Making Greeting Cards

Send the very best greeting cards — ones created by you. With your photos, a little text, and Paint Shop Pro you can send greeting cards that are uniquely you. Now when you send a personally crafted greeting card to family and friends, they'll know just how much you care.

What you'll need:

- A digital photo
- Jasc® Paint Shop™ Pro®
- Paper
- A printer

When you complete this tutorial you'll be able to:

- Select a photo
- Crop and resize a photo
- Add and format text
- Add a drop shadow
- Print a greeting card

Jasc Software®

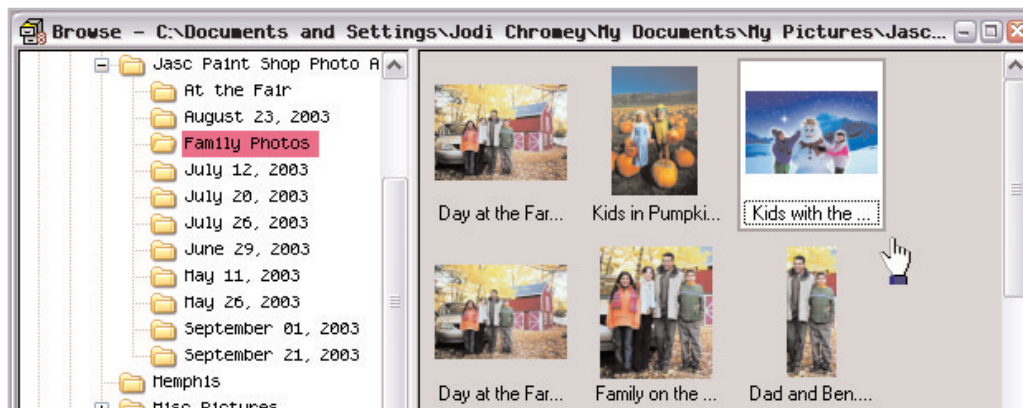the power to create®

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Open the Image

1. Choose **Start > Programs > Jasc Software > Jasc Paint Shop Pro** or double click the Paint Shop Pro Icon on your desktop to open Paint Shop Pro.

2. Choose **File > Browse** or click the Browse button on the Standard toolbar to open the Image Browser. Use the Image Browser to find the photo you'd like to use and open it. For this tutorial we're going to use the photo of kids with a snowman, you can follow along using your favorite digital photo.

3. Paint Shop Pro's Image Browser works like Windows Explorer. On the left, navigate to the folder containing the photo you want to use. On the right, double-click the photo you want to open.
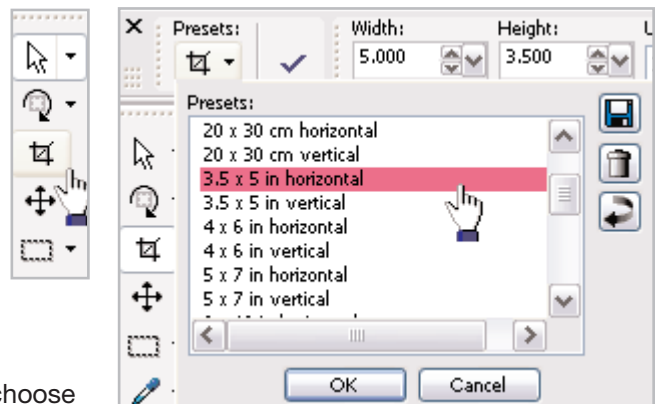
Crop and Resize Your Photo

4. To focus attention on your photo's subject, crop the photo. Choose the **Crop** tool from the Tools toolbar on the left.

- **Freehand Crop:** Click and drag the **Crop** tool across your photo to select the crop area.

- **Preset Crop:** You can crop to a specified photo size, using the presets. Click the down-arrow next to the **Presets** button on the Tool Options palette. From the drop-down list choose **3.5x5 in Horizontal** (or **3.5x5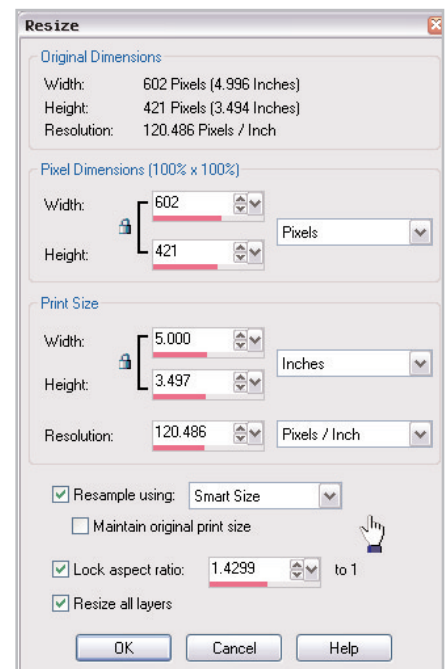 in Vertical** if you're using a vertical photo). If we keep the photo for the front of the card around 3x5 inches, we'll be able to fit two cards on each piece of paper. Once you find the preset you'd like to use click **OK**.

5. Now you should have a crop window on your photo. Click and drag the sides of the crop window to adjust the size. Click inside the crop window and drag it to position the window over the area of the photo you want attention focused. Remember, when cropping that you might want to leave some extra space to add text to the front of the card. Once you're happy with the crop positioning, double click inside the crop window to apply the crop.

6. Since you've cropped your photo, you might need to resize it to make sure it's still 3.5x5 inches. To resize, choose **Image > Resize**. In the Resize dialog, change the **Print Size** to Width: 5 and Height: 3.5 (or if you're working on a vertical photo Width: 3.5 and Height: 5). Click **OK** and your image will be resized. Don't worry if the Width and Height Fields aren't exactly 3.5 and 5, we've got a little extra room on the card.
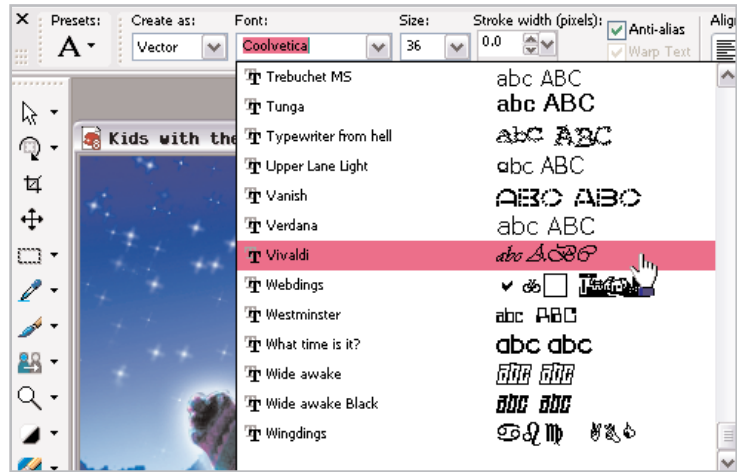

Add Text

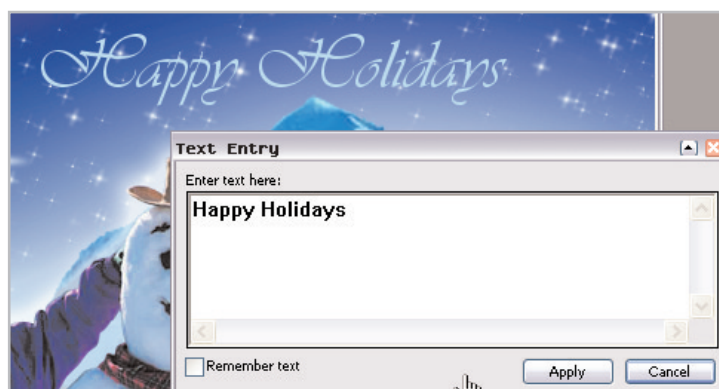7. Now it's time to add a greeting using the Text tool. Choose the **Text** tool from the toolbar on the left.

8. In the Tool Options palette at the top of the screen, you can choose your font and font size. Make sure to choose **Vector** from the **Create As**: drop-down, this will let you move the text easily.

9. Once you've set your font and font size, you can set the color using the Materials palette. Click the Background swatch (the lower box) to open the Material dialog, here you can choose the color of your text. You can click any of the color boxes below the circle, click anywhere on the colored circle, or click on an area of your image, to choose a color for your text. Here we used the light blue snow. Once you've chosen a color, click **OK**.

10. Now, click on the area of your image where you'd like the text to appear. This opens the Text Entry dialog, where you'll add your greeting. Once you've entered your greeting click **Apply**.

11. Once the text is applied, you can click the center circle and drag the text into place.
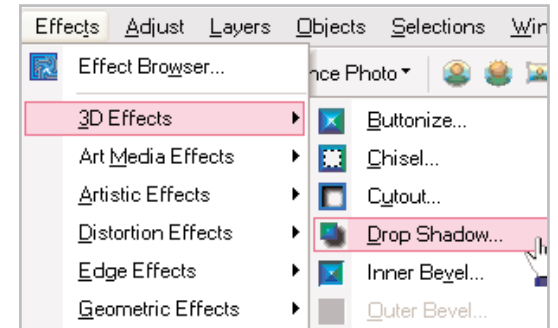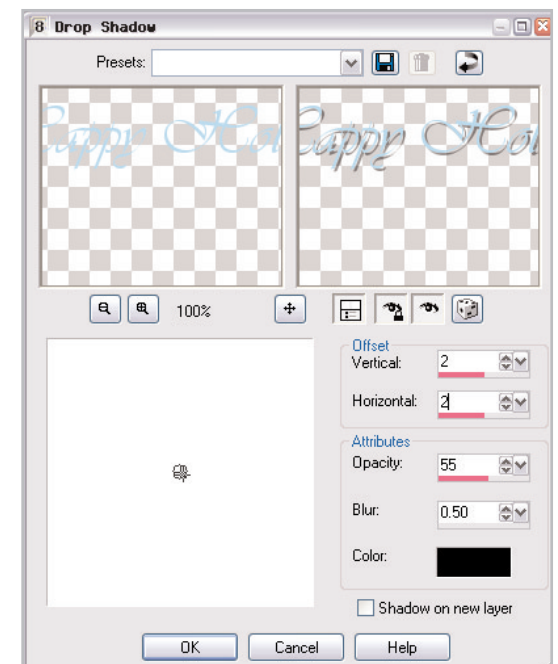

Add a Drop Shadow

12. You can give the text on your card some depth and make it stand out from the background by adding a drop shadow. Before you can add a drop shadow, you have to convert your vector text layer to raster. Mouseover the Layer palette to expand (if the Layer palette isn't displayed choose **View > Palettes > Layers**). Now right-click the **Vector 1** layer and choose **Convert to Raster** from the context menu.

13. Now, from the menu on top choose **Effects > 3D Effects > Drop Shadow**. This will open the Drop Shadow dialog.

14. On the Drop Shadow dialog you can change the settings of your drop shadow. From the **Offset** area you can choose how much your shadow will be offset from your text. From the **Attributes** area you can choose the blur, opacity, and color of your shadow. At the top of the dialog you will see your text without the drop shadow and a preview of the text with the drop shadow applied. To see how the drop shadow will appear on the photo, click the Proof button (the eye under the right preview window). Once you are satisfied with the appearance of the drop shadow, click **OK**.

Print Your Card

15. Now you're ready to print. Choose **File > Print Layout**. In the Print Layout window you can drag the photo into the blank template, or choose **File > Open Template** and select one of the many preset print templates. Click the **Print** button to send your card to the printer. Below you can see how the multiple copies of the image fit on a single page. This can save you time and resources. Once you print the cards, they're ready to cut out and mail!

Now that you can make your own greeting cards using your photos, think of all the time and money you'll save! With Paint Shop Pro you won't need to run to the store to buy cards anymore, you can just create them yourself.