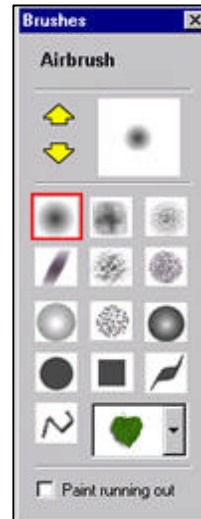


Fresco Tools

The Brushes

Fresco includes a host of exciting brushes that can be used to create interesting textures and effects. The following lists all of the brushes (the Red level is the only level to include all of these by default):

- Airbrush
- Charcoal
- Crayon
- Felt Tip
- Italic Pen
- Paint
- Pastel
- Pen
- Picture Brush
- Spatter Brush
- Spray
- Square Pen
- Watercolour
- Zig Zag Pen

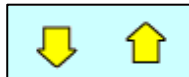


Selecting Brushes



Click the 'Brush' button from the toolbar to launch the brush selection menu. Click the brush you would like to use and begin to 'paint'.

Changing The Width



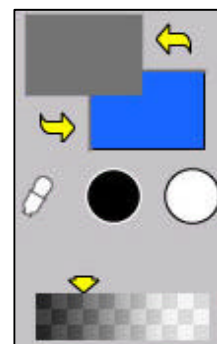
Click the 'Brush' button from the toolbar, click one of the brushes to select it and use the yellow up and down arrows at the top of the dialog box to increase or decrease the width of the stroke.

Painting

'Painting' with the brushes in Fresco is a simple matter of holding down the left mouse key and dragging the mouse across the 'canvas'. You will notice at Blue and Red levels that the paint appears to run out as you continue to make strokes. This applies to the brush, tools but not to the pens. This feature is active by default, but can be switched off by unchecking the option in the 'Brushes' dialog box.

Transparency

At Blue and Red levels it is possible to set transparency for a stroke by using the sliding bar beneath the colour palette. Click on the slider and drag. The further to the left the bar is dragged, the more transparent the stroke will become and vice versa.



Erasers



Click the 'Erasers' button from the toolbar to launch the sub-menu.

There are three different erasers available:



The 'Square' eraser removes all of the paint beneath it using a square stroke.



The 'Round' eraser removes all of the paint beneath it using a round stroke.



The 'Real' eraser acts in a more natural fashion, removing the 'paint' beneath it a little at a time.

Change the width of the stroke by using the up and down arrows.

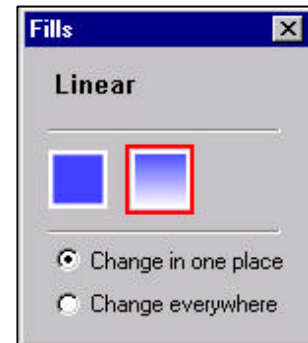
Fills

After clicking the 'Fill' button, select either a solid or linear fill. A solid fill will utilise the active foreground colour. A linear fill will utilise the foreground and background colours.

Click within the area you would like to fill to replace it with the fill of your choice.

At Red level there is a choice of two fill options. 'Change in one place' is the default setting and is described above.

You can also select 'Change everywhere' to fill all areas of the same colour.



Adding Lines And Shapes

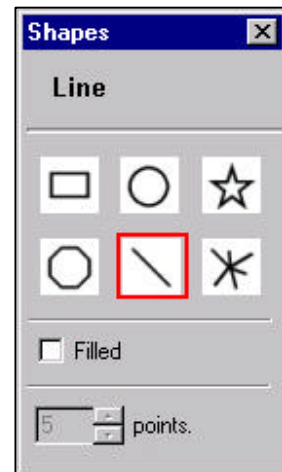


Lines and shapes can be added to a Fresco canvas at any level other than the Yellow level using the 'Shapes' dialog. This can be accessed by clicking the 'Shapes' button on the main toolbar.

For stars and polygons, the number of points/edges can be chosen from the number list box at the bottom of the dialog.

Lines and edges of shapes can be easily modified.

If the 'Radial lines' option is selected, you can stop the stroke by right-clicking.



Line And Shape Options

The colour, width and transparency of the line or shape drawn takes its settings from the current selected colour, width and transparency.

The type of line drawn or the type of shape edge takes its settings from the current brush, effect or eraser.

For example, it is possible to draw a circle with an air brush edge, erase a five pointed star from the painting or draw a circle of leaves!

The Toolbar



The effects available from the Toolbar differ from those available from the 'Image' drop-down menu as they have to be 'brushed' onto particular areas of an image rather than applied to the whole image. The available effects are:

- Blur
- Colourise
- Diffuse
- Smudge
- Clone

Using The Clone Brush



Use the clone brush to 'paint' an exact copy of a region of your picture at another location on the canvas.

Click the 'Effects' button on the toolbar and select the Clone brush. Decide which part of the picture you would like to 'Clone', and then left-click on it.

Move the mouse to another part of the 'canvas' and paint as usual. The area you have selected will be copied in the new location.

Making a Selection



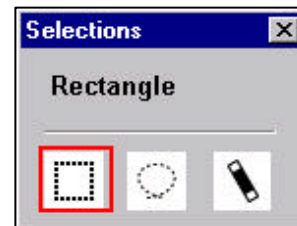
In order to work with a selected area of the screen you will normally have to be working at the Blue or the Red level.

There is a choice of three selection tools:

Rectangular



Click the 'Rectangular selection' button to select a rectangular area. Drag a rectangle on the screen so that it surrounds the area you wish to select. As soon as you release the mouse button the selected area will be fixed.



Lasso



Click the 'Lasso selection' button to select an irregular area. Drag the lasso on the screen so that it surrounds the area you wish to select. As soon as you release the mouse button the selected area will be fixed.

Magic Wand



The Magic Wand is a useful tool that allows you to select an area in which the colour is uniform. Click the Magic Wand, and then click an area of the picture. The area selected will be displayed.

Working with Selections

After you have made your selection there are a number of things you can do with it.

If you click within the selected area and hold the mouse button down, you can move your selection around the page. Releasing the mouse button will fix it to its new position.

With a selection made you can select an option from the 'Area' drop down menu. For example:

- apply an interesting effect like blur, swirl and ripple
- tile the selection across the page
- flip the selection about the horizontal or vertical axis

The selected area can also be:

- painted independently of the rest of the picture
- combined with the symmetry tool to paint symmetrically

After you have made your selection you should simply select a brush tool and paint as normal. To finish painting in the selected area, right click the mouse button.

About Colours

At all levels, the colour palette is situated at the right-hand side of the screen. The actual palette available to you will depend on the level you are working at. At the Yellow level and Green level there is a basic palette of twenty colours. Select a colour by simply clicking it.

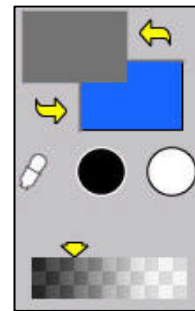
The currently active colour is displayed in the box at the foot of the palette.

Blue and Red levels include transparency, as well as the full list of colour palettes.

Using Two Colours

At the Blue and Red levels, it is possible to have two colours selected at the same time. Selected colours are displayed in the colour blocks below the palette.

The foreground colour is the 'active' colour. Toggle between the two colours by clicking the yellow arrows.



Favourite Colours

At Blue and Red levels, you can use the grey scale palette to store a range of favourite colours.

Simply click the active colour block at the foot of the palette and then drag the block of colour to one of the grey scale blocks.

Release the mouse to confirm the colour.

Sampling Colours



The colour picker tool enables users to 'pick up' colours from the canvas and make them available for painting with. This is a useful way of matching colours that may have been darkened or lightened.

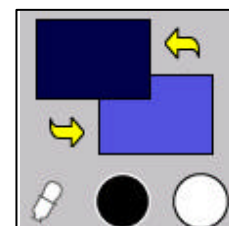
Click the colour picker, place it over the region of colour you would like to sample and click to select it.



Darkening And Lightening Colours

The black and white circles beneath the colour palette are used to make active colours darker or lighter.

One click darkens or lightens the colour by a factor of one.



Other Palettes



At Blue and Red levels, use the palette button to scroll through all of the available colour palettes.

The left and right mouse buttons can be used to move forwards and backwards through the available colour palettes.

The following palettes are available:

1. Spectrum colours and tones
2. Rainbow colours
3. 20 basic colours
4. 10 very basic colours
5. Blue - green gradient
6. Dark blue - dark brown gradient
7. Cold colours
8. Warm colours
9. Natural colours
10. Skin colours
11. Brown gradient
12. Sunset colours
13. Grey scale
14. 220 colour chooser

Painting In Grey scale

At Blue and Red levels there is a simple, grey scale palette available at the side of the colour palette.

Simply click one of the grey scale blocks to make it the active colour. Grey scale shades can be darkened or lightened.

The grey scale palette can also be used for storing favourite colours.



The Area Menu

At Blue and Red levels there are a number of special effects that can be applied to pictures. Choose from the 'Area' drop down menu to:

Tile the painting in different ways

Flip the page about the horizontal or vertical axis

Apply one of these special effects:

- Blur
- Lighten
- Darken
- Swirl
- Wash
- Ripple

Special effects can be applied to the full page or a selected area.

Symmetry



Symmetry is available at all levels. Selecting one of the three options enables reflections to be created about the horizontal axis, vertical axis or both axes.

Click the 'Symmetry' button on the left toolbar and choose one of the options from the sub-menu.



Vertical axis reflection

The 'canvas' is divided into two halves by a vertical axis. What is drawn in one half is reflected in the other.



Horizontal axis reflection

The 'canvas' is divided into two halves by a horizontal axis. What is drawn in one half is reflected in the other.



Vertical and horizontal axes reflection

The 'canvas' is divided into four quarters by a vertical axis and a horizontal axis. What is drawn in one quarter is reflected in the other three.

Tile



The 'Tile' facility is available at all levels.

At the Yellow and Green levels click the 'Tile' button from the toolbar to replace the picture with four smaller versions of itself. If you click a second time, it will be replaced by sixteen smaller images, and so on.

This process can be repeated until the required pattern is achieved. The Undo button can be used to reverse any changes.

At the Blue and Red levels select one of three tiling options from the 'Area' menu option:

Tile

As outlined above.

Tile and Flip

Tiles and reflects about the horizontal and vertical axes.

Tile and Half Drop

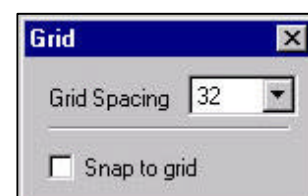
Produces a wallpaper type effect.

Grids

Click the 'Grid' button from the toolbar.

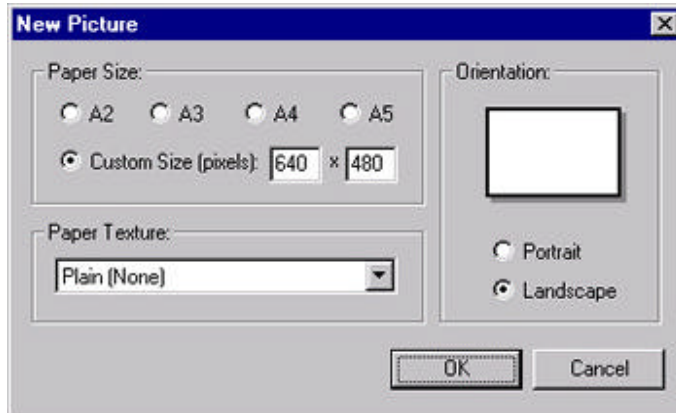
Select a value for the 'Grid Spacing' from the drop-down box. The value is measured in pixels.

'Snap to grid' will make sure that the edges of lines and shapes are aligned with the lines of the grid.



Creating A New Picture

Click the 'New' button or choose 'New' from the 'File' drop-down menu.



Fresco enables you to choose from a range of the most common paper sizes. Check the button by the size you require and click 'OK'.

Set a custom size by checking the option and then typing values into the fields.

Before confirming the new page size, it is also possible to choose from a range of paper textures by selecting one from the drop-down list, and choose the orientation of the page by checking one of the options.

Clicking 'OK' will load the new page in the editing window.