

Shading and Toolpaths

When working with logos or designs, you may wish to make them stand out. To achieve this you can use the Shading or Toolpath Function in the Standard Engraving Software. Shading would normally be used with a Diamond Cutter, to produce a Hatched type Shading affect. Toolpaths would normally be used with a Carbide Cutter, on Laminated Plastics and Metals, this is called Deep Engraving and can be paint filled when used on Metals.

Shading

- 1 You can select an image from the Clipart in the Standard Engraving Software or Import one from another source, see Figure 1.



Figure 1



Shading Icon

- 2 Holding the left mouse button drag a box around your logo, it will go Dotty see Figure 2. From the Main Toolbar select the Shading 45° Icon.

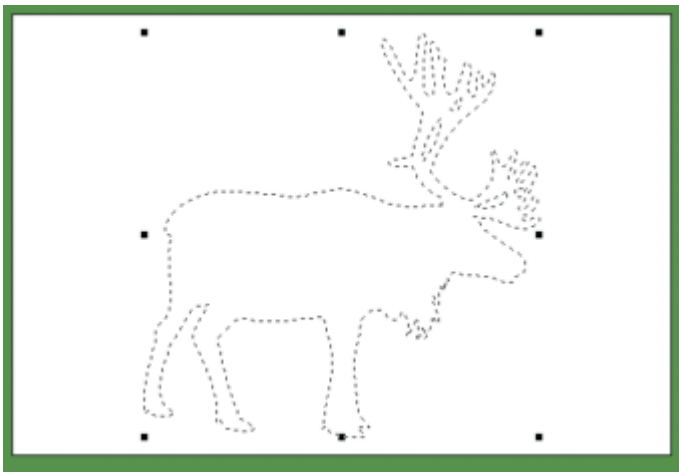


Figure 2

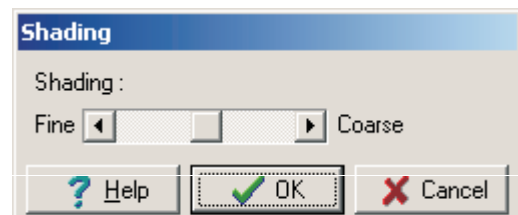


Figure 3

- 3 You will now see a Shading Parameters Dialogue Box, see Figure 3, this will allow you to alter the level of shading. Holding the Left Mouse Button Down, move the slider to the left to make the Shading appear finer, to the right to make the Shading appear coarser. Now Left Click On the area of your selected item, you wish to shade. The results are shown in Figure 4 using the midway setting and in Figure 5 using a fine setting.

Quick Start Guide

Chapter 19 Toolpaths and Shading

- 4 You can Shade different areas in the same drawing, with different Shading Parameters. Select all parts of you drawing similar to Figure 6.



Figure 4

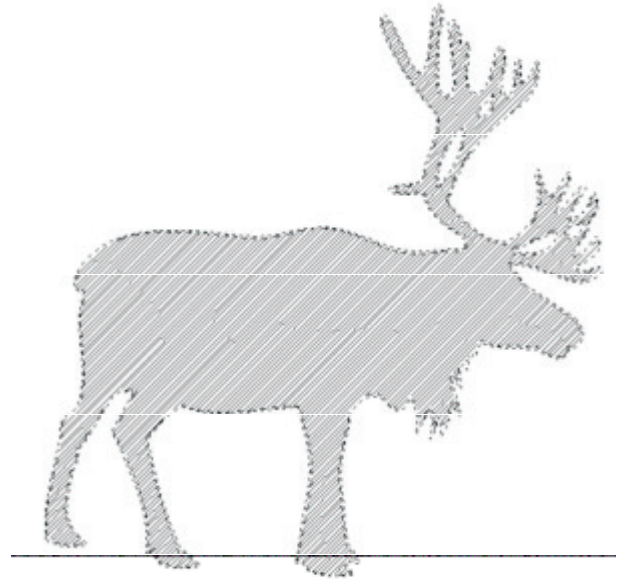


Figure 5

- 5 Select 45° Shading from the Main Toolbar. Select a Medium Shading from the Shading Parameters Dialogue Box. Click somewhere inside the left hand side leaf of the holly, then on the right hand leaf. See the results in Figure 7.

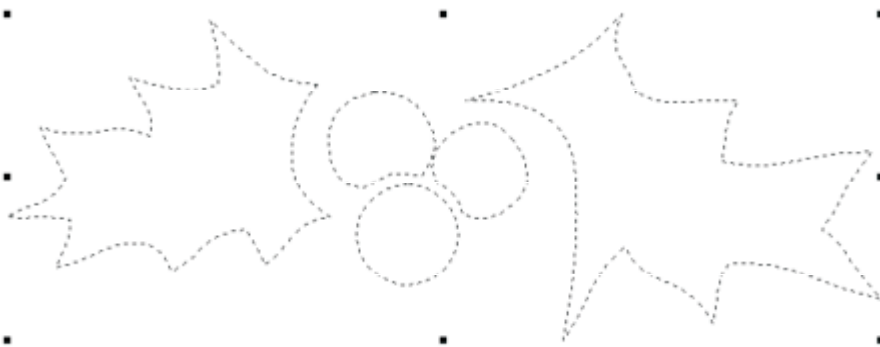


Figure 6

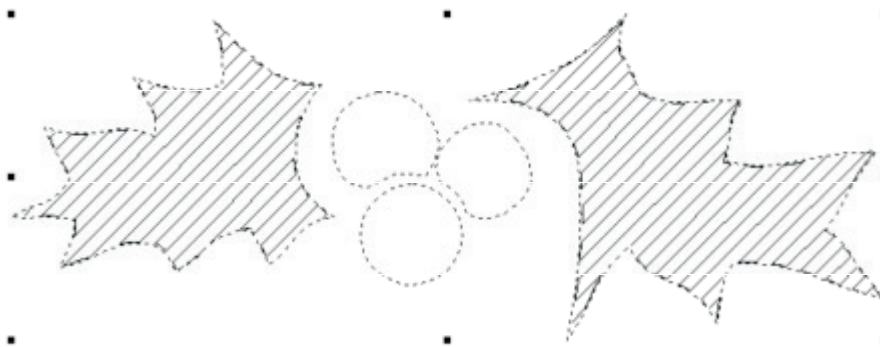


Figure 7

- 6 Ensure that the drawing is still selected i.e. is Dotty and select the Double Hatch from the Main Toolbar. You will
-

now have the familiar Shading Parameters Dialogue Box, move the slide towards fine, see Figure 8. Click On "OK", the Click somewhere inside the holly berries. the results should be similar to Figure 9.

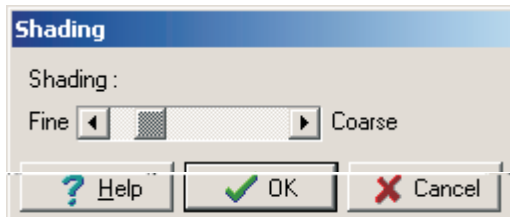


Figure 8

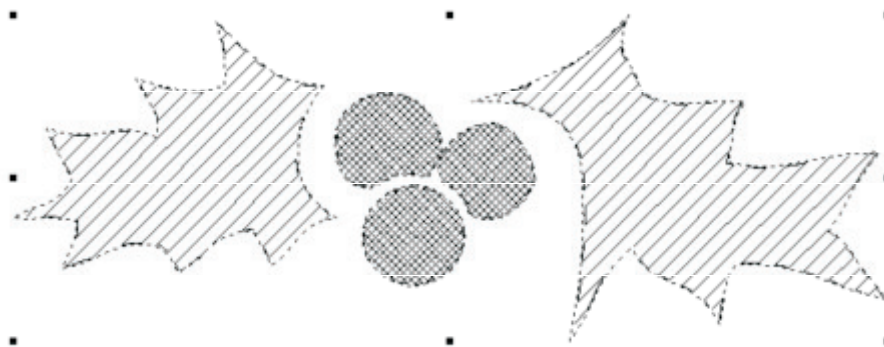


Figure 9

As you can see you can create many interesting effects and designs, to enhance the value of some quite ordinary items by using the unique Shading function, in your Standard Engraving Software.

Toolpaths

Toolpaths would normally be used with a Carbide Cutter, on Laminated Plastics and Metals, this is called Deep Engraving and can be paint filled when used on Metals. If you are working with Logo's or Outline Text you can create custom Toolpaths using the following method.

How to

- 1 Select the Text or Logo, by Holding Down the left mouse and Dragging a box around the objects, they will go Dotty, see Figure 10.

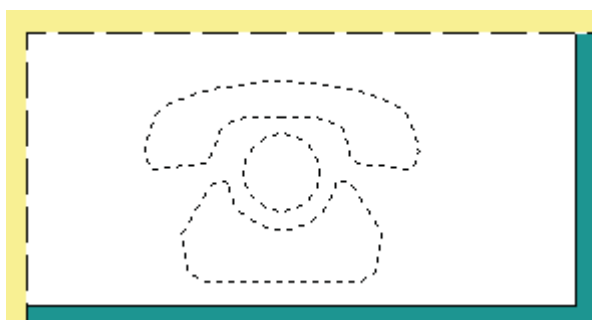


Figure 10

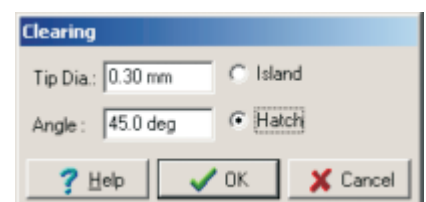


Figure 11

- 2 Once the objects have been selected, Left Click "Faces" on the Main Menu Bar, Then Left Click "Combine to Face". This will ensure that the Toolpaths are created for efficient engraving.



Clearing Toolpath icon

- 3 Left Click On "Production" then Click On "Clearing Toolpath", or select the Clearing Toolpath icon.

Quick Start Guide

Chapter 19 Toolpaths and Shading

- Now select Hatch and then enter the Tip Size of your Carbide Cutter. This is marked on the tube, that the cutter is supplied in. Next enter the Hatch Angle, for most objects 45° gives the optimum efficiency and finish. Click On "OK".



Figure 11

- The software will now calculate the Toolpaths, base on your selection, see Figure 11.

It is worth taking note at this point that a Toolpath Fill takes time to engrave. It will be necessary for you to take this into account when costing the job.

Note : If the fill does not clear the entire image there are a couple of possibilities. Either the image is too small for the cutter tip you have chosen, or the cutter diameter you entered is too large., try a smaller size. For details on other forms of Toolpaths, please refer to your Standard Engraving Reference Manual.
