

# Lay out your card in PagePlus 5

With the picture scanned, it's time to get creative with Serif's software and design an original card

**W**e've already settled on using an old picture of our recipient as the basis of a birthday card, but coming up with the design and layout can still be tough.

If you're having difficulties nailing the final design, pop along to your local stationery shop and have a look at the greetings cards on offer there. This will give a flavour of the styles used in birthday cards, and you can adapt (or borrow) them for your own uses.

The big temptation when using any design software is to throw in as many fonts and wacky typographical effects as possible. While it might look clever on screen, the final card will be messy and will lack that professional sheen you should be aiming for.

Stick to using one typeface throughout, although if you want to push the boat out it is acceptable to use one font on the outside of the card and a different one on the inside.

Once the card is designed, you will need something to print it on. Printing on budget



Serif PagePlus 5 (full)  
 ON YOUR COVER  
 CD-ROM



A4 paper looks cheap and tacky, so it is worthwhile investing in a pack of specialist card. Hewlett Packard ([www.hp.co.uk](http://www.hp.co.uk)) produces pre-folded A4 card, including matching envelopes, at £4.99 for a pack of 20, while Epson's greetings cards with envelopes are slightly more expensive at £9.99 for 10 cards from [www.epson.co.uk](http://www.epson.co.uk), or from a high-street retailer.

When it comes to printing the finished card, make sure that your inkjet cartridges aren't running dry. If the colour or black cartridges are low, you could end up with streaky or patchy results. Do a test run on some normal inkjet paper to see how the design looks before using more expensive media.

## In with the new: Serif PagePlus 8

If you like PagePlus 5, why not go for the very latest version? Serif PagePlus 8 includes new templates and styles, as well as multiple page views and a host of other great features. The package costs £69.99 and you can find out more by visiting [www.serif.co.uk](http://www.serif.co.uk). Alternatively, to buy without delay, call Serif's credit card hotline on 0800 3767070.

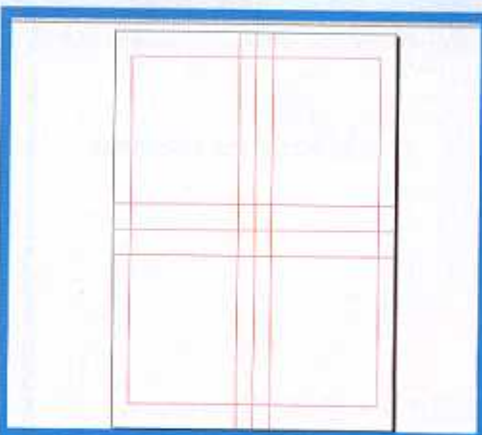


## DESIGNING THE CARD



### 1 Using a template

Opening PagePlus 5 presents the option to use a Page Wizard, which automatically loads a page template for your design. We're after the 'Greeting Cards' templates, found in the 'Special Occasions' category.



### 2 Starting from scratch

Using the 'Birthday 1' template provides a page layout divided into quarters. We're going to delete all the pre-loaded elements and start from scratch, although we'll still use the predefined page markers.

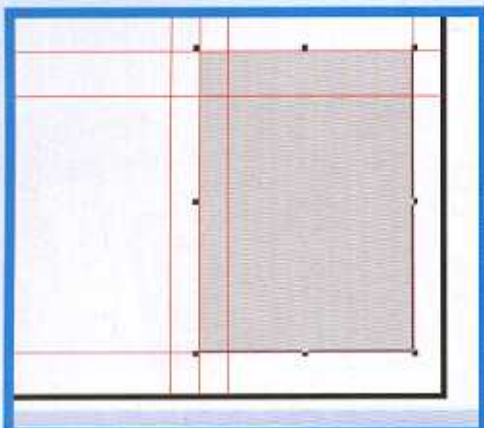


### 3 Importing your graphic

Click on 'File' and 'Import Picture', and follow the on-screen wizard to import the image you scanned in Paint Shop Pro. Then double-click the mouse where you want the image to sit on the page.

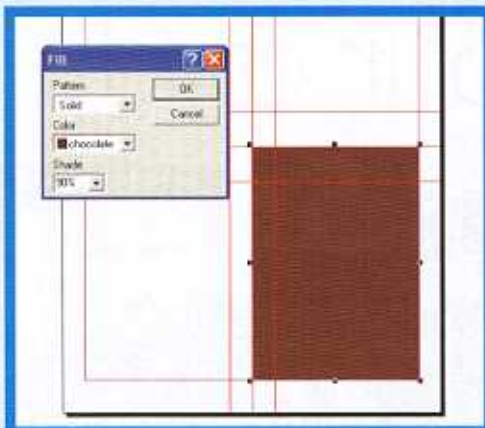


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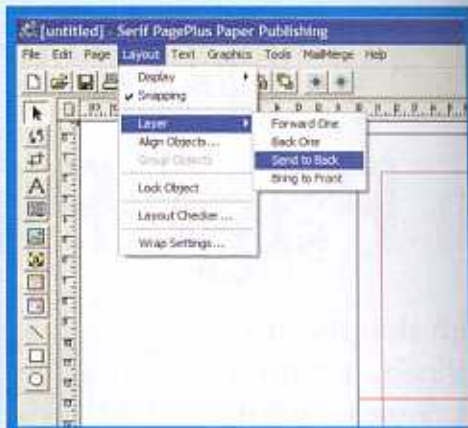
## 4 Adding a background

We want to add a brown background to complement our image. To do this, click on the 'Square' icon, then click and drag to draw a shape. Resize it by clicking on the corner markers and dragging to the required size.



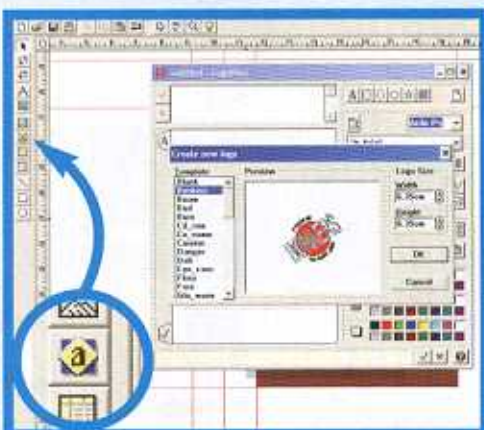
## 5 Colour and shade

Add some colour by clicking on the square you've just drawn and selecting a shade from the colour bar at the right of the screen. You can change the opacity by double-clicking on the square and adjusting the 'Shade' box.



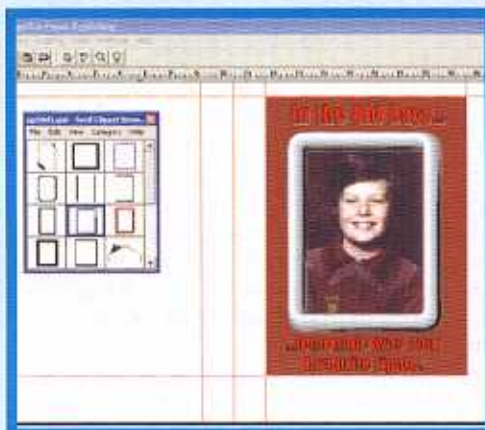
## 6 Controlling layers

Now the image has been lost behind the brown square. Select the square and go to the 'Layout' menu. Click 'Layer' and 'Send to Back' to reorder the elements, so that the image is moved to the front.



## 7 Adding text

Putting plain text on the front of the card is dull – a way to brighten it up is to use the PagePlus 'Logo' feature to add interesting text designs. Access this by clicking the logo icon on the left-hand toolbar.



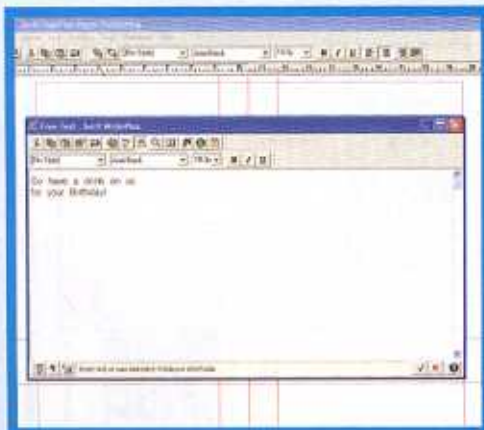
## 8 Clip-art and borders

PagePlus comes with loads of clip-art that can be used to jazz up the card design. We've chosen a humorous image for the inside of our card, as well as a decorative border to make the photo a little more interesting.



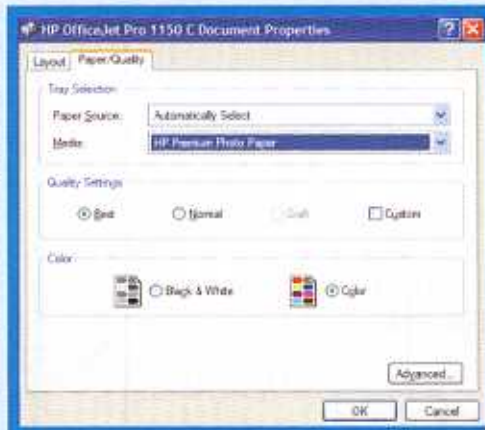
## 9 Inside the card

Because the card is folded four ways, the inside needs to be printed upside down so that it appears the right way round in the finished design. Lay out the card as normal then right-click on each element and select 'Flip'.



## 10 A beery greeting

The text for the inside of the card doesn't need to be quite as eye-catching, so we've used the standard text tool to create the message. Just click on the page where you want the text to appear and type away.



## 11 Printing the card

Select 'Print' from the 'File' menu and click on 'Properties'. Make sure that the quality is set to 'Best' and that photo paper or card is selected in the 'Media' box. The settings will be different for every printer.



## 12 The final fold

When the card has been printed, let it dry out for a while – photo-quality prints use a lot of ink, which is liable to run if it's not dry. A tip for folding stiff card is to score the back of the card with a craft knife and a ruler.