

TIPS and HINTS

Unfortunately the TI-99/4a can only display 16 colors. If you attempt to display a GIF picture that contains 256 colors with a lot of fleshtones, the result won't be pretty. Try displaying such pictures using either the greyscale or monochrome viewing modes. Many high-color GIFs will look good only if you alter the brightness when viewing them in the greyscale or monochrome mode.

Always use the monochrome mode to convert a picture if you want to print the picture using a dot matrix printer with TI Artist. Although color pictures do not print well in black and white, they usually print fine when saved in the monochrome mode.

SPECIAL THANKS

Without the following individuals GIF Mania would have never been released. They deserve a special "Thank You" for their time, effort, and dedication to the TI-99/4a computer. Special thanks to Barry Boone, the amazing author of GIF Mania and many other valuable TI utilities; Steve Lamberti for standing behind the entire project.

LIMITED WARRANTY

Texaments extends no warranty for GIF Mania beyond the physical part consisting of the data diskettes and documentation. This limited warranty does not extend to the programs and data files contained in the software media and described in the documentation. The user takes sole responsibility for the use of, improper use of, and loss of use, of the programs and data files contained in the software media.

The data diskette included with GIF Mania are warranted to be free from defects in material and workmanship under normal use and conditions for a period of 90 days from date of delivery to the original purchaser. All defective diskettes will be replaced free of charge when returned within the 90 day warranty period postage prepaid to Texaments. After the warranty period expires all replacements will require a fee of \$5.00 to accompany the original diskette and a valid sales receipt.

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GIF MANIA

*Part of the TI Artist Productivity
Software Series*

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for purchasing GIF Mania -- the only program ever developed that allows industry standard GIF files to be viewed on an ordinary TI-99/4a. In addition, GIF Mania can convert any GIF file into a TI Artist picture.

If you don't already know what a GIF file is, let us explain. GIF, which stands for Graphics Interchange Format, is a universal graphics file format that was originally developed by CompuServe. CompuServe (the largest on-line information service in the United States) developed this format so that users of all different computer types could exchange graphics files regardless of what computer platform (IBM, Apple, Commodore, Atari, or TI) they were using. In a few short years this universal format took hold and is now a world-wide graphics standard. Over 100,000 GIF images currently exist throughout the world today. Many of these GIF images are available to you free through on-line services and user groups. A small collection of GIF images have been included on your program diskette.

LOADING THE PROGRAM

GIF Mania may be loaded using TI Extended Basic, Editor/Assembler, TI Writer, or the Funnelweb system. The loading procedure (from drive one of your system) for each is as follows:

Extended Basic: GIF Mania may be autoloading from Extended Basic, or run using the RUN "DSK1.LOAD" command from the basic > prompt.

Editor/Assembler: Select option 5 from the Editor/Assembler menu (Run Program File) and enter DSK1.GM

Please refer to the Funnelweb instructions for information regarding the loading of assembly language programs.

USING GIF MANIA

The first option on the screen, "Load GIF/TI Artist", allows you to display a GIF or TI Artist picture on your screen. When you select this option, you will be prompted to enter the name of the picture file that you wish to load. If you're loading a TI Artist file do not include the "_P" or "_C" file extensions with your file name. Any valid name of up to 40 characters in length may be entered. At this point the program will scan the file to determine its type. If it's a TI Artist file it will immediately be loaded and displayed. If it's a GIF file you will be informed of the picture's original number of colors and resolution. The software will then ask you the following:

Color Select (I/D/G/M):

"I" stands for intensity, while "D" is for deviation. What the software wants to find out is how to choose which TI colors it should use to display the original colors of the GIF picture. Selecting "I" will usually give you the best results. However, there are times when "D" will deliver a better image.

"G" stands for greyscale, while "M" is for monochrome. If you intend to print the picture in black and white (using TI Artist) you must always select monochrome. Choosing either of these will prompt you to enter a brightness figure (from 0 to 255) that will be used to control the threshold between black and grey or white. Changing this figure can effect the final image quality a great deal so you may want to play with it.

Black Line Mode? (Y/N):

This is a boundry handling mechanism. Again, some pictures look better with it turned on, and some look better with it off. If you display a picture, and the boundries don't look right, try changing this setting.

Condense? (Y/N):

Answering yes to this question allows the software to automatically reduce and proportionalize a picture that was originally larger than the TI-99/4a's display area. The image will be reduced proportionally so that it retains its original shape while not being "clipped" at the edges. For example, this allows you to take a picture that was originally 640 pixels across by 400 pixels down and make it fit on the screen all at once. You may elect not to condense the image, and simply window around to view the picture.

Left Shift: and Up Shift:

These selections allow you to window around on a picture larger than your screen. The TI's screen is 256 pixels across by 192 pixels down giving you a 256x192 window on whatever size picture you are displaying. This is useful for zooming around on a high resolution picture for the purpose of grabbing high resolution instances.

SAVING A PICTURE

Converting a picture to work with TI Artist is simple using GIF Mania. Select "Save TI Artist" from the main menu and enter your DEVICE.FILENAME. The *device* is the drive you would like to save the picture to, while the *filename* is the name you wish to give the picture. For example, DSK1.TEST. Make sure the filename you enter does not exceed 8 characters in length, otherwise TI Artist will not be able to load that file.

CATALOGING THE DISK

The disk catalog is capable of displaying the directory of a floppy, hard and RAM drive. To use it, select menu option 4 and enter the name of the device you wish to catalog when prompted. For example, to catalog a floppy drive you might enter DSK1 as the device. If you wanted to catalog a hard drive in the GIF subdirectory you would enter WDS1.GIF. Simply put, you may catalog any valid device.

For your convenience the program was designed to automatically strip off the filename from the most recently accessed file and make that device the default device. For example, if you just loaded a picture called DSK3.PICTURE, the default device name would be DSK3 when you select the disk catalog option.