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ATMOSPHERES Technical Backgrounder A Color Background System for Macintosh and Windows

Many people now produce a multitude of graphic related work on their computers. There are many sources of background clip art but none, to date, have offered resolution independence, cross-platform compatibility and the ability to modify color intensity or graytone values. Atmospheres Systems with Watermark addresses diverse user needs in one product. They require no artistic skill to create dazzling effects and yet the artwork is sophisticated enough for the most demanding graphics professional.

Atmospheres Systems are image collections plus a software utility, Watermark for Atmospheres. Each image is supplied in three versions to generate best-quality output on a variety of devices. Each image includes a High Resolution Color, Low Resolution Color, and High Contrast, High Resolution Graytone version to fill the diverse needs of people using backgrounds and under many conditions.

High resolution images are designed for final output of an imagesetter, such as a Linotronic, at 2450 dpi or on film recorders at 4000-8000 lines. Low resolution gives great output on laser printers at 300-600 dpi and for on-screen presentations. The difference in resolutions, in the original Atmospheres vector files, is in the number of steps in a gradient. High resolution files have a significantly larger number of steps, which increases file size, printing times, and screen redraw times but professionals require the increased resolution.

For conversion to bitmaps, Watermark can rasterize images into all major bitmap formats. Bitmap resolutions up to 5000 dpi can be produced, which is sufficient for even the most demanding Macintosh and Windows print environments.

The original vector images ship as Adobe Illustrator (AI) EPS files. Watermark's graphic conversion module can translate images into all major vector and bitmap images.

For Macintosh the vector formats are PICT (QuickDraw) and Adobe Illustrator. This makes images editable in MacDraw Pro, Illustrator, SuperPaint, and FreeHand. Bitmapped formats are TIFF and PICT.

The Windows vector formats are WMF (Windows Metafile) and AI (Adobe Illustrator). This is compatible with all Microsoft Windows programs. Bitmapped formats are BMP, PCX, TIF, TGA, and GIF.

The combination of detailed vector backgrounds with special effects software provides unlimited options to enhance any kind of project using graphics with Macintosh and Windows applications.