

# Popular Threads on Solosez

## Adobe Signature

Does anyone know how to create and insert a signature into a pdf file? I am not talking about an electronic signature but an "image" of my signature that looks as if it was written by hand.

Tommy Boothe

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Easiest way is to scan in an example of your signature, turn it into a graphic file, then insert the graphic. For better quality, look around online: there are places which will create a custom signature font for you. A client of mine did this for me some years ago: now to sign a fax I use a capital A, or a small a for just "Mike." Michael A. Koenecke, Texas

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back in August of last year...

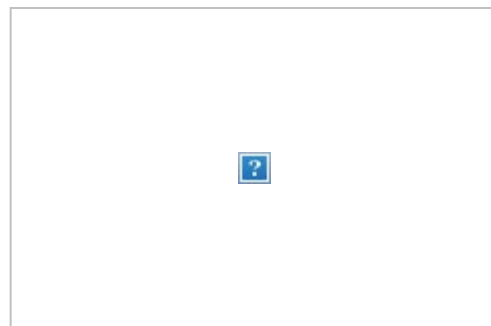
Mike Phillips wrote:

As alluded to in another post, I have finally conquered Adobe Acrobat 5.0's ability to insert a scanned signature into a document. The feature is made possible by creating a "custom stamp". If you will look on the toolbar, there is an icon for a rubber stamp. I have created a demonstration file for you to test, if you're interested. It is at <http://www.mydocsonline.com> (login and password is available only to Solosez subscribers) in the Utilities folder. It's called solosez.pdf.

Download the file to this folder on your hard drive (assuming you installed Acrobat with the default folder settings) with Acrobat closed: C:\Program Files\Adobe\Acrobat 5.0\Acrobat\Plug\_ins\Annotations\Stamps\ENU  
Open a document in Acrobat. Click on the Stamp tool. Drag and drop the area that you would like to have covered with the "signature". Unless you see "SOLOSEZ", right click on the image that appears. Select "solosz" as the category. The signature "stamp" will appear. Click on OK. The displayed imaged should now be a bad rendition of SOLOSEZ, as if it were a signature. If solosez is not available as a category, the solosez.pdf file is probably in the wrong place. You may have to play around a while.

Move the "signature" over existing text. You will notice that the background of the image is transparent, thereby making it possible to position a signature properly over a horizontal line, for example.

If you have any luck with this file, please let me know. For proper rendering, a vector-based signature image is necessary. I have a company that will digitize a signature so that it can be properly converted. If you want your signature in PDF, let me know quickly because the software that I have to use to make the conversion (Adobe Illustrator) is quite



## Subscribe to Solosez

First Name

Last Name

E-mail Address

Submit (input element)



## Unsubscribe from Solosez

E-mail Address

Submit (input element)



## Books

Click on the book for more info



expensive, and my free trial is getting ready to expire.

I don't know if or how this file will work with Acrobat 6.0, and I know it does not work with Adobe Reader, since it cannot save files.

Gil Shuga, Arizona

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Like Mike, I used graphic but put signature in original Word file. Used felt tip to make oversize signature, then scanned as graphic and brought it into Word templates. That gets rid of imperfections. Only time I ever actually sign is instances like notarized doc. Only been challenged by one clerk in 4 years & was able to back that one down by citing FL electronic sig statute.

John P. Page, Florida

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To create a signature stamp: Sign your name on a piece of paper about a dozen times (or at least until you have created one exemplar that you like enough to use as your Stamp signature) Scan the page of exemplars to PDF (if you want your stamp signature to appear in color [e.g., blue ink], scan in color mode; this will increase the size of the stamp file but its pretty small to start with) Use the Crop tool to draw a box around the desired exemplar Double click inside the box and click OK

Save the resulting PDF document to a convenient location (Example: C:\Program Files\Adobe\Acrobat 6.0\Acrobat\Plug\_Ins\Annotations\Stamps\Signatures - you may need to create the Signatures folder, the rest of the path should already exist).

Open a PDF document that you want to apply the signature stamp to Click on Tools > Commenting > Stamp Tool > Create Custom Stamp In the category box type Signature in name box type a name for the stamp (e.g., your initials) Click Select and find where you saved the signature, click OK and OK

To sign a document with your signature Stamp: From the menu select Tools > Commenting > Stamp Tool > Signature and click on your signature stamp or Click on the Stamp Tool pull down menu, select the Signature category, click on your signature Stamp Click on the Stamp Tool Left click the document where you want your signature Stamp to appear (Note: the stamp can be moved, resized or deleted after it has been applied) If you want your signature Stamp to appear at the top of the list of your favorite stamps: From the menu select Tools > Commenting > Stamp Tool > Add Current Stamp to Favorites for it to show up on top.

David Masters, Colorado

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David, I follow you through the point of creating and saving the signature file. Now would you please restate your last paragraph directions for

Adobe 7.0. What you you say below doesn't work in 7.0 as there is no signature category from which to pick the signature file, and I cannot seem to figure out how to convert your directions for use in 7.0.

Henry R. Reckler, Colorado

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Let me restate what I said a few minutes ago. I figured out how to do all you said, but it isn't usable as a signature because it is in a box, so the parts of my signature that normally would fall below a signature line create a huge box that covers up the signature line and everything beneath it. Any way around that?

Henry R. Reckler, Colorado

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Several ways around it. First, size and position the box so that all of your signature is above the line. Alternatively, don't put a signature line in the document that you will be signing. Third, create your signature image file as a transparent GIF or transparent TIFF (I think TIFFs can be transparent). That way there will be no white background that blocks out the signature line. Don't ask me how to create the transparent image file, haven't got there yet.

David Masters, Colorado

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Why not scan in a signature on a line instead of free-form? That way you'll insert a signature on a line. In most image programs will be a way to export an RGB picture in a way where the white (or whatever) background is invisible (gif94(a)? not sure), but I don't think that it will show up any differently in a word processor, plus without the background it's going to be a little trick to move the signature around.

Steve O'Donnell

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Your first alternative doesn't work. I'm too old to change my name or my signature. Your alternate doesn't work either, because the main use I have of an electronic signature is for things like Probate court forms, for example, that come with signature lines. So, as instructed, I won't ask you how, but please let me know when you figure out how to create a transparent background. Thanks.

Henry R. Reckler, Colorado

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The only way I have been able to create a transparent image file has been to have a manually digitized vector file produced, as I posted previously. We "sign" our PDFs with signatures that sit right on top of the signature

line. The backgrounds are transparent, so the line is not obstructed. We're using version 5.0.

Mike Phillips, North Carolina

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Photoshop (and I'm almost positive GIMP) will do it. You'd need to scan your signature, open it on one of those programs, select the background (which can be trickier than it sounds), change it to all one color (just because the paper you scanned in looked white, doesn't mean that the scan will be a solid white), convert the image's color palate to 256, then save or export as gif89, selecting the solid background color as the transparent color. I might have missed something, I'd need to be doing it to give better directions. For highest contrast and usability, I'd suggest signing with a sharpie. Better yet, my earlier suggestion of scanning in a signature already on a line.

Steve O'Donnell

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If you do a 2 bit scan, won't it pretty much be black and white that way (i.e., assuming the paper is more or less white the scan will read it as white and everything else will be black)?

Jake London

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Gimp is your friend. It will do it, it's free, and runs on Windows  
<http://www.gimp.org>

Ed Lawson, New Hampshire

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How does one "have a manually digitized vector file produced"?

Henry R. Reckler, Colorado

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The signature is printed on paper and then electronically "traced" with a pointing device, called a digitizer, into a vector-based software program, such as AutoCAD. It is a manual process. The last time I had one done, it was \$30 to \$50. We did signatures and use them regularly.

Mike Phillips, North Carolina

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Actually, I have to back track a little bit. I just did some experimentation, and I found two previously created signatures that came from scans; that is, they're bitmaps. Unfortunately, I did this work about 6 to 9 months ago and offered several times to help anyone who wanted a signature. As I

recall, the only way I could get the transparent background to work was to create a PDF using Photoshop's built-in PDF creator. Sorry, it's been too long for me to remember. One thing is clear: The vector-based signatures enlarge and reduce with MUCH better quality and resolution than the scanned/bitmap versions.

There is a sample PDF file (called solosez.pdf) in the Utilities folder on mydocsonline. If you want to see the function work, download that file, follow the instructions that were re-posted here a day or two ago, and give it a shot. If you cannot get it to work with that file, there is no point in your creating your own file. It is imperative that the signature file be placed in the correct folder: C:\Program Files\Adobe\Acrobat 5.0\Acrobat\Plug\_ins\Annotations\Stamps\ENU. The process is not very intuitive; in fact, it is quite confusing. However, once you get it working, it is a wonderful tool to have.

Mike Phillips, North Carolina

===== And whom does one engage to do it?

Henry Reckler, Colorado

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You might want to try experimenting with the Paint program.

Press Start and click on Programs, then Accessories, then Paint.

You can use mouse to draw a signature; I imagine a stylus would work better.

Save the file and start the name of the file with %FDF-, for example name file: %FDF-mysig

Then open a pdf file in Adobe. In File menu, click Import, then select Form Data. The find the signature file you saved and open it into the .pdf file. Having done all this I am not able to paste the file into a .pdf document. :>(

What you can do inside the open .pdf file is click on the Pencil tool in the tool bar and script as you please. The problem is a signature will look handwritten/drawn but not look exactly like your natural signature done in ordinary pen-and-ink. Very difficult to approximate your signature

Rob Robertson, Texas

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With 6 professional you can scan in a signature, follow the steps in Adobe and create your own signature with your own certification. It is very easy and I use mine regularly.

Marc Stern, Washington

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I just did it in GIMP and it was very easy. Scan your signature, save it in a file, and then open it in GIMP. I had saved it as a .pdf file but for some reason, GIMP said it could not open it. So, I went back into Acrobat and saved the file as a .png file. Opened that in GIMP. Then I sampled the background and told GIMP to change that sampled color as transparent. Saved the file as a .pdf file, and used that in Acrobat as the file for my signature. Works perfectly. It is transparent, and totally realistic when printed. On screen, though, the color of the transparency is different than the documents I have tried it on, so someone looking at it would recognize that it is not a hand written signature. I need to play with that.

Henry Reckler, Colorado

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For the kinds of things I have in mind to sign with a stamp in Adobe, I am not particularly interested in/concerned about certification. With David Masters' assistance, we have figured out how to easily create a signature stamp with a transparent background. I am left with a question, however.

Is there a way to merge the signature (which I guess in Acrobat parlance is a comment) with the document so that if I would send a pdf file with the signature stamp affixed, rather than say faxing it, the person who opens the pdf file couldn't tell that it wasn't a manually signed document that was then scanned, etc., and more importantly, so that the recipient of the file couldn't readily copy the tiff signature file and then use it inappropriately on other things?

Henry Reckler, Colorado

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