

Introduction

With the Rapid Resizer you can take a pattern from a file or a scanner and print it to any size. Large patterns are automatically tiled across multiple pages. When extremely enlarging a pattern, you can have the Rapid Resizer keep the lines from becoming too thick.

With it you can also fill your pattern's pieces with images of real glass as well as colors.

After coloring your pattern, you can print a computer-made list of the approximate amount of each kind of glass you'll need to build your design.

To get a pattern into the Rapid Resizer, choose Open or Scan from the File menu. You can also Copy & Paste a picture into the program.

Resizing

To print a pattern to any size:

1. Choose Open or Scan from the Rapid Resizer's File menu.
2. Follow the instructions in the left edge of the Rapid Resizer's window.
3. Enter the width and height you want.
4. Choose Print from the File menu.

Before printing, you should usually choose Print Preview from the File menu. There you can confirm that your pattern will print out as you expect.

Most printers can't print across the whole area of a page, so you'll usually have to cut the edges off the printed pages. To help you with that, the Rapid Resizer outlines the printable area of each page.

Scanning Tips

These only apply if you're not letting the Rapid Resizer operate your scanner for you.

In your scanner's software, try to tightly select the pattern's area of the page. This will speed up scanning and ease further cropping in the Rapid Resizer.

Scanning using a high DPI (dots per inch) helps your template's lines to be less jagged. The downside is that high DPIs slow down the Rapid Resizer. Typically, 300 DPI is good. If you're doing extreme enlargements, you should use a higher DPI. If the Rapid Resizer is malfunctioning, you should try a lower DPI.

It's usually best to scan patterns using your scanner software's Black & White Photo mode. Line Art mode is decent too, but it prevents the Rapid Resizer's Black & White controls from being able to do anything useful.

Preparing Your Pattern

After you scan a pattern or import one from a file, the Rapid Resizer needs your help through a few steps before it can accurately resize your pattern for you.

Step 2: First it needs it straight so the pattern lines up with the width & height you'll enter and so it can be cropped well. In this step, you can choose an angle and then hit the Turn button until your pattern isn't at an angle.

Step 3: Now the Rapid Resizer needs you to tightly crop the pattern so it can be accurately resized.

Step 4: Lastly, the Rapid Resizer wants your pattern to be in black & white. This makes for a cleaner printout and allows coloring your pattern and keeping its lines thin. The Rapid Resizer has a couple ways to do this and you can experiment with them until your pattern looks decent. If you're resizing something other than a pattern, you can uncheck the Black & White box to leave your image in color.

Coloring Pieces

To fill a pattern piece with glass or color:

1. Click on a button in the palette.
2. Then click inside the piece.

To change the kind of glass in a palette button, double click on it.

To copy a kind of glass from a pattern piece to the palette, right click inside the piece.

If colors spill into other pieces, it's probably because there are gaps in lines or where lines meet. If so, complete the lines on the original pattern and re-scan it. Or this can happen if the lines were eroded too much in the conversion to Black & White. In that case, get the pattern into the Rapid Resizer again and try moving the sliding control more to the right.

Pattern Details

To get the Rapid Resizer to calculate approximately how much of each kind of glass you will need to build your design:

1. **Color** your pattern's pieces.
2. Enter the full size of your design into the Width and Height fields.
3. Choose Pattern Details from the File menu.

This will also tell you the approximate length of lead came needed.

Your pattern must have been tightly cropped for this to be accurate.

How Glass Quantities are Calculated

The Rapid Resizer calculates the area needed by each piece alone and then adds them up. To calculate the area needed by a piece, it finds the area of the smallest rectangle that holds the piece. The rectangle can be at any angle.

Line Thinning

When you enlarge a pattern, the lines grow with it. The line width control that appears in the last step, lets you control the width of all the lines in your resized pattern. This can save you a lot of ink and make a more useful printout.

Thinning needs a clean pattern where the lines are dark & strong and everything else is white. If pattern pieces are colored in the original design, thinning won't work unless you managed to cleanup the pattern in the Black & White step.

The Rapid Resizer can only thin your lines when you're printing a template. So if you want to use it, make sure Show Glass in the View menu is unchecked.

How to Add and Remove Glass

You can add glass to the Rapid Resizer from the Web, from a CD-ROM, or from a digital camera or scanner. Using a scanner works surprisingly well, though you should be careful about scratching it.

I've provided links to many glass manufacturers' websites at <http://StainedGlassPatterns.com/resources/glass.php> At their sites you can download glass pictures or order a CD-ROM full of them.

Once you have a glass picture file or a glass piece to scan, you can use the Rapid Resizer to open or scan it and then choose "Add to Glass Library" from the File menu. You can use that command at any step.

The Rapid Resizer can use glass pictures stored in almost any format. JPG and PNG are best.

Glass pictures can also be saved or copied into the "Tinted Glass" or "Other Glass" folders. Those folders are in the Rapid Resizer's folder, which is usually "C:\Program Files\Rapid Resizer". To remove glass, navigate to those folders and delete the glass pictures you don't want.

Many glass pictures will show seams when tiled to fit large pattern pieces. That's not easy to fix. I use the Seamless Welder filter in Kai's Power Tools 3.

Answers to Common Questions

How do I reprint specific pages of a pattern?

In the Print window that appears after you choose Print from the File menu, enter page numbers in the "Pages" fields.

The Rapid Resizer so slow. How do I speed it up?

Try scanning pictures using a lower DPI.

After I scan in my pattern, why are the lines so faded?

This often happens when scanning drawings done in pencil. Moving the sliding control in the Black & White step should help. If that doesn't help, experiment with the gamma, threshold, and other advanced settings in your scanner's software.

Why does the Rapid Resizer crash when I try to print? Or why are some pages of the printout messed up?

Probably because of a weakness in the printer's driver. Downloading the latest version of the driver from the printer manufacturer's website usually helps. For example, a couple of users had problems printing to a Canon BJC-610. Upgrading their drivers ended the problem.

How do I override the page orientation?

You may have noticed that going through Print Setup from the File menu has no effect. Try this:

1. Choose Print from the Rapid Resizer's File menu.
2. Click on the Properties button.
3. Switch the page orientation to the one you want.
4. Click on the OK button to close the Properties window.
5. Click on OK to print.

The Rapid Resizer doesn't work with my scanner. What do I do?

Please e-mail me by choosing E-mail from the Help menu. In the mean time, all I can suggest is that you scan from a paint program (one is usually included with Windows) and Copy & Paste (in the Edit menu) the picture into the Rapid Resizer.

Why is the Rapid Resizer crashing?

If after crashing, you see an error message like: "RAPID RESIZER.EXE caused a general protection fault in module WHATEVER.DLL or .DRV ..." then the problem might be fixed by upgrading your video adaptor's driver. Admittedly, that can be hard to do, but you should at least try visiting <http://windowsupdate.microsoft.com> If there's no upgrade there, you'll have to visit the website of your video adaptor's manufacturer.

If the program crashes when you're working with the palette, you may be able to end the problem by changing the Windows Colors setting. To do that, right click on the Windows desktop, choose Properties, and then choose the Settings tab.

Why is the Rapid Resizer printing only blank pages?

This can be caused by scanning at too high a DPI (dots per inch). Try re-scanning at 300 DPI or lower.

Other problems may have been fixed in the latest version of the Rapid Resizer. Updates can be downloaded from <http://SGDesigns.com/download.php>

Notes for Users of Earlier Versions

If you used versions of the Rapid Resizer before version 2, there's many differences you should know about...

The Rapid Resizer used to store pattern pictures in the common JPG format. Now it uses its own format (".RRP"). You can copy a pattern picture out of the Rapid Resizer and paste it into a paint program if you want to have the picture in a normal format. To open a pattern you scanned with an earlier version of the Rapid Resizer, choose Import Picture from the File menu.

You can now change the coloring of a pattern after closing and re-opening its file.

Print outs are now centered.

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