

Background Patterns For Your Documents
WordPerfect Magazine
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Would you like to add fresh interest to a title page or short announcement you're creating? How about applying the "wallpaper" pattern shown in Figure 1 below? While you may not want to use this application on a doctoral dissertation, almost anything else is fair game.

Because this is such an inventive use of graphics – and because designing the page manually is a monstrous undertaking – WordPerfect Magazine presents this application as the included PAPER1.WPM and PAPER2.WPM macros.

Using the Macros

Start with a clean document screen. Press Macro (Alt-F10), type "paper1" and press (Enter). The macro first creates the large page border box, then the smaller box that holds all your text. You'll quickly find yourself in the graphics Edit screen. The macro is now finished.

To fill in the box, choose a font, set your line height, position the text and do whatever is required to get the look you want. Because the macro has finished running, you can go back and forth from this screen to View Document to check your work. To get to the View Document screen, press Exit (F7) twice, then press Print (Shift-F7), (6) View Document. Press Exit (F7) when done. To edit the figure box, press Graphics (Alt-F9), (1) Figure, (2) Edit, type 2 and press (Enter). Press (9) Edit and make the adjustments to your text. When you're ready to apply the wallpaper, return to the document screen. Save this portion of your work by pressing Save (F10), typing "wallpaper" (or some name that you prefer) and pressing (Enter).

At the document screen, press Macro (Alt-F10), type "paper2," then press (Enter). The macro takes you into the graphics directory you've specified in Setup: Location of Files. You'll be prompted to "Highlight the desired graphic and press (Enter)." After making your selection, you'll see the graphic Edit screen show up a number of times as the macro retrieves and positions the images used to make up the wallpaper. When the macro ends, you'll be in View Document looking at the finished product. If you don't like the effect created by this graphic, clear your screen, retrieve the wallpaper file you saved a moment ago and rerun the macro, choosing a different graphic.

Points to Ponder

Refer to Figure 1 below and examine the images. Because of the size of the graphic used in the wallpaper, you'll see an overall pattern before you notice the specific graphic. Keep this in mind when choosing your graphic. The page on the right, with the dancers, was shown to several co-workers. Responses ranged from "It looks like a person dancing across the page," to "It looks like an umbrella," to "It's the Morton Salt girl." If you really want to advertise a dance class or production, you don't want your announcement to remind people of rain or salt.

The shape of the graphic you choose can be important. Different shapes can be used to help create different effects. Experiment to see which images work best for the wallpaper look you're trying to achieve.

Explaining the Macros

PAPER1.WPM is simple. All four margins are set in lines 2 and 3. Line 4 creates the tab settings needed for PAPER2.WPM. Line 5 advances the first line of the document down to 1.15". Line 6 creates the page border. Line 7 creates the [Fig Opt] code that gives the second box (lines 8-9) its drop shadow. Line 8 creates and positions the second box. Line 9 sizes the box and finishes formatting it by center justifying the text.

PAPER2.WPM creates several boxes that need individual alterations. The first thing the macro does is turn on Reveal Codes (line 2). This simplifies copying graphics throughout the macro. The {Page Down} on line 3 correctly positions the cursor. Line 4 creates a box and goes into List Files so you can choose an image.

Lines 5-11 keep you in the directory. Since the macro uses the Graphic on Disk option, an image from any other directory wouldn't show up (which could cause major frustration). Line 12 assigns the name of the graphic you select to variable Graphic, then line 13 cancels out of the menu and the graphics box and calls label Create (line 43).

Label Create (lines 43-46), called by lines 13, 19 and 20, builds the boxes and retrieves the image you selected earlier.

Line 14 goes into the Edit screen and positions the image, exits back to the document screen, deletes the box, then restores it. This stores the image in WordPerfect's delete buffer so it can be copied.

Label Dup (lines 47-51), called by lines 15, 21 and 22, positions and restores the image six times. (Can you imagine doing all this by hand?) Line 16 positions the seventh box with an advance command, and lines 17-19 "manually" position the graphic in the top right corner, then use another advance command to position the upcoming line.

Lines 20-21 create the second row of boxes, while lines 22-25 create and position the third row of boxes. Lines 26-27 block the second and third rows so that line 28 can copy them four times. The {FOR EACH} loop in lines 29-31 deletes the contents of boxes 25, 26, 31, 32, 39 and 40. These are the six boxes in the center of the wallpaper.

The {FOR EACH} loop in lines 32-37 adjusts the graphics and box positions of boxes 24 and 38 so that they appear partially hidden behind the box in the center of the page. The penultimate step is to adjust the position of box 33 (line 38) so that it also looks partly hidden.

A spare hard return is deleted at the bottom of the document (line 48), and you're left in the View Document screen (line 42).

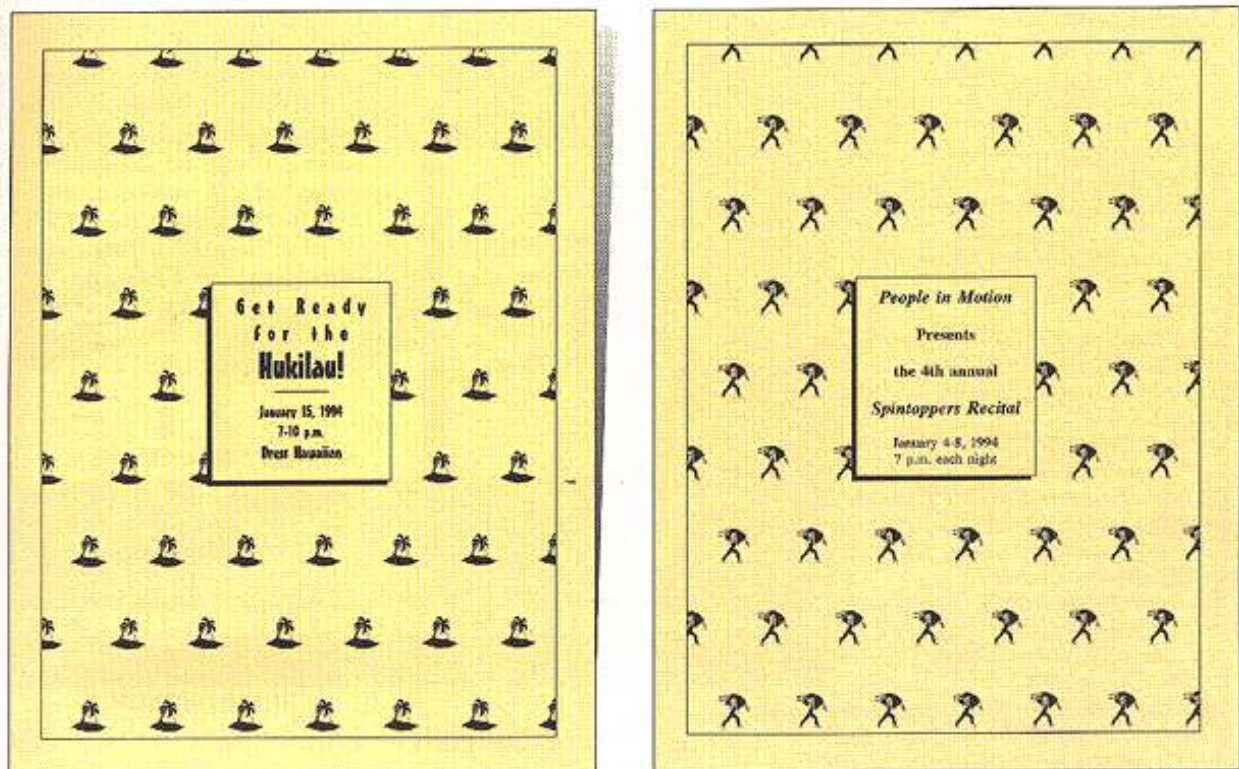


Figure 1. The page on the left shows a good use of PAPER1.WPM and PAPER2.WPM. The page on the right is an example of a confusing image. At first glance many people might mistake the dancing couple for umbrellas.