

Using Fill in AppleWorks Paint

by Cindy O'Hora

I taught you how to [change individual colors](#) in a clip art image. I used the paint can tool. The Fill command will also change colors of clip art. But the results are slightly different.

This exercise will create a shadow of a clip art image. Adding a shadow to an image gives it depth.

Open a Paint document.

1. Insert or paste a multicolored clip art image. Many are available in the libraries AW5 or clippings AW6.
2. Select the image. Click on the dotted rectangle selection tool. Hold down the command key as you drag the cursor over the image. You should have a cookie cutter selection with no background white included.
3. Go Edit ... Duplicate. (⌘... d.) Drag the new copied image away from the first to an area lower on the page. **DO NOT click!**
4. Select in the paint fill palette a shade of gray. Go Transform ... Fill. Your image is now all gray. Every color within the selected area has been changed. Most of the detail is lost as well.

If you had used the paint can to pour the color, you would have had to repeatedly pour until each color had been changed.

In a complex picture with many colors and tones this would take hours. The Fill command will change all those colors to the selected one in one quick pick.



Delightful, don't you think?

5. Hold down the command key and use the selection rectangle to select only the original colorful image. Use the cursor to drag it over and slightly offset of the grayed image. It is important to consider carefully how you position the image relative to the shadow.

In the example I put the shadow to the left back because the ghost is looking right and the house is facing right. It would look silly to place the shadow to the right back. But the beauty of computers is the ease of experimentation. Feel free to play with the relative positions.

6. To grab your finished creation ... Hold down the command key and use the selection rectangle to select the finished image and copy it. Now you can paste it in your desired destination.



Before image



After shadow added

Flexible filling ... You can "Fill" with solid colors, patterns, gradients, even fill textures.

Many of my regular readers expect me to conclude this tip with some corny saying like "Now that I have filled you in on Fill, I feel pretty full of myself." But I'm bigger than that! I will say instead, "Go forth and fill others in on the Paint Fill command." ;-)

"Effort is only effort when it begins to hurt." ~ Ortega y Gasset

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