

## Coloring graphics using the AW Paint Environment by Cindy O'Hora

My son plays football for his high school. I wanted a football graphic to look as much like his uniform as possible. I turned to my clip art collections and AppleWorks. I used AppleWorks paint environment to color a black and white image to the school's colors.

### Rules of the road for paint.

- When you make a mistake (I promise it will happen!), use Undo to go back one step. You cannot undo more than the last action you took. Edit ... Undo (Command ... z).
- In the beginning of exploring paint it is a good idea to save frequently. Doing this allows you to also use the revert command to return to the last saved step.
- A paint document's size is defined by pixels. The default size is 468 pixels across by 648 pixels down. Adjust the size of the document by going Format ... Document.
- I find it very helpful to use the enlarged view for many actions in paint. To enlarge the view: Go to the bottom left corner of the document and hold down on the 100. You'll see a popup menu of view choices. Select appropriately to meet your needs. Doing this only increases or decreases the view of a document **NOT** the actual size of the image.
- You can change the colors offered in the paint fill palette in Preferences.

### For this activity I will be using four paint tools.



The **eye dropper tool** selects a color. Click on the eye dropper, then click on a color visible on the document. It causes the fill palette to select that color.

The **dashed outline rectangle** is called the selection rectangle tool. By surrounding the picture or part of the picture with the outline, you select it. The selection is a rigid rectangular shape.

The **pencil tool** lets you create or change single dots (pixels). You can also use it to draw lines.

Finally, the **tipped paint can** fills with the color chosen in the fill color palette. (The rainbow square just beneath the can.)

## Get painting:

1. Open a new paint document.

2. Go File ... Insert or Edit ... Paste your image on to the paint page.

3. Pour it on



**To fill the jersey with a color:**

Select the tipped paint can, hold down on the fill color (rainbow) palette and select the desired color.

Note that the fill indicator color of the rectangle changes to the color selected. (dark blue)

Position the paint can cursor over the shirt as shown and click.

Ahhh! Not only did the shirt color change, but also many other parts of the image.

I let this occur deliberately to demonstrate the necessity of the next step.

Go Edit ...Undo. The blue color is gone. The image is back to black.



## It's everywhere!

When you "pour" the fill paint, it flows along all the continuous paths of color of the pixel that the tip of the pouring paint touches. In this case, the black color is broken in spots by white pixels. But you can see that the black color flows unbroken over much of the image. The blue fill flows on the black until it meets another color.

Had I chosen a white pixel to click on, not only would the adjacent white pixel(s) change, but in many places, the color would also flow out to cover all of the white background of the paint document.

When this happens to you (I promise it will!), immediately go **⌘** ...z (Edit ... Undo).

#### 4. Define the edge:

This project requires some fine tuning of the image to "trap" the filling paint. To accomplish this you'll need a better view so that you can change some of the black pixels to the desired color around the edges.

Go to the enlarge view popup menu and increase the view to 400%. (See the rules.)



The figure at the left shows my enlarged view of the edge of the helmet.

Select the pencil tool. Position it over a pixel and click one time. The pixel will change to the selected fill color. Double clicking the pixel will change it to white. Click only one time to fill with your chosen color.

In this example, I have replaced black pixels with blue to block the fill from "bleeding" from the shirt to the helmet.

Work your way around the entire image and change the pixels (in my case black to blue) where you want to limit the color to the fill color.

#### 5. Try pouring again:

Return to 100% view.


Select the paint can tool and click within the defined area. Hopefully you caught all the tracks. If you have, your color will stay within the defined area. If it doesn't, you at least get a clue about where to look for more paint "overflow" spots.

Overflow? - Go Edit ... Undo ⌘ ...z to remove the errant fill and return to the pencil tool with an enlarged view to make changes.

**Got it right? SAVE.** ⌘ ... s.

#### 6. Quick color changes:

As I worked on the leg part of the image, I found that I wanted to quickly switch between the colors black and blue as I changed the pixels with the pencil tool.

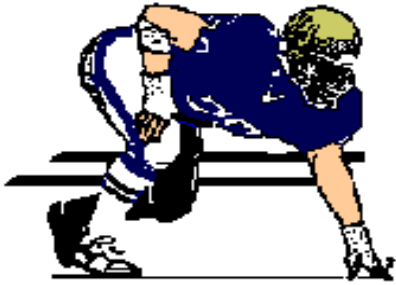
I used the eye dropper to quickly pick up the respective colors. 

Select the eye dropper tool. Then click on the color you want on the image. The fill palette will

automatically change to that color.

To change to another color in the image, click on the eye dropper tool then click on the color in the image. Switch back to the pencil or paint can tool to work.

Every time you get one section just right I urge you to save. I saved with each arm, the jersey, the helmet, & the pants. I had no desire to start over or unpaint a mess.




Tweak, Tweak, Tweak

While working on this image, I found that leaving a one pixel outline of black around the blue jersey produced a sharper look.

I also decided to darken the blue as I worked. All I had to do was select the darker blue and then use the paint can tool to "pour it".

## 7. Take it with me:

The final step in the process is to select the image on the paint page so I can take it to my poster. Use the lasso tool to grab the image. Drag it around the image. (Sometimes shrinking the view will make that easier.)

Then go Edit ... Copy or  ... c.

The only thing missing from this image is the fierce look of determination on my son's face.

Any coach can teach how to win. An exceptional coach teaches how to play and lose with dignity, integrity, and honor. This is **never** achieved through screaming obscenities, punishment, or public denigration. It is taught by example.

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