Create Fancy Page Borders
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The attached macro will allow you to create a customized graphic page border for any paper size. This macro allows you to create an appealing "handcrafted" look for your documents. Plus, it works on any paper size your printer allows. Figure 1 below shows some of the borders that can be created with the macro.

Creating the macro

The macro is included as FANCY.WPM. Be sure to place it in the directory that contains your macros.

Using the macro

To use the macro, select a paper size (if you use your default paper size, don't select anything), then press Macro (Alt-F10), type "fancy" and press (Enter).

The macro displays the directory you've entered as your graphic files directory in Setup (Shift-F1), (6) Location of Files. At the prompt, Highlight graphic file, press (Enter), use the arrow keys to position the cursor on the graphic file of your choice and press (Enter).

After you've chosen a graphic file, the message "Please wait, border is being generated," appears. In a few seconds you'll see the figure appear, rotate, then disappear three different times. If you don't see the image, it's either because your machine is quite fast or the file size of the graphic is quite small.

When the macro finishes, you'll be in View Document to view the completed border. Press Exit (F7). The cursor will be in Cell B2 of the table created by the macro. At this point, you can print out your new border, or you can type up to one page of text within the cell.

Because each graphic you use will be different, you might need to modify the macro a time or two, to get just the look you want. The instructions for this are in the next section.

Customizing your border

To modify the macro, press Macro Define (Ctrl-F10), type "fancy" and press (Enter), then press (2) Edit. You'll be in the Macro Editor. Make your changes here, then press Exit (F7) when you're finished.

Lines 3 and 4 of the macro set the size of each graphic used in the border. The macro uses WordPerfect units (w) to size and space the boxes. The default size of the images the macro creates are twice as large (600, which equals 0.5") as the spacing between the images (300).

More complex images look better at a slightly larger size (700-900). The simpler images, those with fewer lines or shading, can still look good in smaller sizes (400-600).

Depending on the image, you can set the spacing to zero in line 4 to create a more solid border. The Jacuzzi example in Figure 1 below was created by setting variable GraphW to 600 and variable Space to zero (0).

If you use a labels paper definition, you'll probably need to change lines 3 and 4 several times to find a set of numbers that gives you the results you want. Rerun the macro after each change to see if you're getting desirable results. If the graphic is too large or the spacing is too close, you'll get overlapping images in the corners of the border.

If you want to be able to place a border on a disk and take it to another computer, you'll need to delete the "22" from line 13 of the macro. These numbers create the border using the Graphic on Disk option, which reduces the size of the resulting file.

In one test I ran, using the Graphic on Disk option reduced a border from 966KB to 11KB – quite a difference. Remember that the vector graphics, like those supplied by WordPerfect, rotate better and give you smaller file sizes than bitmapped graphics. A couple of widely used vector graphic extensions to look for are WPG and CGM.

If the size of the file you create is not a problem, you can delete the "22" from line 13 and add {Enter}{Enter} at the end of line 20. This allows you to move from directory to directory (on the current disk drive) while choosing your image by highlighting the directory you want and pressing (Enter).

The macro vertically centers any text you type inside the border. If you don't want the text to be vertically centered, change the 3 to 1 at the end of line 29.

If you want all of the graphics to be right side up rather than rotated around the page, make the following three changes:

- On line 36 change 9390 to 930.
- On line 41 change 93180 to 930.
- On line 46 change 93270 to 930.

Understanding the macro

This is not a difficult macro to understand; it's just very keystroke intensive.

Line 1 makes sure Reveal Codes (Alt-F3) is turned off. To speed things up, line 2 turns the display off. Once you choose your graphic, the only thing you'll see happen while the macro is running is the rotation of the image in the Graphics Editor screen, because the display always

comes on when a macro enters the Graphics Editor screen. Most graphics take long enough to display that you'll be able to see the image being drawn and rotated.

The graphics boxes will always be square, no matter the shape of the image used. The width and height of all the boxes come from the measurement in line 3. Inches are not used here, because the values placed in lines 3-4 are used in calculations later in the macro. WordPerfect always uses WordPerfect Units (1200ths of an inch) when returning line and position measurements. The spacing between the boxes is determined by the number in line 4. See the section "Customizing your border" above for more information about how to work with these two lines.

Lines 5 and 6 set all four margins in Document Initial Codes to 0.5". If you chose a labels paper definition, the margins from the Format: Labels screen are used instead of the half-inch default. The codes will still be in Document Initial Codes, they'll just be overridden by the label margin settings.

Lines 7-12 take all the remaining measurements needed for the border and assign them to variables. The graphics box created here (line 8) is deleted as soon as the needed measurement (the height of the page) is obtained.

Lines 13 and 14 create the final version of the box to be used all around the border. Line 15 takes you into List (F5) to choose the graphic for the border.

Label Ask (lines 16-24) lets you pick out the image you want, then in lines 25-31 the macro builds and formats the table for the border.

Lines 32-34 retrieve a copy of the graphics box in each column across the top of the table.

Lines 35-39 retrieve a copy of the graphics box and rotate the image 90 degrees, then place copies of the box down the left side of the table.

Lines 40-44 duplicate the process, but rotate the image 180 degrees for the bottom row of the table.

Lines 45-49 rotate the image 270 degrees for the right side of the table.

Finally, all table cells are locked (line 50), the text cell (B2) is unlocked and formatted (line 51), and the macro leaves you in the View Document screen (line 52), so you can view the finished border.
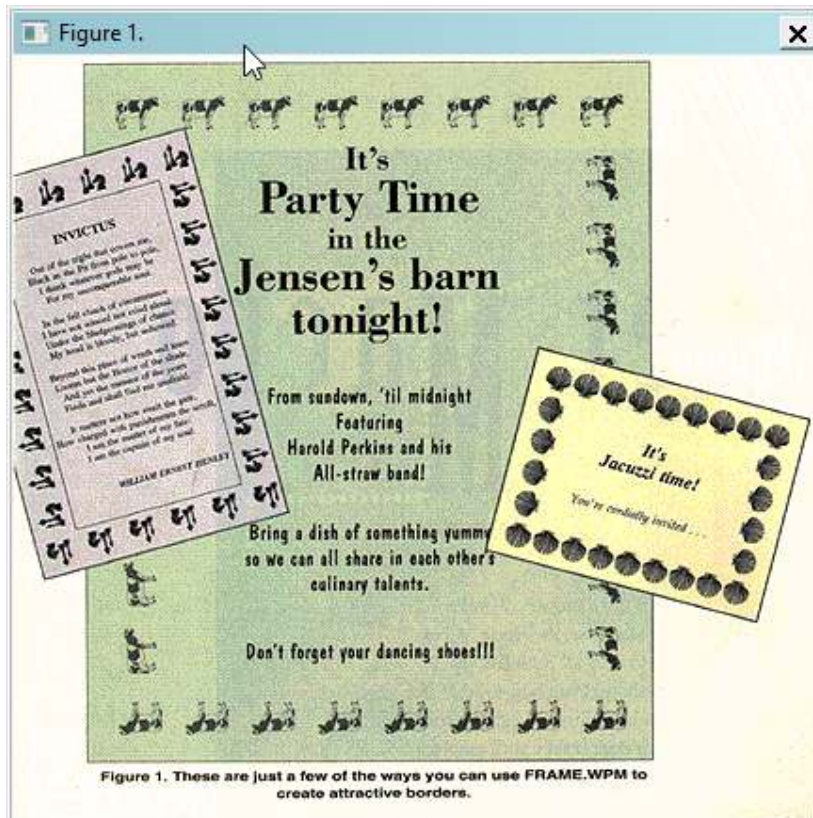
Figure 1. These are just a few of the ways you can use FRAME.WPM to create attractive borders.