used documents. For example, you could create a newsletter template as the starting point for each issue.

What next?

You now know about the general structure and naming conventions of the PagePlus interface. For a quick recap of terminology while using PagePlus, take a look at **Help/Introduction to PagePlus**.

So, what next?

Next comes a short section, DTP & PagePlus which puts PagePlus in a real-world context. Whatever your level of experience, this section gives a helpful background to PagePlus.

This is followed by the *PagePlus Tour*, *PagePlus Tutorial* and *Using Templates* chapters.