

# MACBITS

Volume XVII, Issue I

January 19, 2003

## What's Happening In MacMad

Jim Staal, President

### Happy New Year!

By the time you read this, MacWorld should be over and we will be evaluating the new announcements and releases. I certainly hope they are exciting, and it will be interesting to hear what our resident experts have to say about the new items.

I want to remind you again that the MacMad elections process begins this month. Nominations are made in January and published in February.

The actual election is in March with the new officers assuming their role immediately at that meeting. As I said last month the Board and all other positions have been designed to require a minimum amount of time to reduce the burden on anyone. Of course, the more of us that participate, the easier it becomes. Please volunteer to help somewhere in your User Group. Even if you are unable to attend meetings, there are many helpful functions you can fulfill.

If you cannot be at the meeting to make your nominations you may e-mail them to any of the

Board Members. All nominations must arrive by the day before the January meeting. If you would like to nominate or suggest someone other than yourself it is OK, but we must have the agreement of the person nominated before they can be put on the ballot.

If you have read my previous columns, you probably have noticed that I am a big fan of user groups in general, and especially of the benefits that user groups can offer. Of course, programs, training and discussions are a key part of this. Exchange of ideas and Members Helping Members are another way that our user groups help us.

I want to mention another benefit that we seem often to ignore. This is the number of the User Group discounts which exist. I know that I am often dismayed when I scan some of the User Group specials available, only to find that I recently paid full price for something which I could have purchased at a discount.

The specials that are available include a great deal of software

as well as certain hardware items. Of course, Apple has a User Group site with plenty of deals. In addition, most of the major software vendors either offer specials through the Macintosh User Group site or have their own User Group site. There also are User Group sites and specials for many book publishers and others who served the Macintosh community.

Unfortunately, within MacMad we have had a problem communicating the news about the User Group specials that comes to us. Your board receives frequent announcements about many specials. However, the preference expressed by most members has been for us not to forward these to all members. We have been trying to set up a Web page where we can post these announcements. Various logistical problems have prevented us from doing this to date. In the meantime, I want to provide you with some of the resources so that you may check on most of these discounts yourself.

The MUG Center is a valuable

*continued on page 2*

## Inside This Issue

What's Happening In MacMAD .....	1, 2	VueScan Review .....	4, 5
Member's Helping Members .....	2	Canvas Review (pt I) .....	6, 7
Quicken 2003 Mini Review .....	3	Classifieds .....	7
		Meetings .....	8

## Members

### Helping Members

*Please be considerate and call at a reasonable hour. Remember, these volunteers also have a private life.*

**WordPerfect,...Canvas ...**

Brenda Foster...724-1948

needleworx@earthlink.net

**Photoshop, CorelDraw, Illustrator,**

**Freehand, AOL, Color-It,**

**ClarisWorks, Quark X-press**

Cher Daley ...724-8981...

cdaleyart@aol.com

**Photoshop ...Gayle Baker ...**

7257632...sterlingphoto@mind-

spring.com

**Photoshop, Quark,**

**Illustrator...Randy Perry...**

(561) 589-6449 Radknee@aol.com

*If you are experienced with a piece of software or hardware, and wouldn't mind a few calls for help, volunteer by giving your phone number to Cher Daley.*

resource for learning about news of User Group discounts available. The URL for this Web page is <http://www.mugcenter.com/vendornews/vendornews.html>. Another MUG Center resource is the list of vendor programs at <http://www.mugcenter.com/vendor/vendorprograms.html>. Some of the vendors currently listed include Adobe, Aladdin Systems, Inc., Casady & Greene, Itsamac (web site hosting), Osborne (books), MYOB (this is one that I missed and paid full price), New Riders (books), O'Reilly (books), Peachpit Press (books), and several others.

Some of these vendor listings state a requirement that your User Group take some action or that you obtain the site URL from an Apple Liaison.

Your MacMad Board has the information needed or can take

appropriate action if we know that you want to take advantage of a particular vendor's offer.

We also have some specials which have come in directly to MacMad. The best way to learn about these is to come to the meetings and to read your MacBits newsletter. (See the offer for Canvas 8 elsewhere in this MacBits.)

We really would like to have a much more active participation in the various vendor User Group activities. In order to do this, we need to have the someone with time to carry out some of the correspondence with the vendors. If you are that person, please let me know.

Your MacMad User Group has the potential to be a great resource and to return to you much more then the cost of your dues. All that is needed is for us to each become more involved and for us to bring in more members. With our membership up we then can spread out the workload. We also will then be able to attract more of the vendors to give us presentations and special

Visit **MacBits** on the Web!

We are now posting **MacBITS**

on the **www.macmad.org** website!

Click on files, sign in using your name and password, click on newsletters and select the issue of choice. Use Adobe Acrobat Reader Plug-in with your favorite web browser to read. This is a free download from **www.adobe.com**

## MACMAD

Macintosh Meeting And Drinking Society est. 1984

<http://www.macmad.org>

<http://bbs.macmad.org>

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Created on Macintosh computers with Quark Xpress

MacMAD does not condone or support software piracy.

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**User Group  
Network**



Since there was no last meeting to write about, Mark was kind enough to whip up an article for this issue on the spur of the moment. Let me take this moment to express my personal thanks to Mark and everyone who has contributed to MacBITS in the past year. I strongly encourage the membership to contribute.  
Your Editor, Cher Daley

## Quicken 2003 mini-review

By Mark Fosgate

I recently received a copy of Quicken 2003 from the Quicken User Group Reviews team of Intuit.

I've been a user of Quicken since the early 1990s and have generally been happy (see comments below) with the performance and reliability of the product throughout these years. Granted I am not a Power user of Quicken needing to download data from a bank or brokerage firm but I feel that I do give it a regular workout within my limited needs.

Quicken 2002 was horribly slow on my PowerMac G4 dual 1Ghz machine with 1.5GBs of installed RAM both in Mac OS X 10.1.x and in 10.2.x. Additionally, the program would occasionally create some really whacked out data that showed my finances inexplicably adding (even subtracting once) hundreds of dollars after having quit, and then having forgotten something, opening the data right away. Thankfully I always keep a working

backup.

Quicken 2003 to date has not exhibited any of these traits. In fact, Quicken 2003 has been very responsive in opening and quitting the program and in inputting data into various fields within the data file.

Below is a table (provided by Intuit) on what is new and or updated from previous versions.

*An Apple a Day  
Keeps the Doctor Away!*



### Quicken Deluxe for Mac Product Comparison

#### Save Time & Money

Scheduled online updates  
Built for Mac OS X  
Integrated downloaded transactions window  
Update all your online accounts in one step\*  
Set up accounts and bills more easily than ever  
Global find and replace  
Notification of software updates\*  
Synchronize your data with Pocket Quicken 2.0 for Palm OS\*\*

#### Organize Your Finances

Customizable toolbar  
Balance your checkbook and pay bills easily  
Reconcile your statements automatically\*  
Track accounts, credit cards & loans  
Smart reconcile allows you to review prior statements  
See an overview of your finances on one screen  
Create budgets, reports & graphs  
Bank & pay bills online\*  
Check your credit report online\*  
Get alerts for upcoming or overdue bills

#### Manage Your Investments

Track stock splits, mergers and more  
Track cash transactions in your brokerage account  
Set up your investments more easily  
Download your brokerage transactions\*  
Track & compare your investments easily  
Download historical stock quotes up to 5 years\*  
Export your portfolio to Quicken.com\*  
Chart multiple securities on one screen  
One-click access to investment research\*  
View current news, analyst ratings & financials\*  
Mutual fund evaluator\*

#### Plan for the Future

Plan for major events like retirement\*  
Shop for a great mortgage rate\*  
Debt reduction planner\*

#### Plan & Prepare for Taxes

Track spending for more accurate tax records  
Flag tax categories more accurately  
Tax planning & estimating tools  
Find & track tax deductions\*  
Estimate and optimize capital gains  
Proactive year-round tax alerts

	2001	2002	2003
			NEW
		New for 2002	x
		New for 2002	IMPROVED
		New for 2002	x
New for 2001	x	x	x
New for 2001	x	x	x
x		IMPROVED	x
			NEW
x	x	x	x
	New for 2002	x	x
x	x	x	x
x		IMPROVED	x
x	x	x	x
x	x	IMPROVED	x
x	x	x	x
New for 2001	x	x	x
			NEW
		New for 2002	x
		New for 2002	IMPROVED
x	x	x	x
x	x	x	x
New for 2001	x	x	x
x	x	x	x
x	x	x	x
x	x	x	x
New for 2001	x	x	x
			NEW
New for 2001	x	x	x
x	x	x	x
x	x	x	x
			NEW
x	x	x	x
x	IMPROVED	x	x
x	x	x	x
x	x	x	x
		New for 2002	x
New for 2001	x	x	x

## Don't Forget Nominations Are This Month!



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Think different.™



# VueScan Offers Many Scan Options

review by Cher Daley:

VueScan offered by Hamrick Software, [www.hamrick.com](http://www.hamrick.com), is currently the best scanner drive software on the market for OS X users. They in fact offer one of the only drivers that will work with many scanners and the Mac. It's affordable price of \$40 won't bankrupt anyone even on a limited budget.

## USB Flatbed scanners supported:

- \* All Epson models
- \* Canon FB630U, FB636U, FB1210U, N650U, N656U, D660U, N670U, N676U, N1220U, N1240U, LIDE 20, LIDE 30
- \* HP 2100C, 2200C, 4100C, 5200C, 5300C, 6200C, 6300C, 7400C
- \* Microtek X12USL, 4700, 5600, 5700, 6700 (1200 dpi and below) and 8700

- \* UMAX 3400, 5400
- \* BearPaw 1200, 2400
- \* Genius ColorPage-HR6
- \* Plustek OpticPro

- \* Most Acer/BenQ, AGFA models

## SCSI Flatbed scanners supported:

- \* All Epson, Canon, HP, Microtek, UMAX, LinoType-Hell, Acer/BenQ, AGFA models

- \* KYE ColorPage HR5

- \* Apple Color OneScanner 600, 1200/30

## FireWire Scanners supported:

- \* All Epson, Microtek, UMAX, LinoType-Hell models

- \* Nikon LS-4000, LS-8000

- \* Polaroid SprintScan 120, 4000+

- \* Minolta Scan Elite II, Scan Multi Pro

## USB Film Scanners supported:

- \* Nikon CoolScan IV (LS-40)

- \* Canon FS4000

- \* Minolta Scan Dual II, Scan Dual III, Scan Elite II

- \* HP PhotoSmart S20 (Windows only)

## SCSI Film Scanners supported:

- \* Nikon LS-20, LS-1000, LS-30, LS-2000

- \* Minolta QuickScan 35, Scan Dual, Scan Multi, Scan Multi Pro, Scan Speed, Scan Elite

- \* Canon FS2700, FS2710, FS4000

- \* HP PhotoSmart

- \* Acer/BenQ ScanWit 2720S, 2740S

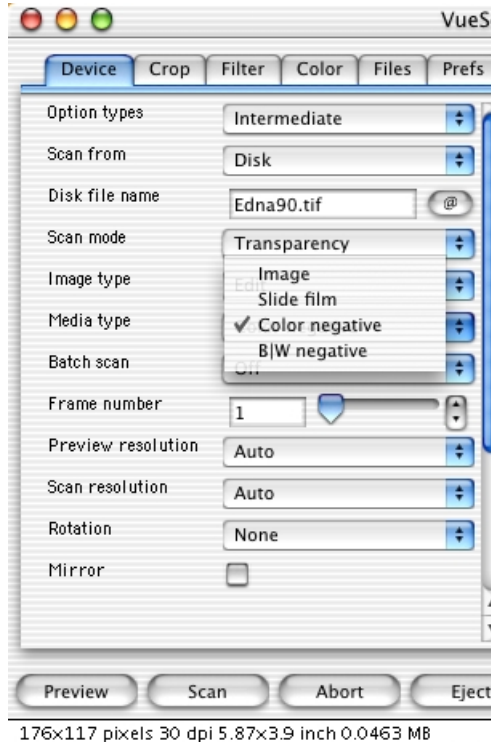
- \* Polaroid SprintScan 120, 4000, 35, 35/LE, 35+, 45

- \* Epson FilmScan 200

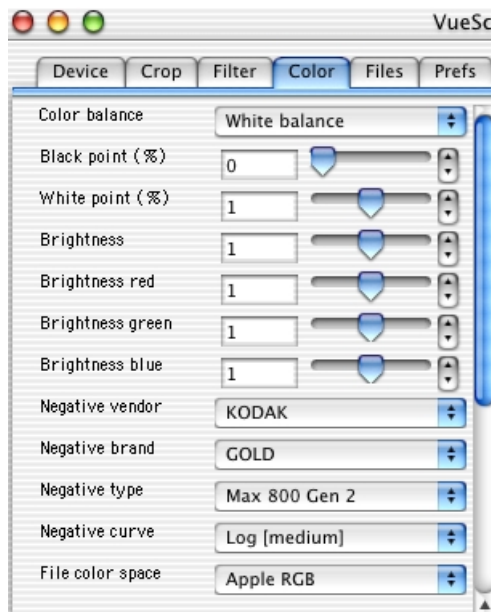
- \* Konica Qscan

- \* Kodak RFS 2035, RFS 2035 Plus, RFS 3570

VueScan's capabilities are extensive including a multitude of settings for film scanning including types of film used, film speed and color adjustments. You can either batch scan or scan a single image.



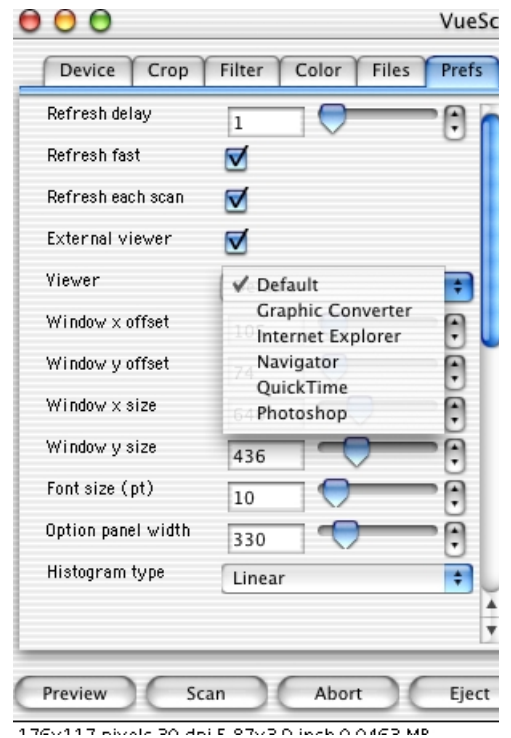
These windows illustrate just one of the many film scanning options available.



Another feature VueScan offers is you may have VueScan save multiple files at once. For example, you may want to save a high-resolution TIFF for archiving purposes or later editing, and lower quality (and size) JPEG files for other purposes.

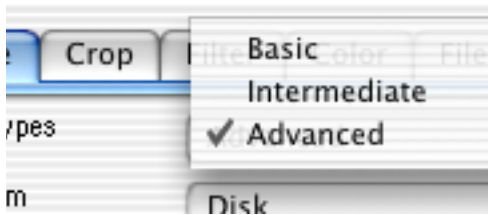
While we're on the subject of saving multiple images, VueScan can write a specific file name, you can also have it automatically number your files in two ways by placing special characters in the filename.

You have options to open your image in just about any image editing program or let it default to Preview and send it to a file for future editing. I prefer the latter method, as I normally scan several images at one time. I can later go back and apply special effects and such.



These are just a few of the programs that you are able to scan into. VueScan automatically finds the programs for you.

VueScan has a large number of options, and you can use "Device|Option types" to control whether basic, intermediate or advanced options are displayed.



You can adjust numeric options by typing a number into a box, moving the slider, or clicking the up/down arrow to the right of the option. You can change file name options by either typing a file name into a box or pressing the button to the right of the file name to browse to the file name.

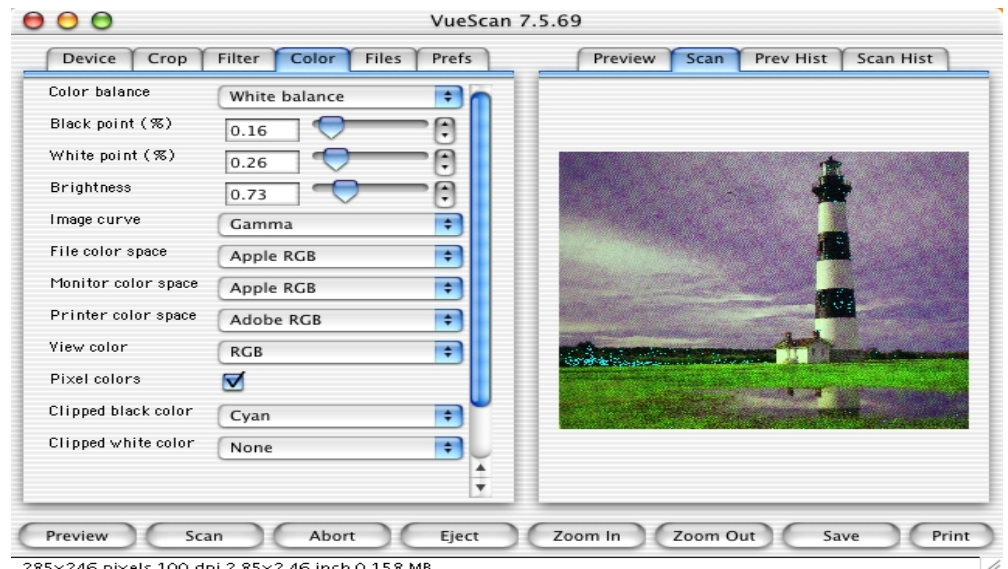
You can adjust cropping of images by first pressing the preview button, then dragging the edges of the crop box to the desired position or dragging the whole box to a new position. You can also change the focus position by using the mouse to move the small animated box

that indicates the focus position, and can reset the automatic cropping by double-clicking on the image.

The preview window is primarily used to show the cropping that the automatic cropping has selected and to let you change this cropping if necessary. It's also used to give you a rough idea of what the color and contrast will look like in the

final scan. The scan window shows the cropped image that can be written to a file or printed.

All in all this little program packs a lot of bang for it's buck. It gives you too many options to write in this reveiw, so I recommend that you download the tryout and if you like it, pay the \$40 for the unlock code. You won't regret it!



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# Canvas 8™, Another Great Graphics-Plus Program

(Part One)

*Reviewed by Jim Staal*

## Minimum system requirements:

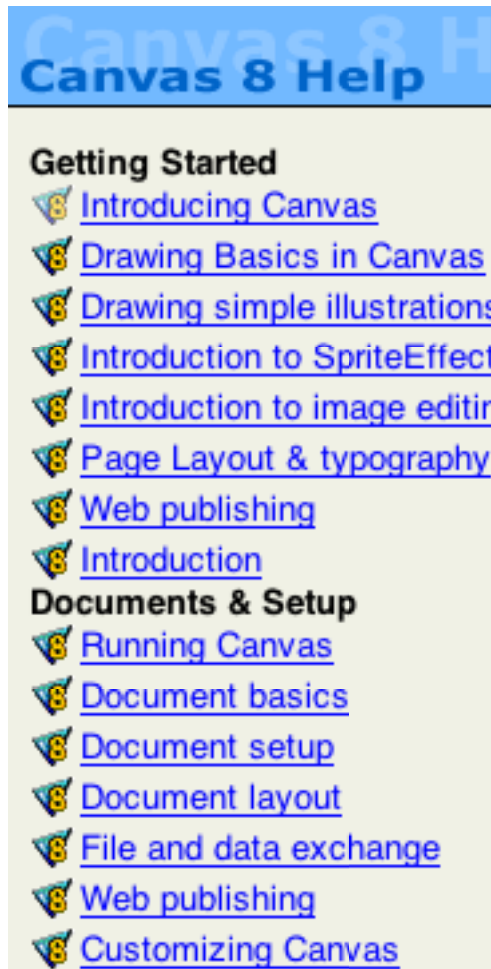
Power PC processor, Mac OS 9.1 or X, 32 megs of Ram available to Canvas, 100 megs free hard disk space, Thousands of colors minimum, 800 x 600 or higher screen resolution. (See MacMad special pricing.)

Canvas 8™ is Deneba Software's most recent version of its integrated program drawing, image editing, document design, presentations and web design. The first version of Canvas came out in 1987. Many have used it instead of other drawing programs such as MacDraw®, CorelDraw®, or Adobe Illustrator®. Over the years, Denba has added many capabilities, and this revision again increased its functionality with over 100 new features and enhancements.

Canvas 8™ Professional Edition comes on 5 CD-ROMs. The program is on one. Another has fonts, and three contain clipart. The boxed set includes a User's Guide over one and one-half inches thick. (Yes, a real, printed manual.) For this reason, I recommend buying the full boxed set, rather than the download-only version. While the information in the User's Guide is also available in the on-line Help, the printed version is usually easier to use. This edition also includes a manual for the Clip Art and Font Library.

Canvas 8™ has an extensive Help capability which uses your browser but with local files rather than requiring internet access. This Help also serves as a tutorial. On the web are an on-line knowledge base and forums. Pop-up help appears when the cursor rests over a button or tool and identifies the functionality of that item

Unlike the Adobe® or Corel collection of applications for document preparation, Canvas 8™ contains all of the functions within a single program. Illustration, vector drawing, photo editing, text editing, page layout, presentation, anima-



tion and web publishing are all available when working on a document.

When a document is first created Canvas 8™ gives the option to choose a type of document: Illustration, Publication, When a document is first created Canvas 8™ gives the option to choose a type of document: Illustration, Publication, Presentation or Animation. Illustrations are the most general types of documents. Presentations are similar to PowerPoint, and can be shown using Canvas 8™. Animation documents are intended for creating web graphic animations.

Even though the different document formats have some unique capabilities, the full array of tools is available throughout. For instance, if a graphic is included in any type of document, all of the graphic editing can be used. A Master Page feature (called Master

## Objects & Attributes

- 8 [Working with objects](#)
- 8 [Macro objects and clip art](#)
- 8 [Inks: colors and patterns](#)
- 8 [Strokes: outline effects](#)
- 8 [SpriteLayer effects](#)
- 8 [Using SpriteEffects](#)

## Drawing & Vector Effects

- 8 [Drawing basics](#)
- 8 [Drawing and editing paths](#)
- 8 [Precision drawing and dimensions](#)
- 8 [Vector effects](#)

## Text & Typography

- 8 [Text entry and layout](#)
- 8 [Text editing and proofing](#)
- 8 [Formatting text](#)
- 8 [Using type styles](#)
- 8 [Type effects](#)

## Painting & Image Editing

- 8 [Painting and image-editing](#)
- 8 [Scanning, sizing, and tracing](#)
- 8 [Selections and channels](#)
- 8 [Image adjustment and correction](#)
- 8 [Image filters and effects](#)
- 8 [Image proxies](#)

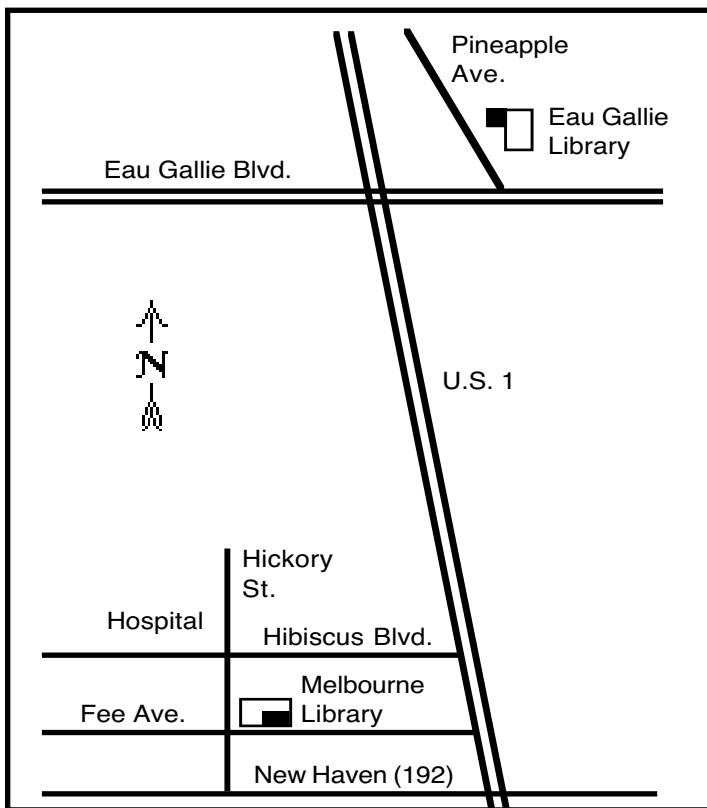
## Automation

- 8 [Sequences](#)
- 8 [Writing Scripts for Canvas](#)

- 8 [Glossary](#)

Slide in Presentation or Master Frame in Animation) is available in all but the Illustration type of documents. This feature provides a page of items which can be used across all pages.

Another nice feature is the ability to have multiple documents of various types open at the same time. Objects can then be dragged from



## CLASSIFIEDS

### For Sale:

**Apple Multiple Scan 15AV Display for sale - \$20** (15 inch monitor with integral speakers.) Needs a standard Mac power cord.

**Larry Fay 751.3567**

**Umax Flatbed SCSI Single pass Color Scanner w/software and drivers that work w/OS 7-9.X\$60**

**19.9Bps Modem w/software \$10**

**Franklin Day Planner software \$10**

**ColorIt! software(draw, paint,image editing software) w/manual \$15**

**Apple Imagewriter (Dot matrix) printer \$50**

**Quadra Work Group Server 98** (can be used as computer or server..server side needs minor-work)\$70

**Reformatted Zip Disks \$10 ea.**

**Call or e-mail Cher Daley 729-1433**

**cdaleyart@mac.com**

### Classified Ads Are FREE to MacMAD Members!

one into the other. It is possible to open a photo in an Illustration document, edit the photo as desired, and then simply drag the photo into position in a Publication or Presentation.

I have been using Canvas 8™ for a while now, and I have only scratched the surface of its capabilities. Most impressive has been the ease of use. With the manual and searchable Help, I have been able to jump into projects very rapidly, with little or no wasted effort.

My first project was editing a photo to use as a background for a slide presentation. This was quite fast and easy. I cropped the photo, adjusted for color, and changed the resolution. The result was excellent and just what I needed.

I considered using Canvas 8™ for the presentation itself. However, to do so Canvas 8™ needs to be on the computer used for the presentation, and I was using my host's computer which did not have the program. It is possible to save a slide show as a QuickTime™ movie if control of the slide change is not needed. PowerPoint™ presentations can be imported into Canvas 8™, edited and shown using only the Canvas 8™ program. However, if a PowerPoint™

presentation uses a capability that is is not compatible with Canvas 8™, the trying to run the presentation may cause problems including a program crash. I did not have any problem simply importing a presentation and editing the slides, but one slide in a presentation that I tried to play caused me to Force Quit the program.

My next project was to create the "Micro" MacBits for December on an extremely short schedule. I previously used Word™ for the MacBits which I edited last year. Canvas 8™ proved to be much easier to use, and I was able to produce the issue in a very short time.

In future months, I will be using more of the capabilities to produce additional publications and web material. I intend to share my experience with MacBits readers as it happens.

### Cool Contest!

Here's a way to win a year of FREE MacMAD membership!... ATTENTION: MacMAD is holding a contest!! The member bringing in the largest total of money from sales of ads for the MacBit Newsletter will receive a 1 year free membership to MacMAD. This contest is good till September 30, 2000. Our winning member will be announced on October 4, 2000. Get your running shoes out and GOOD LUCK!!!!

**Rates For One Year:**  
**\$400** ..... Full Page  
**\$225** ..... Half Page  
**\$130** ..... Quarter Page  
**\$75** ..... Eighth Page

Members receive a 20% Discount from these prices.

### MadMad User Group Special -

## Canvas 8

**from Deneba Software.**

MacMAD members can buy **Canvas 8 Professional** (full retail box version, Street price \$399.95) for **\$249.95** and download only version (normally \$349.95) for **\$199.95**.

In addition, members will receive a free Advanced Canvas Techniques training CD-ROM and free ground shipping.

URL for this offer is <http://www.deneba.com/groupoffer>.

*This offer is not available through other sales channels.*

## About MACMAD



MacMAD is a user group devoted to helping each other explore the possibilities opened by the Apple Macintosh. We publish this newsletter, operate a web site ([www.macmad.org](http://www.macmad.org)), and hold meetings on the first Wednesday and third Tuesday of each month. **Our TeleFinder BBS is now available at [bbs.macmad.org](http://bbs.macmad.org).**

After each meeting all are welcome at a local restaurant where we indulge in a festive open discussion over pitchers of cokes, beers, and food stuffs galore. Here the true spirit of the world of Mac is exposed, many acquaintances are made and expertise shared openly. Thus our name, MacMAD, which stands for "Macintosh Meeting And Drinking Society."



## Meetings

**Meeting  
Hours!  
7-8:30 PM**

### Tuesday, Jan. 21st

Jay Flemming (one of our own) is doing a presentation on Appleworks!

**7:00 to 8:30** at the Melbourne Library, Fee Ave. in downtown Melbourne. Check our bbs for info!

### Wednesday, Feb. 4th

Help session. Bring your questions, Macs or ideas for help or helping members. EauGallie Library **7:00 to 8:30 pm**

### Tuesday, Feb. 17th

To Be Announced **7:00 to 8:30** at the Melbourne Library, Fee Ave. in downtown Melbourne. Check our bbs for info!



Stay posted to MacMAD web page for updates and news on meetings! [www.macmad.org](http://www.macmad.org)

Moved? Address Correction Requested.



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**MACMAD**