

Flame Painter Manual

Introduction

Welcome to Flame Painter.

Flame is a painting program I created as an experimental project in my 'I am an Artist' series. My initial vision was to create an application where anyone could create something beautiful. It was made both as a tool for artists as well as for people without artistic skills who wants to create something unique.

Lack of inspiration is often the reason why we people are not creative, however, the tools that we use can become the inspiration for creativity. I think with tools which inspire you, everyone can be an artist.

This is why Flame Painter was born.

This manual covers the features of the application and tells you what you need to know to get painting. There is a range of flame brush parameters available, just experiment with different brush settings and maybe you'll find a whole new creative way of self-expression.

Thanks for purchasing Flame Painter. I hope you'll have a great time painting!

Peter Blaškovič

User Interface Window

Color Panel

Brush Color – Select the flame brush color when choosing a “Color” brush. To setup a gradient transition pickup a “Gradient” brush.

Background Color - You can clear a scene with the selected color here.

Color | Gradient - Choose whether you want to paint with one color brush or with gradient colors

Choose your brush color and painting mode here:

Hue – Brush hue

Sat - Brush saturation

Lum - Brush luminance

Lighten | Darken - Color painting mode. There are two painting modes - Lighten (additive mode) is usually for darker background and Darken (subtractive mode) for lighter background.

Opa - Brush opacity

The color you use for painting might not appear exactly the same as you see at the "Brush Color". This is typical of the application and the lighten / darken painting modes.

Tools Panel

Brush – Select the Brush tool

Eraser – Select the Eraser tool

Zoom In – Zoom in on your artwork (at a maximum size of 200%).

Zoom Out – Zoom out from your artwork (at a minimum size of 5%).

Reset Zoom – Check the zoom value here. If you have a Full Resolution Preview, press the button to reset the zoom to 100% (pixel size is 1:1). If you have a Half Resolution Preview, your artwork will be reset to 50%.

Undo - Undo the last painting operation you performed.

Redo - Redo the last operation you undid.

Clr - Clear the artwork.

Brush Panel

These are parameters of the Brush tool for you to experiment with.

Size - Brush Size (1 – 300)

Soft - Brush Softness (1 – 100)

Center - Global Forces (1 - 100)

Focus - Local Forces (1 – 100)

Chaos - Very Chaotic Parameter (0 – 100)

Noise - Crazy Noise Parameter (0-100)

Fill - Switch Fill Brush On/Off

Smooth - Switch Smoothed Brush curve On/Off

Fade - Fade In/Out Brush (0-10). Set the timing for fading in/out.

Detail - Brush Detail (1-4). Set the detail of the flame stroke. When setting the parameter higher the application can slow because it's compute intensive. Use it if you want a smooth detailed stroke, or if you've set up a larger canvas size.

Follow – Flame stroke will follow the mouse more precisely.

Eraser Panel

Set the Eraser tool parameters:

Size – Size of the eraser tool (1-200)

Opacity – Opacity of the eraser tool (0-100)

Gradient Tool

Setup your gradient transition. Simply click on the color button you want to change and select the color from Palette menu. You can switch on/off the color you want to use in the gradient.

Use Gradient Timing - Choose whether you want to change the Gradient Timing or use the gradient as a brush. Choose the timing for the gradient changes.

The Menu Bar

File - Contains items related to loading, saving, and exporting your paintings.

Tools - Contains items related to the painting tools and the canvas.

Help - Contains items that let you get help on the application, or look for updates.

File Menu

The File Menu contains items related to your painting. They work as follows:

New... - Open a New Artwork dialog that allows you to create a new painting.

Open - Open a file dialog that allows you to load a painting from disk.

Save - Save your painting. If you have not saved it before, you are prompted to choose a file format and enter a name.

Save As... - Save a copy of your current painting as a new one. Select a file format and fill in the name.

Export... - Export your painting for usage in third party applications such as Photoshop or Gimp. Select a file format, transparency settings and a name.

Quit - Close the application.

For more information on creating, loading and saving your paintings, see the 'Creating, Loading and Saving Paintings' section later on in the manual.

Tools Menu

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Zoom In - Zoom in on your artwork (at maximum size of 200%).

Zoom Out - Zoom out from your artwork (at a minimum size of 5%).

Reset Zoom - Check up a zoom value. If you have a Full Resolution Preview, press the button to reset the zoom to 100% (pixel size is 1:1). If you have a Half Resolution Preview, your artwork will be reset to 50%.

Full Resolution Preview - Default canvas preview mode, where you can see the artwork in 1:1 resolution. If you choose larger canvas size it can slow down the application.

Half Resolution Preview - Useful for larger canvases because it is 2-3 times faster than the Full Resolution. If the canvas is too large, the application automatically switches to Half Resolution mode. However, it's only the preview, which is reduced; in the computer memory the picture stays in a full resolution.

Undo - Undo the last painting operation you performed. Number of undo-steps depends on your memory settings in the Help | Settings... menu. Maximum number of undo steps is 100.

Redo - Redo the last operation you undid.

Reset Brush – Reset the painting brush to default settings.

Clear Artwork - Clear the artwork canvas.

Help Menu

Help - Open a "Flame Manual.pdf" document.

Settings... - A sub-menu is containing Undo Memory settings. You can choose how much computer memory you want to reserve for application.

Flame Online – Get linked to website - flame.escapemotions.com

About Flame – Get some basic information on Flame, copyright and credits.

Creating, Loading and Saving Paintings

Creating a New Painting

To create a new painting, select the **New...** option from the File Menu, or press Ctrl-N. When you do this, the New file panel appears. This panel lets you set the size of your new painting, and set up the properties of the canvas you're going to be painting on. Size of the canvas is always rounded to even number (e.g. width: 199 pixels is rounded to 200 pixels).

The **Color Button** lets you select the color of the background, including the choice of the preset **White** or **Black** background. If you want to compose the artwork in other applications, switch to **Transparent background** (also called Alpha channel).

Finally, click **OK** to create a new painting, or **Cancel** if you decide not to.

Opening a Painting

To open a painting, select the **Open...** option from the File Menu, or press Ctrl-O. This panel lets you open a picture or previously saved artwork and set up the properties.

The **Color Button** lets you select the color of the background, including the choice of the preset **White** or **Black** background. If you want to set a background color automatically from the picture, choose **Auto Background Color**. If the artwork had been saved as a PNG file format, which is the Flame native format, the background color will be set from the file. Otherwise the application analyzes the picture and tries to set a background color from the picture color palette.

Finally, click **OK** to open the painting, or **Cancel** if you decide not to.

Saving and Exporting a Painting

To save your painting, use the **Save...** option in the File Menu. The native format is a **PNG file format**, which contains all the information about the picture. Use this format if you want to carry on with the painting later.

You can also choose another file formats such as TGA, TIF, BMP, JPG, but these don't contain all the artwork information and may not be opened correctly (background color may be different, or transparency might not be saved in JPG format).

If you wish to save your painting with specific settings or in a form that can be read by other applications, use the **Export...** option in the File Menu. It allows you to save your painting as a PNG, TGA, TIF, BMP, or JPG file.

Choose a **Transparent background (alpha)** if you have created a painting with a transparent background and you want to save its alpha (transparency) channel. JPG file format doesn't contain an alpha channel and fills in the transparent areas with background color.

Select a **Straight Alpha (unpremultiplied)** if you want to compose a painting as a layer with another picture in the third party applications (Photoshop, Gimp). Straight Alpha works best with black or white backgrounds.

Finally, click **OK** to export the painting or **Cancel** if you decide not to.

Keyboard Shortcuts:

New...	Ctrl-N
Open...	Ctrl-O
Save	Ctrl-S
Save As...	Ctrl-Shift-S
Brush Tool	Q
Eraser Tool	E
Increase Tool Size	[
Decrease Tool Size]
Zoom In	+
Zoom Out	-
Reset Zoom	0
Move a canvas	Space Bar
Full Resolution Preview	1
Half Resolution Preview	2
Undo	Ctrl-Z
Redo	Ctrl-Shift-Z
Reset Brush	Ctrl-R
Clear Artwork	Delete
Show User Interface	~
Help	F1

Copyright & Credits

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Concept, Technology Design, Interface & Code: Peter Blaškovič
Backbone Design, Security & Code: Rastislav Hornák

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Thanks to God for all creative ideas.