



EASY ETCHING

User guide

User guide

BSS Easy Etching

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Easy Etching, version 2.1. User manual for Microsoft Windows platform.

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about the program

The Easy Etching program is designed to create imitation etchings from color or black-and-white gray-tone images. This may be realized by combining frequency, angle and amplitude parameters for etch lines in various shade zones. By combining various parameters of initial image and etching setups, it is possible to obtain realistic results in imitating traditional etching types, such as mezzotint, dry point, etc.

Program Setup and Registration

If you have purchased a program with special hardware security feature, all you need to do is to plug it into the USB port of your computer. The Windows operating system will identify it as an additional segment of the hard drive containing the program. When you start the executable file, the program will be working nominally. No additional steps for program registration are required.

If you have downloaded the program from the Internet or have received it on a disc, it will only be available to you as a demo version without an additional registration.

By every attempt to start the demo version of the program, the following image with a registration prompt button will appear on screen.



To register, you need to purchase a PIN-code from the site of the software developer or any of its partners. Every program copy, upon registering, is tied to the equipment on which it has been loaded, creating a so-called Hardware ID. This does not mean that you will have to pay for every new installation. However, when installing the program on the new hardware you will have to input a new activation code. You may install it as many times as you need. Your PIN-code is valid for all updates of the registered program versions. Activation codes will be sent to your E-mail address specified at registration as soon as you shall repeat the registration process for any of your new equipment.

As previously mentioned, a small window will appear during registration, and its first line will generate a unique key (Hardware ID). You do not need to change anything here.

Input your PIN-code in the second line.

In the «On-line» mode, registering is completed while maintaining an active Internet connection.



Registration

Please, send your hardware ID to the author:

1EFA... Send

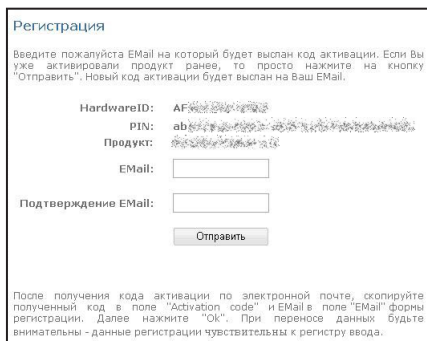
Enter a registration key below, please

Enter a registration name below, please

Registered User

OK Cancel Paste

Upon completing these two fields, press the «Registry» key. It will automatically open the default use browser at the developing company registration site.



Регистрация

Введите пожалуйста EMail на который будет выслан код активации. Если Вы уже активировали продукт ранее, то просто нажмите на кнопку "Отправить". Новый код активации будет выслан на Ваш EMail.

HardwareID: AF...
PIN: ab...
Продукт: ...
EMail:
Подтверждение EMail:
Отправить

После получения кода активации по электронной почте, скопируйте полученный код в поле "Activation code" и EMail в поле "EMail" формы регистрации. Далее нажмите "OK". При переносе данных будьте внимательны - данные регистрации чувствительны к регистру ввода.

Input your electronic address to the «E-mail» field, and then press the «Send» button. This e-mail address will be used to

send you program activation keys. After some time, a letter containing an Activation key will arrive at the specified e-mail address. Copy the «E-mail» and «Activation key» from the letter and input them in the corresponding fields of the registration form, then press «Ok».

Please note: Data is case-sensitive. E.g., there is a difference between «Mail» and «mail».

If you are currently not having an Internet connection, you may register in an «Off-line» mode. Complete all required fields and press «Ok». As the result, an electronic message which you will have to mail to the developer's address will be generated. As a reply, you will receive a letter with an activation code. Copy the «E-mail» and «Activation key» from the letter, input them in the corresponding fields of the registration form, and press «Ok».


After this, your program will become fully functional, and you may use it without any limitations.

Unit 1


quick start

Designing an etching based on presets included with the program is the easiest way to get started.

Step 1. Start the Easy Etching program.

Step 2. Load the halftone image by using the quick access key  or the key combination «Ctrl+O». **Note:** The program supports uncompressed TIFF and BMP file formats.

Step 3. Immediately after loading, the program automatically generates an etching with «default» parameters. However, you may also use ready presets (setups of etching parameters) which are included with the program. Choose one of ten presets in the «Etching Presets» window and double-click it with the left mouse button. Observe the results in the working window of the program.

Step 4. To save the completed project, press the «Export» key  or the «hotkey» combination Ctrl+E. Standard folder selection and file naming window will appear while saving the file. The program will inquire about your file resolution preference. It is possible to select the desired resolution from the pull-down menu or to input it manually. The completed image will be saved in *.TIF (TIFF) format.

Unit 2

program functioning

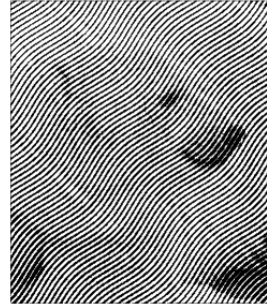
Initial image loading.



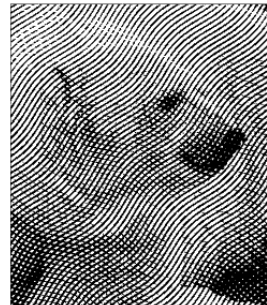
Overlay with primary etch lines.



Adding amplitude and line slope parameters.



Adding secondary black and white lines.



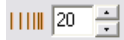
Splitting zones.



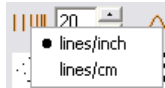
Unit 3

etching setup

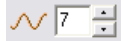
Setup parameters may be changed with the «Hatching parameters» toolbar as follows:



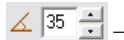
— «Frequency»: parameter reflecting the number of etch lines per inch or centimeter.



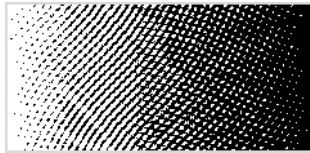
To choose the units (lines/inch or lines/cm), right-click the mouse on the «Lines» icon, and choose the necessary value from the pull-down menu.



— «Wave»: parameter showing the amplitude of etch lines. The value of zero denotes a straight line.



— «Angle (Degrees)»: reflects the degree value of the primary line angle deviation from the vertical.



— «Type hatching». This window shows the real-time changing of etch lines based on the black-and-white gradient by current etching setup. The image preview is scaled identically to the working window image.



— «Light Tuning»:

assists by setting up secondary white lines which are laid over the primary etching lines and thus make them appear dotted. To activate this option, select the checkbox. Sliding bar determines the intensity of white, and the «Angle» parameter allows changing the slope of the lines.



— «Shadows Tuning»:

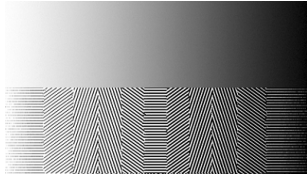
used for setting up secondary black lines which are laid over the primary etching lines. To activate this option, select the checkbox. Sliding bar determines the intensity of black, and the «Angle» parameter allows changing the slope of the lines.

The «Zones Splitting» toolbar is necessary for setting up etching zones. Zone splitting allows to prevent monotonous, one-directional etch lines. Every neighboring zone changes etching direction. The following setups may be used at the «Zones Splitting» toolbar:

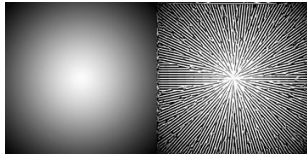


— three types of zone splitting options are provided by the program: Level, Gradient and Color. Choosing «Level» will create zone splitting based on the amount of white in the specific part of the image. Choosing «Gradient» allows zone splitting based on gradient direction, e.g., based on the direction of transition from light to dark. Choosing «Color» results in zone splitting based on presence of a particular color at the specific image area.

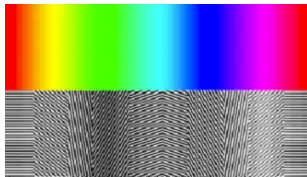
Example of the «Level» mode:



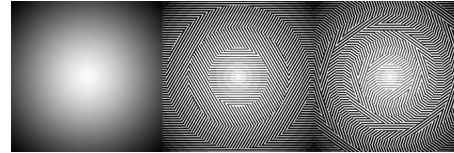
Example of the «Gradient» mode:




Example of the «Color» mode:

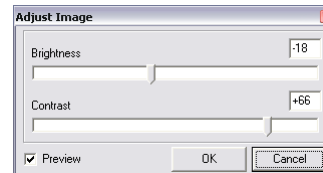


Zones Quantity : 15 — «Zones Quantity» parameter shows the number of zones with etch line direction changes.



Blur : 3 — «Blur» parameter allows a smooth transition between zones.

The initial image brightness and contrast setup (Brightness & Contrast) may be viewed as an additional feature of etching setup. The key on the file toolbar is . Hotkey is Ctrl+B. When using this function, the «Adjust Image» panel with slide rules for changing the current values of brightness and contrast appears.





These values may be input in manual mode as well (manual mode). If the «Preview» box is checked, it is possible to view all changes real-time in the initial image window.

By changing brightness and contrast values, it is possible to obtain a sharper transition between etching zones, or create

a transition from lines to dashes indicating darker and lighter spots of low-resolution images.

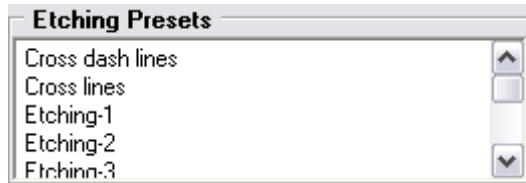
All brightness and contrast setups differing from the initial ones are saved along with the etching parameters setups.

To save the etching parameters setups as a preset, use the  key (hotkeys Ctrl+S) or the  key (hotkeys Shift+Ctrl+S) if you need to save them under a different file name or in a different folder (disk).

Unit 4

using presets

The program features a toolbar for saved etching setups (Etching Presets) which reflects previously saved etching setups.



The EasyEtching program includes ten specially designed setups imitating several engraving styles:

- Cross dash lines: crossing lines with dashes in light parts.
- Cross lines: crossing lines.
- Etching-1: a version of a chisel etching imitation.
- Etching-2: a version of a chisel etching imitation.
- Etching-3: a version of a chisel etching imitation.
- Mezzotint: mezzotint etching imitation.
- One line: line raster.
- Reticulation: photographic reticulation (phototyping) imitation.
- Stochastic: stochastic raster imitation.
- Zinc: zincography imitation.

It is always easier to begin working from the ready preset, since its settings may be changed to obtain desired results. To use the style, double-click its name.

If the user saves new etching setups in the «Preset» folder, they will automatically appear in the «Etching Presets» list.

During work, the «default styles» may be changed, but it is always possible to return to their initial setups. Right-click the mouse button at any style and choose «Restore default Presets» from the now opened context menu. This does not influence additional styles saved by user.