

Project INSPIRE Course 4 Lesson 4 QuickTac

SPEAKER 1: Next we're going to look at some software called QuickTac. This is by the same company as the Duxbury braille translator. So Duxbury has this as free software. It allows me to do graphics and send them to a braille embosser.

There are some menus at the top. There's a File, Edit, View. There's some Tools available, and there's also Tools as icons. So I can go through the Tool menu, or I can go through the icons that are on the window as well. And then there's a Help menu.

So first we're going to go ahead. I can make a new document. I can use that start-up document. There is a Save and an Open and a Print, and then there's some grayed-out pieces. And those will not gray out once I start putting some different objects into this graphic.

So let's start. There's an eraser, there's a select feature. Let's start by just putting in-- oh, let's do a rectangle this time. So when I select rectangle, I have three choices that pop up-- a line thickness, a line pattern, and a fill. So I decide how thick I want it to be. We'll just do thin this time. A line pattern-- so do I want it to be solid or dotted? Let's go ahead and do a solid for this one. And then a fill. I think I'm going to do no fill for this particular one, and that'll just give me the outline.

Then there's a white region. It's on the left part of the window. And that's where I'm going to draw. So I'm going to click and drag in that area, and it's actually going to make some dots. It's going to form that rectangle.

Now let's say that I wanted to add in a diagonal. Then I could select line instead. We'll do thin again, but let's say I want my diagonal to be dotted. I can select my line pattern to be dotted, and then when I draw from the upper left corner to the lower right corner I would have kind of a dotted line for that diagonal.

Let's say I decide I don't like that dotted line. Then I can just do Control Z, or there's an undo arrow at the top. And maybe this one I decided that I really wanted it to be more of a dash. Let's see how the dash looks from the upper left to the lower right. I feel like that kind of leaves too much separation in there, so I'm going to do a Control Z or undo again. And I decided I just wanted it to be solid. So it's really easy to if you don't like something to just edit it and make it what you want.

I can also put braille labels in there. So there is a braille icon that I can choose from. For this, it just uses your SDF JKL on your keyboard, and I'm just going to put the braille characters in.

So let's say I wanted to put a 12 on here. I could do my numeric indicator. Oh, let's put a decimal in. Let's say I want to do 12.9. 1, 2, and I'm doing these in braille. I'm going to do a dot 4-6 for my decimal point, 9.

Once I have that in there, there is actually a brailled area below where I just typed, and I'm actually going to grab that and drag it over to my figure to where I want it. And then once I let go, my braille will be locked into that area.

So if I want to select this area, I'm going to go ahead and highlight it. Then I'm going to actually cut it, and then I'm going to paste it. When I paste it, it becomes draggable again to put in the area that I want to put it in. Maybe I wanted it on the top or one on this other side. It allows me to go ahead and move it then at that point.

Let's say I wanted a triangle in here, too. I could use a couple of lines to draw an attached triangle on there. Let's say I wanted to attach kind of a right triangle. I can do that onto the rectangle. So I went diagonally down to the right, and then I went straight up and met the right side of the rectangle.

At any point, I can add additional figures that have shading, too. Let's say I wanted to add a circle, but this time I want it to have a solid fill. I can click and drag, and then this circle is now shaded in instead of open like my rectangle and triangles were.

There are some patterns. Let's do rectangle, but this time let's do one of the fills. Let's do a, a vertical stripes. So now when I draw that rectangle, I actually have vertical stripes on that figure that I've made.

So pretty slick and easy to do to add labels, add lines, shapes. I can fill and I can change any sort of line patterns or thicknesses.