

504

appear as "DSK1.MCP_THING" as well. MacFlix Tools does not set a creation date for the file in the header, so the date will appear as January 1, 1904 on the Macintosh. This may generate some erroneous warnings from some Macintosh virus detection programs.

A rectangular box with a halftone background containing the text "MacFlix Professional" in a stylized, italicized font.

**MacFlix
Professional**

**JP Software
2390 El Camino Real, #107
Palo Alto, CA 94303**

©1989 J. Peter Hoddie

Distributed by JP Software

MacFlix Professional

©1989 J. Peter Hoddie

Distributed by JP Software

Introduction

MacFlix Professional adds new features and enhances existing features of MacFlix. In addition to many changes in the main program, a completely new program MacFlix Tools, has been added as well. The new MacFlix Professional together with MacFlix Tools provides an extremely powerful group of tools for working with MacPaint pictures on your TI computer.

This manual is a supplement to the main MacFlix manual. Almost all of the material contained in the original MacFlix manual still applies to MacFlix Professional. The purpose of this manual is to document the changes between MacFlix and MacFlix Professional, and to completely document the MacFlix Tools program.

The Disk

The MacFlix Professional disk contains many files. These are enumerated below.

MFP1	First file of MacFlix Professional
MFP2	Second MacFlix Professional file
MFPTOOLS	MacFlix Tools
LOAD	Extended BASIC load program
PCT/MACFLX	Converter for PC-Transfer
MACFLIX	Original MacFlix program

Running the Programs

The following files may be loaded from Editor/Assembler option 5.

MFP1
MFPTOOLS
MACFLIX

You may also place the MacFlix Professional disk in drive one and select Extended BASIC. A menu will be presented allowing you to run MacFlix Professional, or MacFlix Tools. The original MacFlix may not be run from this menu however.

MacFlix Professional Enhancements

This section describes new features and enhancements in MacFlix Professional beyond the original MacFlix.

Supports Any Size Picture

Perhaps the most important enhancement to MacFlix is the ability to handle MacPaint pictures of any size. MacFlix now goes out to disk to get any portion of a picture that it cannot load into memory. This means that you can now access any MacPaint picture. The only draw back is that because the program must access the disk, the display of the picture may be somewhat slower. Furthermore, you must not remove the disk containing the picture from the drive while viewing or printing the picture, or MacFlix Professional will display or print garbage.

When viewing a picture in a high resolution mode, certain areas of the screen may appear to flicker

when MacFlix Professional accesses the disk. When disk access is complete, the flicker will disappear.

Saving TI-Artist Instances

It is now also possible to save TI-Artist instances directly off the low-resolution screen. This allows you to create TI-Artist instances directly without having to go through any intermediate steps.

To save a TI-Artist instance, first set a save name for the TI-Artist instance using option 2 off the menu main. To be consistent with TI-Artist this filename should end in "_I" although MacFlix Professional does not enforce this. When viewing a picture in low-resolution mode, press the Equal ("=") key. A set of flashing corners will appear over the picture. The box outlined by these corners indicates the area that will be saved as a TI-Artist instance. Use the arrow keys (ESDX) to position the entire box. Use the arrow keys with the function key down to adjust the lower right hand corner of the box. When you have selected the region that you want to save, press ENTER. The area will be saved as a TI-Artist instance and the flashing cursors will disappear. If there is an error while saving, the screen will briefly flash as when saving other types of pictures. If you hit the Equal key by accident and want to get rid of the flashing cursors, press Equal again or Function 9 to return to normal viewing mode.

Printing - OverStrike Count

The printing section of MacFlix Professional has also been enhanced with two additions.

First, you may now set an "Over strike count." This determines how many times each line will be over struck on your printer. The default value is one, although it may be set as high as nine. Using this option allows you to create darker printouts at the expense of speed. To set the over strike count simply hit the desired number at the print setup screen.

Printing - Justification

On the print setup screen there is now also an option for "Justification." This only applies to printing on low resolution Epson printers. The setting is ignored on other printers. The Justification feature helps to overcome the fact that the entire width of a MacPaint picture cannot be printed on these printers. This is because a MacPaint picture is 576 dots across and these printers can only print 480 dots across. In the original MacFlix, the right side of the picture was lost when printing to these printers. By setting the Justification you can choose which portion of the picture is printed. The default is to Left justification which causes the right side of the picture to be lost. You can set the justification to Left, Right, or Middle by pressing L, R, or M respectively on the print setup screen.

Remember to keep the disk with the MacPaint picture you are printing in the disk drive while printing, as MacFlix Professional may need to go back to the disk to read parts of the picture.

MacFlix Professional Changes

This section documents areas of MacFlix Professional that differ from the original MacFlix.

Invert

The main menu option "Invert" has been removed. Instead, you may now press "T" to toggle between inverted and not inverted when you are viewing a picture. If the picture is inverted when you are viewing it, it will be printed inverted.

Super-Cart Support

MacFlix Professional no longer makes use of a Super-Cart to load larger pictures. The Super-Cart was originally supported as a way to use larger pictures. Because MacFlix Professional can now handle any size picture, this feature was removed.

Buffer Size

The buffer size in MacFlix Professional has been reduced to about 22K. This reduction was necessary in order to fit the new features into the program. This should not prove to be a great problem, since the size of the buffer no longer limits the size of the picture which can be loaded.

MacFlix Tools

Introduction

The MacFlix Tools program provides a several functions to enhance the use of MacPaint pictures on the TI. First it provides a batch print option which allows you to easily print a disk full of MacPaint pictures. Secondly, it provides you with a way to shrink and mirror MacPaint pictures so that they can be more useful on the TI. Finally, it provides a method for converting TI-Artist pictures to MacPaint format.

Using MacFlix Tools

When you start up MacFlix Tools the title screen appears. Press any key to proceed to the main menu. The main menu is shown below.

Main Menu

1. Batch Print
2. Transform
3. Convert
4. Delete File
5. Catalog Disk
6. Quit

To use a particular feature, press the number key associated with that feature.

The Delete File, Catalog disk, and Quit functions behave in exactly the same way as in MacFlix Professional. They are documented in detail in the MacFlix manual.

Batch Print

The Batch Print section of MacFlix Tools lets you print out an entire disk (or hard drive subdirectory) of MacPaint pictures. When you enter this section, you are prompted

Enter Directory to Catalog:

At this prompt you should enter the drive number or hard disk directory name with which you wish to work. The format of the drive name or hard disk directory name is the same as accepted with the MacFlix catalog command.

After you enter the disk or directory information, MacFlix Tools builds a list of all DIS/FIX 128 files available. The list appears on the screen as shown below.

```
> PICTURE1 <
  PICTURE2
  PICTURE3
```

```
P to mark
A to mark all
Space to unmark
Enter to print
```

The markers indicate which file is currently active. Press P to mark that file for printing, or the Space bar to unmark it. You may use the up and down arrow keys, as well as Page Up and Page Down (Function 4 and Function 6). To mark all files for printing press A. To unmark all files, press U. Press Function 9 to select another directory or disk.

When you have marked all the files you want to print, press ENTER.

When you press ENTER, you will be provided with the same Print setup screen as used in MacFlix Professional. Set up the over strike count, and printer name as you like. Then press the letter of the printer type you have. Each picture will be printed on a separate page. As each picture is printed, its name is displayed at the bottom of the screen.

Note: if you have selected Invert on the Transform screen (explained below) the pictures will be printed out inverted as well.

Warning: When the batch print option is used, MacFlix Tools performs no checking to make sure that the picture to be printed is actually a MacPaint picture. If you try to print out a DIS/FIX 128 file that is not a MacPaint picture (such as an Archive file) the results are unpredictable. Usually MacFlix Tools will recognize it as an invalid picture after it starts printing. It will then eject the current page from the printer, and continue with the next printer.

When the batch print operation is complete you will be returned to the main MacFlix Tools menu.

Transform

The transform option allows you to perform certain kinds of modifications to a MacPaint picture and save the result to a second MacPaint picture. You may perform any combination of four different

transformations. The picture may be shrunk horizontally, vertically, it may be mirrored from left to right, and the image may be inverted.

When you select Transform, you are presented with a list of settings. It appears as follows.

```
Invert: N
Mirror: Y
Horizontal: 2
Vertical: 2
```

Press the first letter of each option to change it. For example, pressing I would change invert to Y (i.e. Yes, do invert). Pressing M would change Mirror to N (i.e. No, do not mirror). Pressing H allows you to enter a value from 0 to 8 for the horizontal shrinking factor. A value of 2 causes the picture to be shrunk by half, 3 would shrink it to a third its original size, and so on. A value of 0 or 1 performs no shrinking. Similarly pressing V allows you to set the vertical shrinking factor.

When you have the transformation settings the way you want them, press ENTER. You are now prompted for an input file. Enter the name of the file you wish to transform. If there is an error in opening the file, you will be prompted for the filename again.

Next you are prompted for an output file. Enter the name of the new MacPaint picture to create. If this file can be opened, the transformation process will proceed and then you will be returned to the main menu. If the output filename is invalid, you will be prompted to re-enter it.

Convert

The convert option allows you to convert a TI-Artist picture to MacPaint format. This could be useful if you have access to a Macintosh and wish to print out your TI-Artist pictures on a LaserWriter printer, or if you wish to share your creations with Macintosh owners. Only the picture file (_P) portion of the TI-Artist picture is used in the conversion since MacPaint pictures contain only black and white information.

When you choose Convert you are prompted for an input file. Enter the name of the TI-Artist picture file you wish to convert such as DSK1.PICT_P. You are next prompted for an output file. Enter the name of the MacPaint picture to create. The conversion then takes place and you are returned to the main menu.

On Saving MacPaint Pictures

When you use Transform and Convert you are creating MacPaint pictures on your TI computer. MacFlix Tools puts a proper header on these files so that they may be properly uploaded to a Macintosh computer. The file will appear on the Macintosh with the appropriate icon, as a Macintosh user would expect. MacFlix Tools has to store a filename for the Macintosh to use as well (you will recall that MacFlix Professional displays the name of the Macintosh filename on the menu screen). MacFlix Tools uses the full pathname of the file that you create. Therefore, if you converted a TI-Artist picture to the MacPaint file "DSK1.MCP_THING" on your TI, the filename on the Macintosh would