

User's Guide

Overlay Plug-In

Graphics Overlay Accessory for Packagizer™

Overlay Plug-In Users Guide

For Technical Support Contact:

Plug-In Systems Technical Support

Voice: (303) 530-9344

FAX: (303) 931-2079

e-mail: support@plugin.com

© Copyright 1996 Plug-In Systems - All Rights Reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of Plug-In Systems.

Packagizer is a trademark of Plug-In Systems. All other trademarks are property of their respective owners.

PLUG-IN SYSTEMS

**4578 Starboard Drive
Boulder, Colorado 80301
(303) 530-9344 Phone
(303) 931-2079 FAX
e-mail: info@plugin.com**

Overlay Plug-In Users Guide

CONTENTS

Introduction	4
Installation	5
Getting Started.	6
Using the Overlay Plug-In.	7
Designing Overlay Templates.	9
Software License Agreement	11

Overlay Plug-In Users Guide

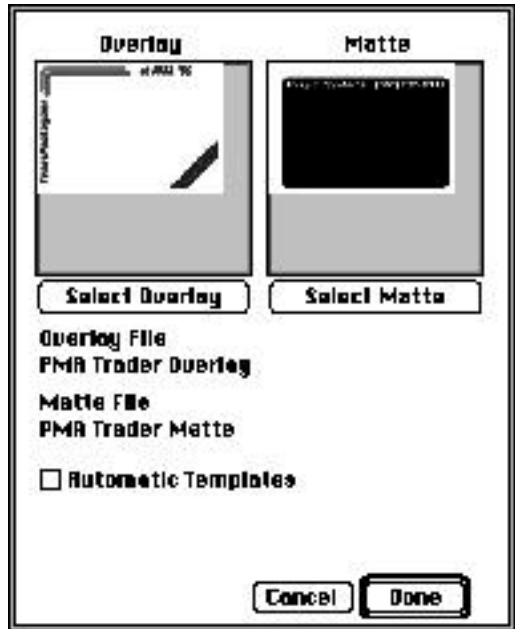
INTRODUCTION

The Overlay Plug-In is an add-on module for use with Plug-In Systems' Packagizer product. With the Overlay Plug-In, users can quickly, and with minimal effort create exciting additions to the photographic images printed with Packagizer.

The Overlay Plug-In can be used to create seasonal borders for event photography, various sports themes for trading card images, magazine cover images for novelty applications, corporate templates for photo business cards, as well as any other situation where adding a graphical overlay would be desirable.

The automatic template selection feature allows mixing different additions, as well as no addition at all to be applied to the individual units of a Packagizer print job.

The user is free to create whatever graphical designs which are required using commonly available, off the shelf tools. There are no restrictions on the colors or designs which can be applied to an overlaid graphics since they are stored as 24-bit, full color images. Because the Overlay Plug-In uses a full 8 bit grayscale matte channel, overlaid graphics may contain variably transparent elements as well.



Overlay Plug-In Users Guide

INSTALLATION

The following instructions allow you to install the Overlay Plug-in for use on your computer.

- 1) Insert the floppy disk Overlay Plug-In into the floppy disk drive on your computer. If the Overlay Plug-In window is not open, double click on the disk icon to open the window.
- 2) Copy the file 'Overlay Plug-In' to your 'Packagizer Folder' on your hard disk. This can be done by dragging the Overlay Plug-In from the Overlay Plug-In Disk, and dropping it on the icon for the Packagizer Folder.
- 3) Shut down the computer and turn off the power.
- 4) Remove the Overlay Plug-In Disk from the floppy disk drive and store it in a safe place.
- 5) Install the software protection device included with the Overlay Plug-In product on Apple Desktop Bus (ADB) on your Macintosh. The ADB is the connection for your mouse and keyboard so that you may connect this device anywhere along this chain. For example, you may plug one end of the software protection device into the ADB port on the back of the computer and then plug the keyboard into the other end of the software protection device. If you have more than one software protection device on the ADB of your Macintosh, you may plug one into another along the same ADB chain.
- 6) Restart the computer... You are now ready to use the Overlay Plug-In.

Overlay Plug-In Users Guide

GETTING STARTED

Included with the Overlay Plug-In are some sample overlay templates to help you get started. Depending on the printer you use, these templates may need to be modified to meet your specific situation. The sample overlay templates are sized for 2.5 X 3.5 (trading card) and 8 X 10 (magazine cover) images at 300 ppi (pixels per inch). For the purpose of this example you may need to select a print resolution from the preferences dialog in Packagizer. Normally you would keep this set to “Automatic”, but in this case select one of the fixed resolutions available and note the number selected. If your printer only supports one resolution, leave this set to Automatic.

You should now resize the example images to fit the desired print size at the above selected resolution using an image editing application such as Photoshop. For example, if you selected a print resolution of 150 ppi and you are printing the 2.5 X 3.5 format, you would need to resize the template files to 375 X 525 pixels.

Now select “Overlay Plug-In” from the Plug-Ins popup menu in Packagizer. When Overlay Plug-In user interface presents itself, click the “Select Overlay” button and select the overlay file which you prepared as described above. Next click the “Select Matte” button and do the same for the matte file. Click the “Done” button to return to the Packagizer user interface.

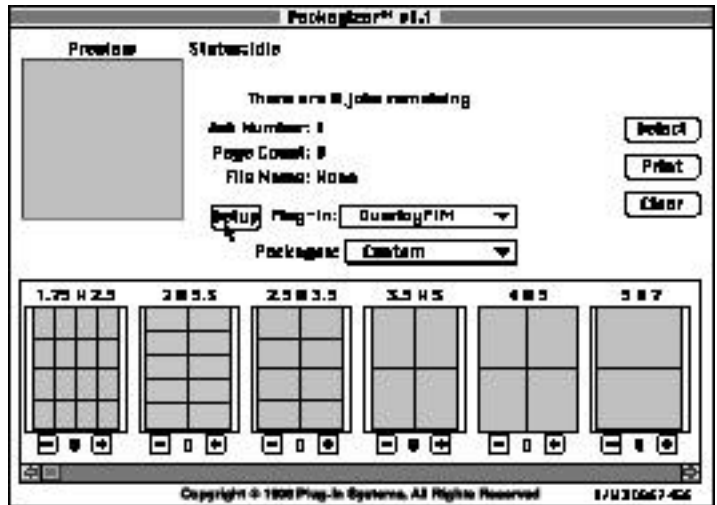
You can now “Select” a file using Packagizer which will have the overlay template applied to it. Select one print of the 2.5 X 3.5 format, and click the “Print” button. Since the sample template is in portrait orientation, select a portrait mode image to print. **FotoPrint users note:** your templates should match the orientation of the printed image. For example, when printing the 2.5 X 3.5 format, always use a template in landscape orientation since that is the orientation they print in.

USING THE OVERLAY PLUG-IN

The Overlay Plug-In was designed to be easy to use, and provide productivity enhancement to the user. Some of the concepts involved with matching a template to an image may not seem straight forward at first, but once the basics are understood, you should find the Overlay Plug-In a great time saver.

As you saw in the Getting Started section, you invoke the Overlay Plug-In by selecting it from the Plug-In menu in the Packagizer dialog window.

Once the Overlay Plug-In is setup the menu will show the name of the currently selected plug-in which will be applied to all subsequent print jobs. When you are done using the Overlay Plug-In you may deselect it by selecting “None” from the “Plug-In” menu in Packagizer, or by clicking the “Cancel” button in the Overlay Plug-In user interface.



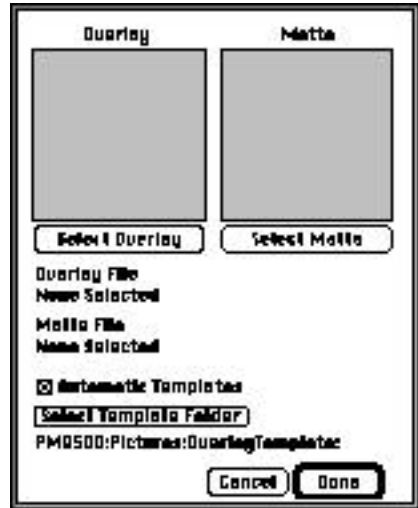
When you are done using the Overlay Plug-In you may deselect it by selecting “None” from the “Plug-In” menu in Packagizer, or by clicking the “Cancel” button in the Overlay Plug-In user interface.

If you need to change the settings of the Overlay Plug-In while it is currently selected, click the “Setup” button next to the “Plug-In” menu in Packagizer. You will note that this button only appears when there is a currently selected plug-in.

When the Overlay Plug-In user interface is being displayed, it

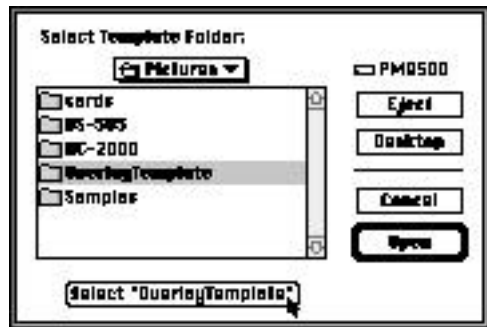
Overlay Plug-In Users Guide

shows the current status of the plug-in. You will see preview areas for both the overlay and matte files, buttons to select the two required files, and below is a text area which informs you as to the names of the currently selected files.



Near the bottom of the dialog is the "Automatic Templates" checkbox. The Automatic Templates feature allows you to select a set of templates which will be applied according to the print job being processed. For example, you may want to have different templates applied to the same image depending on which print size is being processed, or depending on the orientation of the input image.

When the Automatic Template box is checked a button will allow you to select the folder to use for automatic selection of template files. Upon clicking the "Select Template Folder" button, you are presented with a file selection box to select the proper folder. Use the button at the bottom of the window to select the desired folder.



The files are chosen from the selected folder based on their file names, which are determined by Packagizer according to the format, resolution and orientation of the print or input file.

DESIGNING OVERLAY TEMPLATES

Creating these overlay templates is an art in itself, and with practice and experimentation you will be able to fully exploit the power of the Overlay Plug-In.

Collectively, the overlay and matte files are called an overlay template. Both files are required to process the overlaid image in Packagizer. The overlay file is a 24-bit RGB TIFF file, while the matte file is an 8-bit grayscale TIFF file, both having the same pixel dimensions.

The matte file is used to determine where in the printed image the overlay file is shown, and where the source file - the file selected in Packagizer - is shown. In pixel positions where the matte file is black (pixel value 0), the source image will be printed. Pixel positions which are white in the matte file (pixel value 255), will print the overlay image. For example to make a simple border template, the central area of the matte file would be black to allow the source image to show through, while the surrounding area would be white to show the graphics on the overlay file.

By using values between 0 and 255 (1 to 254) in the matte file, transparent effects can be achieved. Pixel values of 127 in the matte file will print equal amounts of the overlay and source images. The closer to black the matte file is, the more source image will be printed, and likewise, the closer to white the matte file is, the more overlay image will be printed. This variable transparency can be useful for creating smooth edges, floating graphics, and transparent drop shadows.

You may name the files in any convenient manner which will help you identify them. The Overlay Plug-In is able to resolve MacOS alias files so that you are free to use these as required. The important image characteristics which may be noted in the

Overlay Plug-In Users Guide

filename are the format which they were designed for (i.e. 4 X 5, 5 X 7, etc.), the orientation (portrait or landscape), and resolution value (320, 300, 150, etc.). Also important to note is if the file is the overlay or the matte component of the template.

The Automatic Template feature requires the template files to be named according to the following specification, and put into a single folder. Remember that you may use aliases to place the files in a folder so that you don't have to replicate files used more than once in one or more template folders.

file name = FaObRcd

Where:

- a = Packagizer format number counted from left:
1 = 1.75 X 2.5, 2 = 2 X 3.5, 3 = 2.5 X 3.5, etc.
- b = orientation
l (lower case L) = landscape, p = portrait
- c = resolution
300, 294, etc.
- d = image
m = matte file, o = overlay file.

An example template pair might be files named F3OpR300o and F3OpR300m. These files represent the overlay and matte files respectively for format #3 (2.5 X 3.5), in portrait orientation and 300 ppi.

For mixed sized formats such as 5x7+2.5x3.5 use a template designed for the larger of the images (i.e. 5 X 7).

When using Automatic Template, an image is printed without the proper template, it is usually because of an error in naming the file.

Overlay Plug-In Users Guide

SOFTWARE LICENSE AGREEMENT

NOTICE TO USER:

This is a legal agreement between you, the end user, and Plug-In Systems. The enclosed Plug-In Systems software program (the "SOFTWARE") is licensed to the original customer and any subsequent transferee of the product for use under the terms set forth here. Please read this license agreement. By loading this software you are agreeing to accept ownership of this product and to be bound by the terms of this agreement.

1. GRANT OF SINGLE USER LICENSE.

Plug-In Systems grants you the license to use one copy of the enclosed SOFTWARE on a single computer. You may not install the SOFTWARE on a network server. The SOFTWARE may never be used by more than one person at the same time.

2. COPYRIGHT.

The SOFTWARE is owned by Plug-In Systems and is protected by United States copyright laws and international treaty provisions. You may make one copy of the SOFTWARE for backup purposes provided that you reproduce all copyright and other proprietary notices that are on the original copy of the SOFTWARE provided to you. You may not copy the written materials accompanying the SOFTWARE. You may not reverse engineer, decompile, disassemble, or create derivative works from the SOFTWARE.

3. TRANSFER.

You may not rent or lease the SOFTWARE, but may transfer the SOFTWARE and accompanying written materials on a permanent basis provided you retain no copies and the recipient agrees to the terms of this agreement.

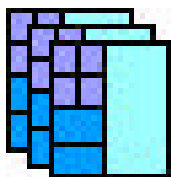
4. LIMITED WARRANTY.

Plug-In Systems warrants that the SOFTWARE enclosed herein will perform substantially in accordance with the accompanying written materials for a period of ninety (90) days from the date of receipt of the SOFTWARE. Any implied warranties on Plug-In Systems are limited to ninety (90) days. Some states do not allow limitations on duration of an implied warranty, so the above limitation may not apply to you. Your sole remedy under the warranty during this ninety (90) day period is that Plug-In Systems will undertake to correct within a reasonable period of time any reported failure of the SOFTWARE to perform substantially the functions described in the documentation, correct errors in the documentation, and replace any magnetic media which proves defective in materials or workmanship on an exchange basis without charge. These are your sole and exclusive remedies for any breach of warranty during this ninety (90) day period.

PLUG-IN SYSTEMS DISCLAIMS ALL OTHER WARRANTIES, EITHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, WITH RESPECT TO THE SOFTWARE AND THE ACCOMPANYING WRITTEN MATERIALS. THIS WARRANTY GIVES YOU SPECIFIC LEGAL RIGHTS. YOU MAY HAVE OTHERS WHICH VARY FROM STATE TO STATE.

5. LIMITATIONS OF REMEDIES.

IN NO EVENT SHALL PLUG-IN SYSTEMS OR ITS SUPPLIERS BE LIABLE FOR ANY DAMAGES WHATSOEVER (INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, DAMAGES FROM LOSS OF PROFITS, BUSINESS INTERRUPTION, LOSS OF INFORMATION, OR OTHER PECUNIARY LOSS) ARISING OUT OF THE USE OF OR INABILITY TO USE THIS PLUG-IN SYSTEMS PRODUCT. BECAUSE SOME STATES DO NOT ALLOW THE LIMITATION OF LIABILITY FOR CONSEQUENTIAL OR INCIDENTAL DAMAGES, THE ABOVE LIMITATION MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU.



PLUG-IN SYSTEMS

**4578 Starboard Drive
Boulder, Colorado 80301
(303) 530-9344 Phone
(303) 931-2079 FAX
e-mail: info@plugin.com**