

## Need an Acrobat Signature Stamp

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I've tried to do it on my own. I've followed the instructions found at Acrobat for lawyers and other places. I can't get it to work right. I don't want to waste more of my time trying and failing to do it on my own.

I'd like to hire someone to create a signature stamp for me for Acrobat, with a transparent background.

Will pay cash money. If you're interested, please contact me off-list; let me know how much you want, and what you need me to send you (ie., scanned signatures. formats, etc.)

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I think I would also pay a reasonable price for that as well. I have not had the best of luck creating stamps for Acrobat, but would want a signature stamp.

Not sure if it is possible, but a stamp that requires a password to use would be nice. For that I may be asking too much.

Phil A. Taylor

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The password you set up when you install the stamp, especially if you set it up as a "digital signature."

-Rick

Richard J. Rutledge, Jr. North Carolina

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If you can scan your signature and send it to me, I'll be happy to create the transparent image for you.

If you need help creating the signature let me know.

Nancy Duhon, Georgia

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What process do you use? As I have done for several others on the list, I have a CAD shop that creates a vector drawing of the signature in AutoCAD. They do a fabulous job. It was less than \$50 the last time I had one done.

The problem occurs when trying to set the correct pen width on the drawing and in creating the transparent background. In fact, I still have one that is not quite right yet. The CAD shop does a great job on the digitizing, but they're

not well versed on creating the PDF with the transparent background. Maybe I can go sit with them and demonstrate the problem. They have all of the Adobe tools, so there's no reason they can't do it.

For anyone who doesn't know about vector-based files, they can be sized to any size large or small without losing resolution. If you blow up a bit-mapped file, the signature gets really fuzzy. If you blow up a vector file, the signature is crisp and clear. The PDF file with the transparent background needs to be a vector file.

Mike Phillips, North Carolina

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We just scan to TIFF, select the signature, create a new layer, then delete the background to create a transparent TIFF file. That is then used to create the stamp in Acrobat.

I understand the use of vector files for things like logos that may be used in a variety of sizes. Signatures, however, are pretty much always the same size and (I dare say) never enlarged.

David Masters, Colorado

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Mike Phillips was kind enough to set me up with his friend who then created a vector-based signature with transparent background for me. I have been successfully using that signature stamp in Acrobat for years on correspondence and court filings. I find I often have to re-size the signature when the signature area is really tiny.

Cheers,

Eugene Lee, California

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Which TIFF editor do you use? I've used both GIMP and Paint.net and am finding Paint.net easier once I learned how to use it.

Nancy Duhon

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I'm not David (who, at one time around these parts, answered to AcroBatman), but I have no problems doing it in The GIMP. Never tried paint.net.

--James S. Tyre, California

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I had GIMP first, and it certainly worked. Don't remember why I tried Paint.net, but just found that I liked it a little better. :-)

Nancy Duhon

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No, it does not have to be a vector file. Low quality bitmap files can work. By analogy, some people are happy listening to music on cassette tape. Others prefer CDs or vinyl. It's what makes you happy that counts.

"Digitizing" a signature in the CAD sense means that a draftsman blows up the signature, digitizes it by tracing it with a cross-hair mouse-type device into AutoCAD, and then cleaning it up where necessary. The benefit of the procedure is that you can make it very large or very small without seeing the dots that you get with bitmap images (BMP, GIF, JPG, TIFF) like you get from scanning.

There are some very good deals at [fiverr.com](http://fiverr.com). If you're comfortable sending them your signature, go for it. My guy is a professional drafting company with a super reputation in the business community. These requests to digitize signatures are really a nuisance for them, and they waive the minimum charge as a favor to me.

If you know someone with AutoCAD and a digitizer, you might be able to get your signature digitized for free. There is nothing magic about the process. Any professional AutoCAD (or other electronic CAD) person can knock them out pretty quickly.

When I did mine about 10 years ago, it was \$35. I can afford \$3.50 per year, particularly since I may use the digitized signature for another 10 or 20 years.

GIF files are not vector files. They're bitmaps. I've used bitmaps for signatures in a rush. They work. If you're happy with them, problem solved.

We convert them to PDF (vector) so that they are stamped in Adobe as vectors. There may be other ways to do the same thing with other file types. This procedure has worked flawlessly for me for years, so I'm going to stick with it (unless I learn of a better way through this thread.)

Mike Phillips

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So now I'm wondering. Could I use my Wacom tablet and sign my name in a PhotoShop vector file?

David Masters

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If anyone's looking for a quick and dirty electronic signature and has an iPhone and Gmail:

In the mobile web version of Gmail accessed through Safari, there is a button that lets you write using the touchscreen. Whatever you write will be attached to your email as a .PNG. With a couple of tries, I got a decent signature, downloaded the .PNG from the email to my computer, and am now pasting it into the occasional Word document when I don't need an original signature.

Richard D. Allen, North Carolina

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Try it and let us know. I've never seen a tablet that work as well as pen and ink, but I've never played with that one, either.

Mike Phillips

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I want to give a big thank you to Nancy Duhon for creating my signature.

I love this list!

Patrick W. Begos, Connecticut and New York

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Okay, Patrick is officially one of my favorite folks on this list! His surprise "Thank You" note and gift of cherry snacks just arrived via FedEx. Fantastic way to end a good week. (I LOVE cherries.)

Thanks so much Patrick, deeply appreciate the thoughtfulness.

Nancy Duhon

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Off-topic. Thank you, I'd not heard of fiverr, but I might have to hire someone who will dance to 2 minutes of any song of my choice in a hot dog costume. Or, maybe a Valentine for Marilou, have a short custom message painted in video by some dude's ferrets. Not hamsters, but maybe we can photoshop...

Barbara Nelson  
Notta Lawyer, New Jersey

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Sorry for the tardy post, but here are the steps I use. You don't need vector files or anything else special; just the right software. Works very easily for signatures, notary stamps, etc.:

Scan to jpg (high resolution, color).  
Open in Photoshop, gimp, or whatever you have.  
Make the background transparent.  
Crop as tightly as possible.  
Save as pdf.  
In Acrobat 9 (that's what I have), go to the stamp tool, create custom stamp, and navigate to the saved pdf. Follow the steps and you have your stamp.

If there is a better way, or fewer steps, I would love to know.

When I use it for an emailed document, the last step for me is always to flatten the document in Acrobat so the stamp is fixed. Otherwise, anyone with Acrobat can not only tell that it is a digital signature, but can readily take it, etc.

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Henry R. Reckler, Colorado

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I think you have to scan to TIFF in order to make the background transparent.

I save as TIFF and then use that file in Acrobat to create the stamp. I've never tried saving the image to PDF and using the PDF file to create the signature; I'll give it a try.

David Masters

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I know my steps work. But are you saying that scanning to TIFF avoids the need for a separate step to make the background transparent?

Henry Reckler

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Your steps may work, but what I think he's getting at is the jpeg format is not one that allows for transparency. PNG, Gif, Tiff etc. do.

Joseph D. Dang, California

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Not so. I know jpeg works. I had not tried it previously with anything else, but tried it with tiff after David's post, and was able to create a transparent tiff but not a transparent stamp.  
-- Henry R. Reckler

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Like I said, your process works. I'm not disputing that. But we were just pointing out, that the jpeg format does not allow for transparency. Your process is changing the jpeg into something else, and that's how it is working (you're making a stamp). I don't use the stamp feature in Adobe, I just use the place image feature. And in that case, jpeg would never work because it doesn't allow transparency. Gif works fine.

Joseph D. Dang

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O.K., so now I am totally confused.

My process works. I tried GIF after your last email. It worked just the same, except that my process with JPEG resulted in a "what you see is what you get" end result. With GIF, the image was much larger. Yes, adjustable as is my end result with JPEG, but not useable without adjustment.

I have done simply photo work in Adobe Photoshop, not always but frequently using JPEGs directly to remove a background, or remove and replace. The background is transparent. I am not changing it into something else.

End result, I don't understand. I will have to spend some time sometime to see if I can understand the whole process better. For now, my steps work great, and easily, to create a "what you see is what you get" sized, although adjustable if need be, stamp.

Henry Reckler

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