

## QUICK INSTALL GUIDE - WinPCSIGN Letter, Basic and Plus versions.

- 1) Be sure to close all open programs and insert the CD-ROM program into the CD-ROM or DVD drive.  
If the autorun is active you will see the following screen. Select wished working language.



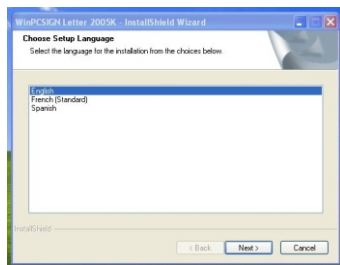
- 2) The following screen appears, If you wish to install WinPCSIGN program click the INSTALL button.



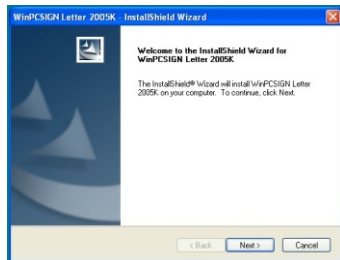
- 3) The following screen appears, click the button “Install” to begin installation and exit presentation.



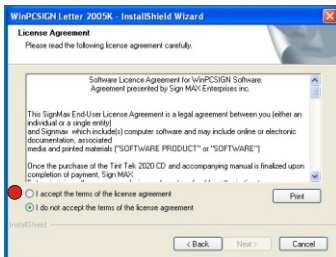
- 4) If the Setup.exe has been successfully selected, the following picture will be displayed. Confirm the selection of the language of installation if necessary. Click **Next** to continue.



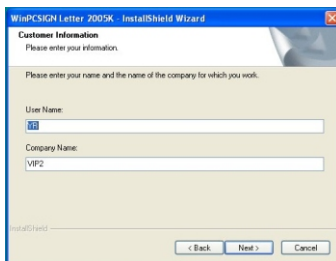
- 5) Click Next button to continue.



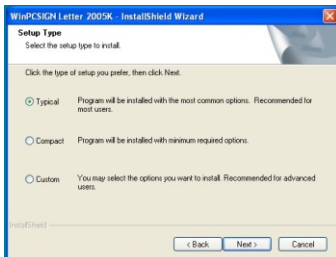
- 6) The installation program will show you our Software license. Please take the time to read this licence and click **"I accept"**. If you choose **"I do not accept"**, setup will close. To install WinPCSIGN program you must accept this agreement to continue and click Next



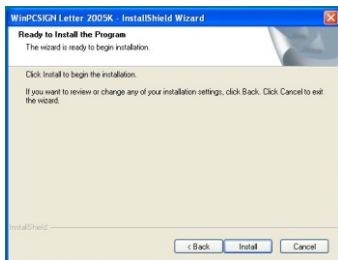
- 7) The installation program needs the user name and the company name (both fields must be filled)



- 8) A full installation requires 315 megs of space on your hard disk, a personalized installation asks much less space. Click the type of wished installation and click the Next button.



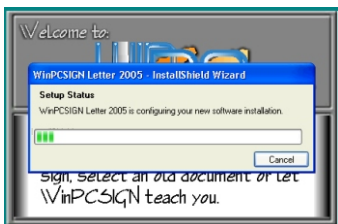
- 9) Click **Install** to continue.



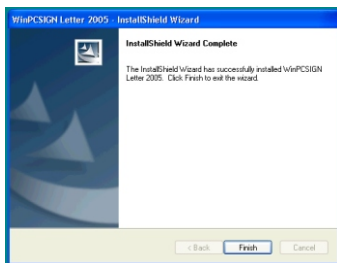
- 10) Click the Select USB key



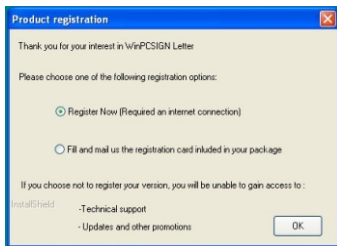
- 11) WinPCSIGN Letter2005K is configuring your new software  
wait until complete



- 12) When the installation screen Complete, click Finish.



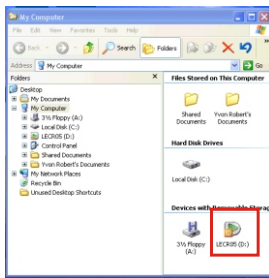
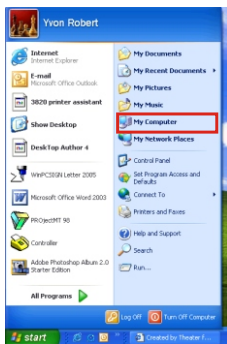
- 13) You can register your software by Internet if your computer has Internet or to fill the registration card.



**Congratulations**, your installation is ended,  
Continue on the page 6 “ Before to run the program”

If it doesn't start, the autorun is deactivated, use one of the following 2 manners.

- A** Insert the CD-Rom Program in the CD-Rom drive, double click on **My Computer** icon, then from this dialog box double click the CD-Rom icon. This action is going to start the presentation, to continue now installation.



**Start**

**MyComputer**



Double click on your CD or DVD drive.

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**OR**

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- B** Your WinPCSIGN program CD-Rom must be in your CD or DVD drive.  
- Click on **Start** in the toolbar and choose **Run**  
Type **d:\Program\Setup** in the dialog box and press Return.

The **D:** drive is where your CD-ROM is located. If, however, the letter for your CD-ROM drive is not **D**, type in the appropriate letter. Follow on-screen instructions to finish installation, accept default.

## Before to run the program:

**1** To run the program and use a serial connection you need one free USB port on your computer to install the security key (dongle). To use a USB serial adapter you need a second free USB port.

- 1) Proceed to the installation of the **WinPCSIGN** software
- 2) Install the USB key see step 2
- 3) If you use an adapter, install the adapter driver normally it is on CD-ROM supplied with the adapter, restart your computer and install adapter on available USB port, Windows detect a new hardware and finish the installation.

**2** **Security key installation (dongle).** (See also page 41)

You can install anytime the security key, no driver to install or search, just place the security key (dongle) in a USB port. This can be done when you select USB key in software installation or anytime before running the program.

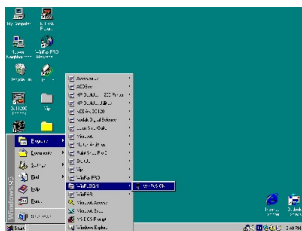


**3**

## Run the program

To run the program click the WinPCSIGN icon on your desktop or use

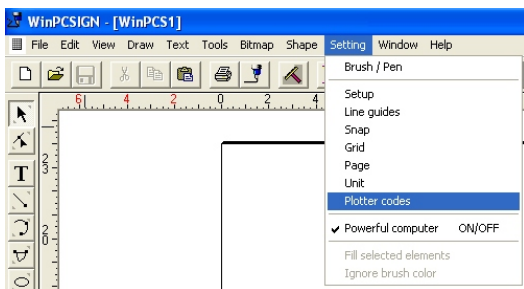
**Start / All Programs / WinPCSIGN**



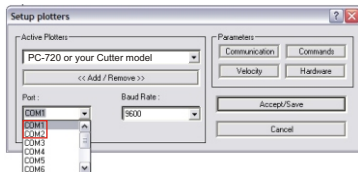
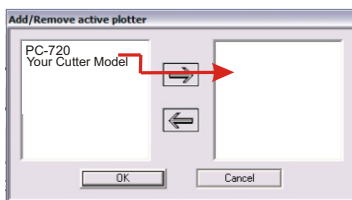
## How to setup your cutter:

Before to set your cutter for WinPCSIGN, you will have to know what communications port will be used. According to the cutter and the computer you can configure in Serial or you can use a USB converter and use a serial configuration in WinPCSIGN software. (Com1 to Com6).

Run the WinPCSIGN software and from the **Setting menu**, click on **Plotter Codes**



Then from the setup plotter window click on **Add/Remove**. Locate your plotter model, select it and click on the arrow to place the plotter in the visualization windows to the right. Finally click **OK** button.



Use the Com port available previously identified in the Device Manager. Click **Accept/Save** button. If you use a USB serial converter check port in the Device Manager and configure with this port.



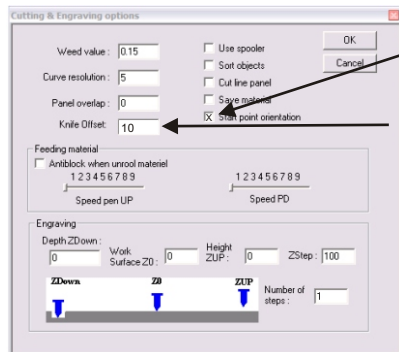
## To test the equipment:

Draw a square or a rectangle on the working page.  
Click on the cutter icon, this will open the **Cutting Control Panel** Press the **Start** button.



## To enhance your cutting quality:

Click the **Options** button in the **Cutting Control Panel**  
Enter a value 0.125 or 0.150 for the weed value  
Also checkmark the box for Start Point Orientation.



Checkmark the blade orientation function.



Click OK button and exit from Cutting Control Panel so that the changes take effect.

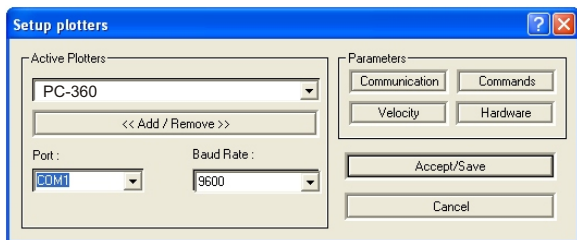
The blade offset function allows you to compensate for the slope of the edge of the blade. The advantage of choosing a good offset value is that letters have square corners and are easier to weed because the vinyl and adhesive will be totally cut.

## How to setup a PromaCut cutter?



There are two manners to connect a PromaCut cutter to a computer.

- 1) Use the serial cable supplied with your cutter, connect on the cutter and to the computer.
- 2) Configure cutter's model.
- 3) Configure in serial mode (Com1 , Com2 , Com3, Com4)



For computers having no serial port you must buy and install a USB-Serial converter.

- 1) Choose a converter similar to the Belkin FSU409 product.
- 2) Install the USB-Serial converter on a free USB port.



- 3) Windows found a new hardware and needs to install a USB driver, this driver is on the CD-ROM supplied with your USB-Serial converter.
- 4) Once the driver installed, remove the CD-ROM from your CD-Rom drive and restart your computer.
- 5) Use the Device Manager to verify the serial Com port used with the converter. (Com1 to Com6).
- 6) Configure your cutter by using the same serial port used with the converter.

7) Connect the serial cable supplied with the cutter to the converter and to the cutter, you are ready to test your installation.

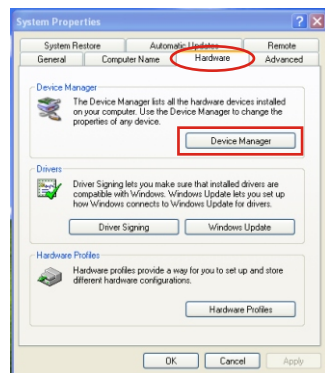
## USB-Serial adapter installation (Step 2 to 7 page 8)



Click No, not this time, and click the next button. Next screen indicate where Windows will find the USB driver, generally this driver is on the CD supplied with your USB - Serial adapter. Finish the USB-Serial adapter installation. In order to check installation and the COM port number for this adapter, go to Start, and click on My Computer and left click on Properties. Click on Hardware tab and then click on the Device Manager button. Click on the plus sign next to Ports (COM & LPT) Under this heading you should see

## How to reach the Device Manager?

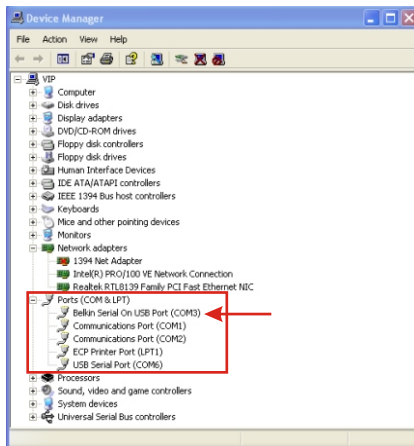
Start button, Control Panel, double click the System icon



Click Hardware Tab

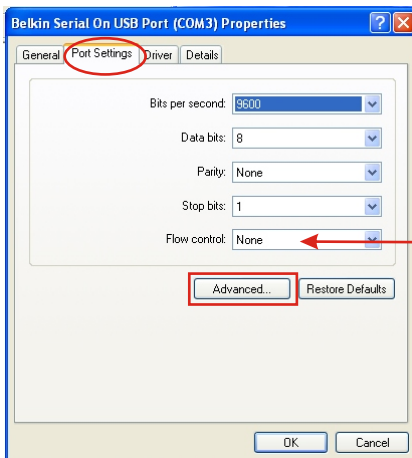
Click Device Manager button.

Click the plus square to expand the selection and note the port used with the USB adapter driver. (Configure COMX in the software **not** USB) in this example Com3.



Select the line of the adapter, press the right mouse button, select the properties of the selection. Click the tab Port Setting and makes sure that parameters are identical.

If these parameters are different change them, click the button advanced to see various Com available.



9600  
8  
None  
1  
Hardware

## How to calibrate your cutter?

Procedure to calibrate a cutter using the WinPCSIGN to change the final size.

- 1) Use a piece of vinyl to cut a rectangle 12 inches of length by 8 inches of height. (300 x 200mm)
- 2) Cut the rectangle using reduced speed and normal production pressure.
- 3) When ended, measure exactly the length and the width rectangle dimensions.
- 4) By default the PromaCut vinyl cutter uses 1000 steps per inch or 30 steps by mm also some cutters uses 1000 steps per inch or 39,37 steps per mm, to bring correction on one or two axis make following calculation for each axis.

In calculations below use 39.37 according to your PromaCut cutter

Factor for **X** Axis: **39,37** x Length from the drawing

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Length measurement obtained from the cutting.

Factor for **Y** Axis: **39,37** x Height from the drawing

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Height measurement obtained from the cutting.

Calculate using 2 decimals.

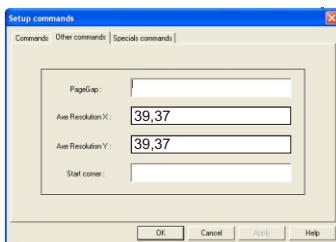
From WinPCSIGN software:

Setting Menu / Plotter Codes  
Commands button  
Other commands Tab

Resolution X (type appropriate factor using 2 decimals)

Resolution Y (type appropriate factor using 2 decimals)

Factor must be around 39.37 default value for PromaCut cutter because  $39.37 = 1000 \text{ steps per inch}$ .



## My first work...

To begin a work click the icon Win PCSIGN Letter present on the Windows desktop. Click the button Win PCSIGN to begin, click the button Close of the screen Tip of the Day, you are in the working screen.

If you begin to define your working page and to choose metric or English unity. Any time you can change the dimension of your working page.



## Two working modes :

To configure the working page according to the dimensions of the sign to be realized

To configure the working page according to the width of the vinyl used to avoid losses, to choose a arbitrary length page of 2 or 3 times the width of the vinyl.  
Not to forget to choose unit of measure.

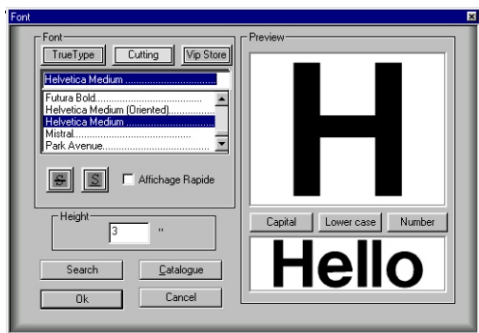
## To write a text.

Click the icon T present in the tools bar to your left, move the mouse cursor on your working page and click.

Type the word **Hello**

By means of the mouse click the selection tool in the tools bar at your left, click the text which you typed.

To change the font or the height of the font, click the icon **F** at the top of your working screen.



**Hello** 3.000  
inches

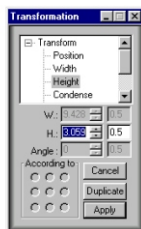
The height of the font is defined with the letter N capital letter of the alphabet. This menu allows to use the cutting fonts and the TrueTypes and Adobe fonts present in your computer. Furthermore it allows to change height.

## Transformation Menu

Press the letter H of your keyboard and compare heights.

**Hello**

Transformation measure the box, round letters are bigger.

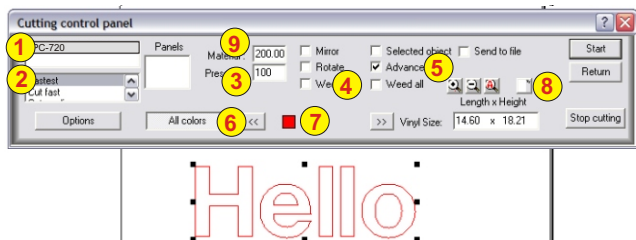


3.059  
inches

The transformation tool measures the selected object, it is the measure of the box of the selected objects.

If your cutter is configured, you can cut now. For this prepare your cutter, power ON, vinyl and...

Click the blade icon which opens the cutting control panel



## Allows to choose :

- 1 Cutter selection (if 2 or more available)
- 2 Cutting speed selection or pen speed\*\*  
*- PromaCut, configure the speed on cutter panel.*
- 3 Blade pressure if cutter has this function\*\*  
*- PromaCut, configure the pressure on the cutter panel.*
- 4 Weeding box activated or not
- 5 Movement of the cutter head in the end or at the beginning of the vinyl
- 6 Allows to cut by selection of 1 or several objects
- 7 Allows to cut objects by the color of their outlines
- 8 Allows to verify the vinyl alignment.
- 9 Effective vinyl width.

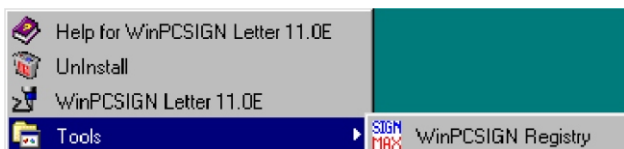




## How to delete the WinPCSIGN registry key

Removing a program is sometimes useless, unless you erase the registry keys. To reset the original settings use the regdelete utility.

To use this utility program- Go to Start, Programs, WinPCSIGN Identification of the version, RegDelete

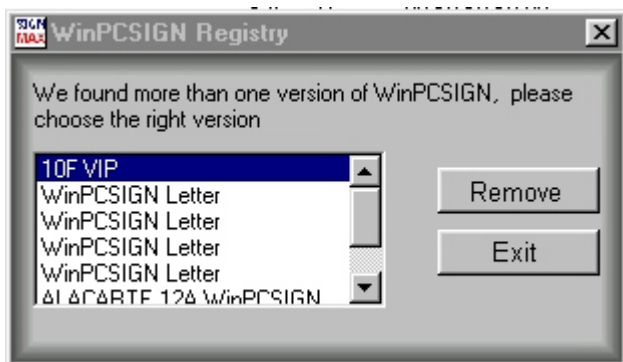


Attention: This program erases only the WinPCSIGN register key and not the program.

You can also use Windows Explorer and from C:/Programs Files/SignMAX/WinPCSIGN xxxxx found RegDelete Program and double click on it. (Also on the original CD Program)

 RegDelete.exe

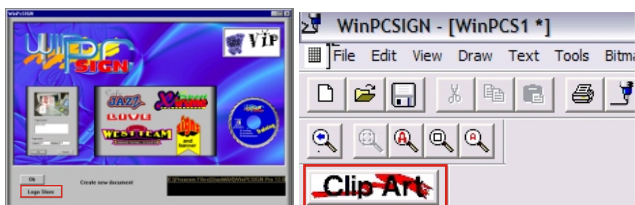
Registry key removal program



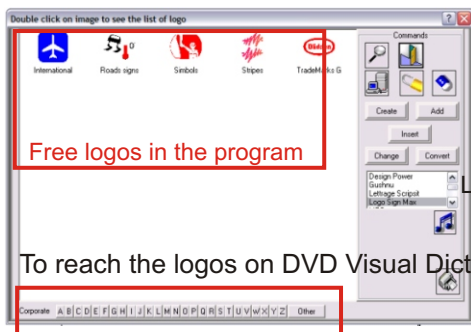
# How to reach logos.



Two ways : The first screen by pressing the logos button or in the working screen by clicking the logo icon.



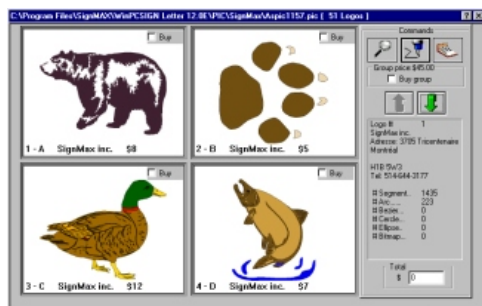
To see the available logos, use the down arrow and go to Signmax.



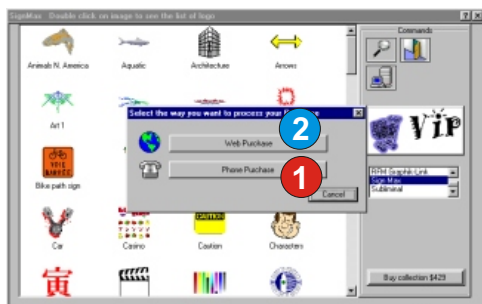
In the Sign Max store, click first icon at the top of the screen to see contents Animals of North America.



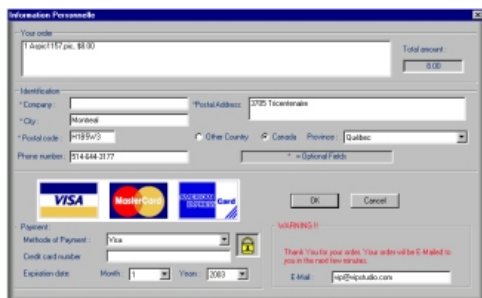
## Contents of the file Animal North America



- 1** You have 3 ways to buy: using the Internet or by calling up directly to 514-644-5147 or using the Internet at [www.signmax.us](http://www.signmax.us)



- 2** By using the Internet you will receive by E-mail your logos



Before calling up, have your credit card ready, give us the access code and we give to you the password, type it in and click the button BUY.

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Vip Store". It contains a form for purchasing a product. The form has three columns: "Your order Name", "Numero", and "Prix". The "Your order Name" column contains the text "Aspic1157.pic". The "Numero" column contains the value "1". The "Prix" column contains the value "8.00". Below these columns is a "Total: \$" field. Underneath the form are three credit card logos: VISA, MasterCard, and American Express. Below the logos is a text prompt: "To receive your password immediately phone Sign Max at (514) 644-5147 and give the following access code:->". To the right of this text are three input fields containing the numbers "2561", "4312", and "5M". Below these fields is a "Password:" label and an empty input field. At the bottom of the form are two buttons: "Buy" and "Cancel".

You have 3 choices to purchase :

- 1 - Use Internet to place your order and to receive your logos by Internet using your E-mail address.
- 2 - Call us directly at 1-514-644-5147
- 3 - Visit the site [www.signmax.us](http://www.signmax.us)  
This allows to pay by credit card and immediately obtain the password to unlock the logos on your HD.  
(24/7) Complete automated process and security

You can reach the Internet directly from your WinPCSIGN software to purchase passwords for logos any time. You can also buy logos which are not present on your CD or hard disk.

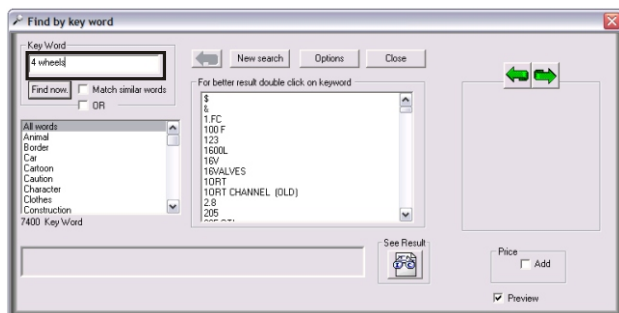
**3** Visit **www.signmax.us** to:

- Save on long distance phone charges
- Day and night 24/7
- Secure transactions
- To obtain passwords to unlock logos on your CD or HD
- To buy the other logos which are not present on your CD or your hard disk.

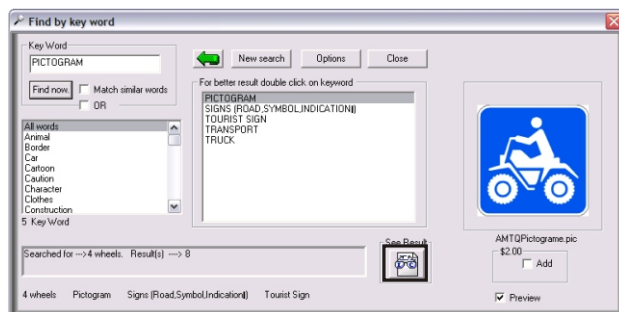


# How to search for a logo.

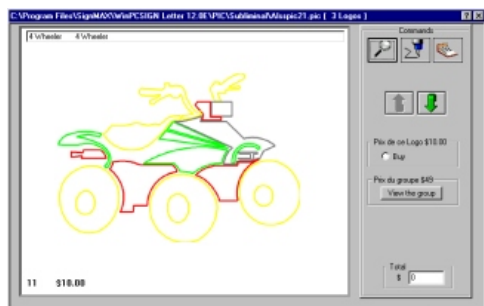
Click the logo search icon. This opens the search tool menu.



Type in a Key Word window. Example: 4 Wheels



Click the See Result button to view the found logos. If you wish to buy click the BUY button.



# How to use FontsFinder.

- 1 Scan a business card or a document so the final height lettering is 2 inches in height (50mm) at 200 DPI.

Macpherson

Black and White Scanning

Macpherson

Color Scanning

Final scan around 2 inches height for the n letter.



- 2 Using the magic wand vectorize one or two significant letters of the word.



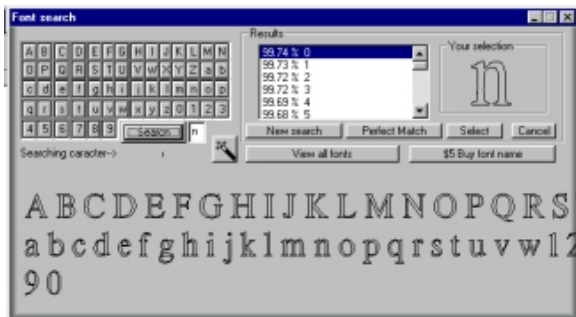
- 3 Using the selection tool, select a vectorized letter and ask to the software to find one or several fonts which match the selected letter.





- 4 FontsFinder found up to 20 fonts containing character “n” identical to the selected letter. Now you have 2 options:

- 1) View the most likely font (higher percentage) or the most likely fonts
- 2) Select another character with the selection tool and continue search among fonts already found for a better match or a confirmation.



You can buy the font name or you can continue to select letters for a perfect match up to 50 selected font characters to replace vectorized characters. In the Pro version characters extraction is free and font identification (font name) is free.

Macpherson

Perfect Match allows to extract up to 50 characters of the selected font

n

In black the original vectorized  
“n” letter, in red the “n” letter  
extracted with **Perfect Match**

You can buy the font name or the Perfect Match characters.

Use Sign Max FontFinder in professional

Identify the font name, match perfectly the selection by the addition of selected characters for only \$5.

**Fonts Finder**  
99,9% of precision

VISA MasterCard AMERICAN EXPRESS Card

To receive your password immediately call Sign Max at (514) 644-5147 and give the following access code:

2351 2668 07SM

Password :

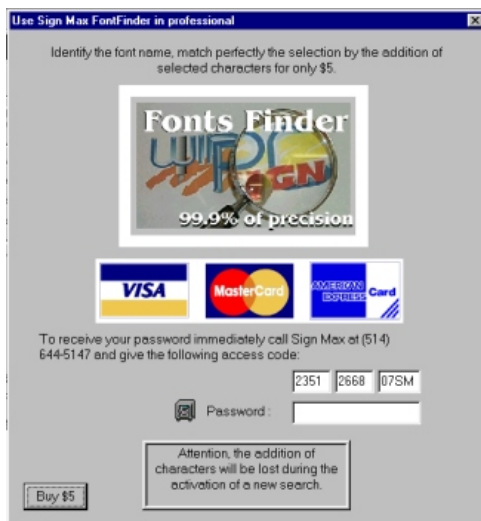
Attention, the addition of characters will be lost during the activation of a new search.

Buy \$5

Or to buy the name of the font and to get it using Internet or through your authorized retailer

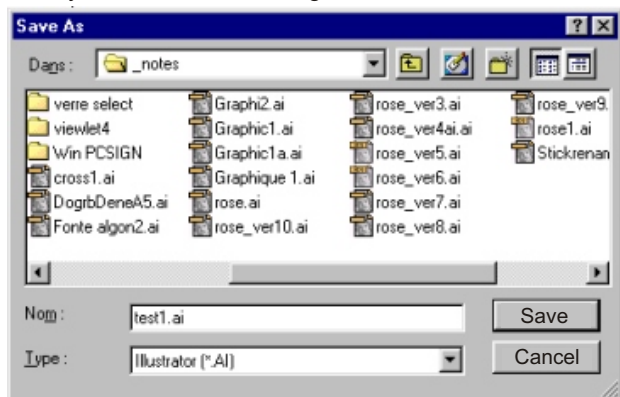


You can buy the font name or the Perfect Match characters.

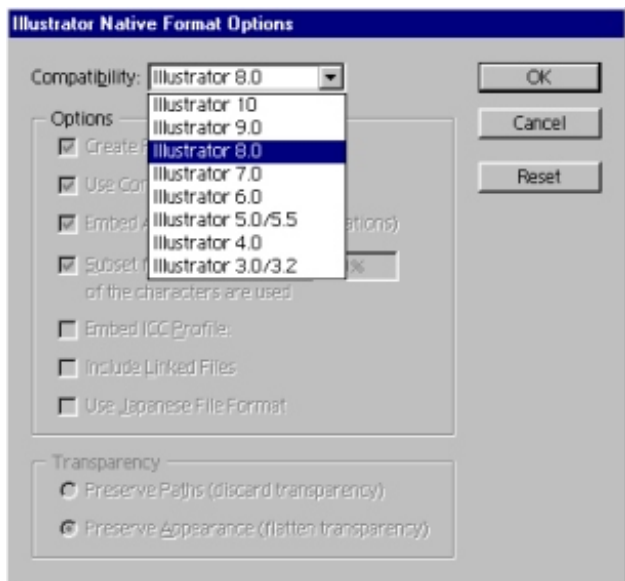


## How to create a file in Adobe Illustrator and to import in Win PCSIGN software.

Save your Illustrator file using Save or Save as ...

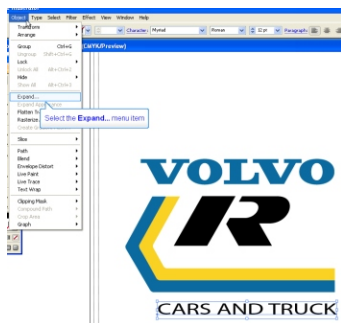


Save your file in Illustrator version 8 or less. If you save in version 9 or 10 uncheck the boxes creation of a compatible PDF file and do not use the compression file.

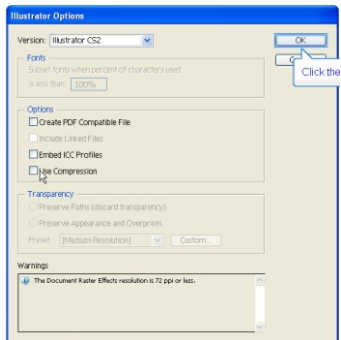
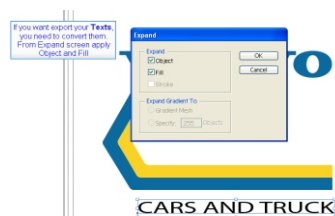


## How to create a file in Adobe Illustrator CS2 and to import in WinPCSIGN software.

- 1) Open the file created by Adobe Illustrator CS2
- 2) Select the text to be exported
- 3) Click the menu OBJECT, select EXPAND

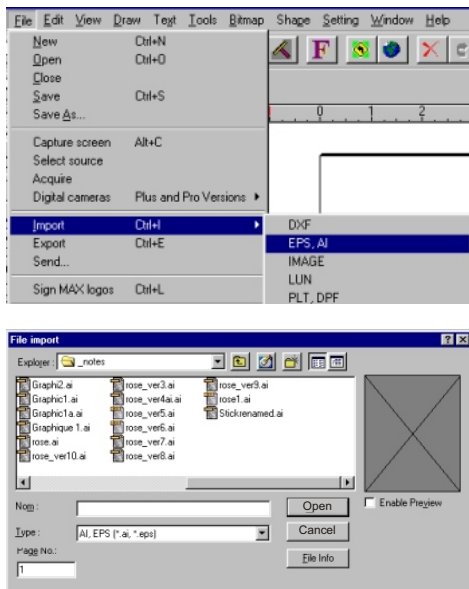


EXPAND menu display, select OBJECT AND FILL and click the OK button.



Now you are ready to save your file in Ai format.  
File / Save as  
Deactivate all elements of Options.  
Click the OK button.  
You created a Ai file import this file in your WinPCSIGN.  
See next page "How to import in WinPCSIGN"

From Win PCSIGN import a file format AI or EPS by using function File import ..... File (EPS,AI)



From the directory containing your file, select the file to be imported, if its in vector format, click Vector button. If its in raster(photos) format click bitmap



If round letters or circles seem segmented, from the *shape menu* use function *break all* and *redraw* the screen. This will restore the curvature of letters. If segments or lines are roamed use the *move point* tool and double to click objects to be corrected



## How to convert an image?

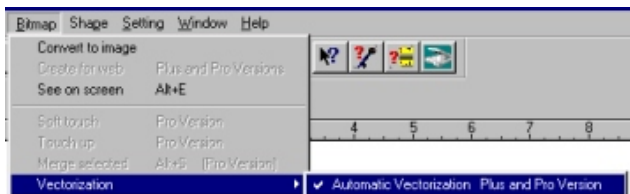
- Manual conversion (All versions)
- Automatic B/W conversion (Plus and Pro versions)
- Automatic color conversion (Pro version only)

Digitize your image by using the scanner functions. The larger the image the better the conversion will be.

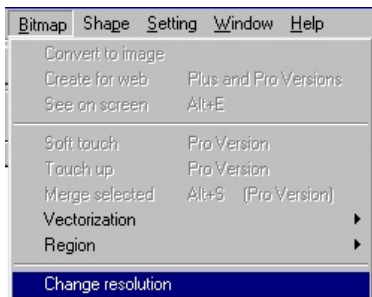
You can digitize in black & white 1 bit per pixel, or digitize in color.

### Parameters to use :

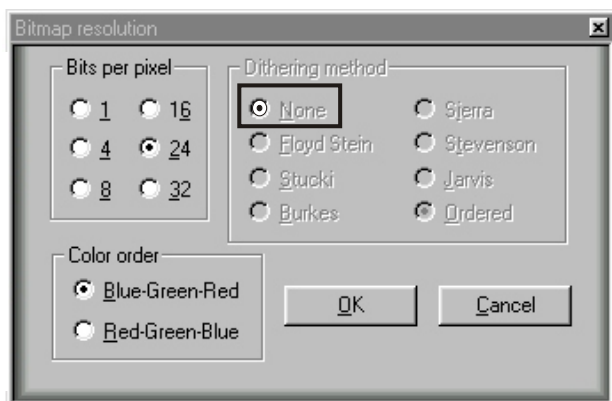
- Black/White drawing or color drawing (Solid colors only)
- Enlarge the selected zone as much as possible - 200 to 800 % works well.
- Digitize using 200 or 300 dpi



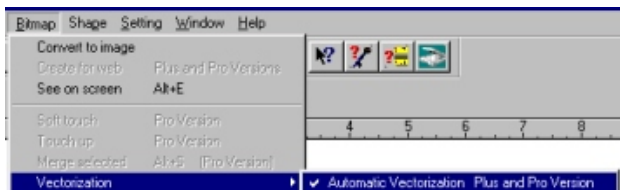
*WinPCSign Regular Letter Software* has *no* automatic B/W conversion however image must be digitized in 1bit pixel (B/W) if you have an color image or a black & white image in 24 bits, you must use the function "Change Resolution" to reduce the image to 1 bit per pixel. Make sure you set *Dithering Pattern to None*



Change the resolution and to reduce gradually to 1 bit per pixel and set ***Dithering Pattern to none.***



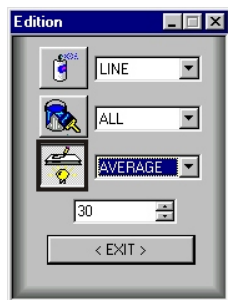
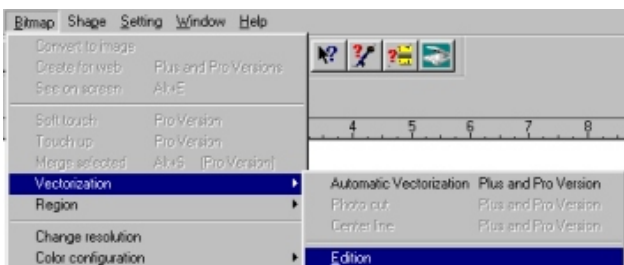
When you have a real 1 bit black and white image, use Bitmap, Vectorization, Automatic click on the image and the conversion process will start.



*When the image is finished being converted to vector format you can edit or modify individual paths by using the drawing tools.*



## Manual Vectorization (All Editions)



Use the magic wand and click each part of the image you wish to convert to a vectorized (cuttable) object. When your finished, select all vectorized objects and use the simplify paths function to help remove unwanted points.



Using the simplify paths function a few times will help reduce the number of unwanted points making editing easier.

*When finished you can edit or modify individual paths by using the drawing tools.*

## Automatic Color Vectorization. (Pro Edition Only)

The color vectorization is the easiest to use.

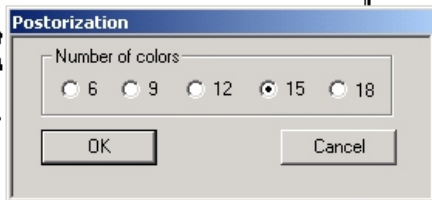
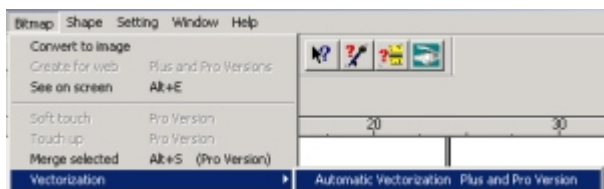
When digitizing your image - use the scanners functions to enlarge the image as much as possible. The larger the image, the better the conversion will be.

You can scan in color at 256 colors, 8 bit, 16 bit, or 24 bit.

### Parameters to use :

- Color drawing (Solid colors only)
- Enlarge the selected zone as much as possible  
200 to 800 %
- Scan using 200 or 300 dpi

From the Bitmap Menu select Vectorization / Automatic Vectorization.



Use the Posterization Function to reduce the number of colors you have to work with. Using the magic wand - click on the scan image once. The conversion process will begin. It may take a few minutes depending on the complexity of the image.



Once the conversion is complete you will have a vector object that is ready for cutting. It may be necessary to correct some of the lines and arcs using the editing tools.

## Questions ?

### ***Where to find help and training on the Win PCSIGN software.***

Multimedia training on the blue CD-Rom. It contains more than 100 movies.

A complete WinPCSIGN software manual in PDF format on the CD-Rom.

An E-Book software manual on CD-Rom. It is accessible from the Start Menu. Programs, WinPCSIGN XXXX, Tools

Paper booklet accompanying the software cd's.

The Help Menu in the WinPCSIGN software.

On the Internet at [www.signmax.us](http://www.signmax.us) & [www.vipstudio.com](http://www.vipstudio.com)

E-mail support    [signmax@signmax.us](mailto:signmax@signmax.us)  
                             [Vip@vipstudio.com](mailto:Vip@vipstudio.com)

### ***How return the cutter head to the origin Or start point (0,0)***

In the cutting control panel uncheck the box **Advance** after cut.

### ***How to check vinyl alignment before cutting.***

From cutting control panel, click the white vinyl align button. The vinyl cutter will unwind the quantity of necessary material and will return to the origin point

## Questions ?

### ***How to restore the text parameters after rotation or writing on a circle or on a path.***

From the Text Menu select Clear text transformation

### ***How to write vertical text.***

Use the Fast Writing function (CTRL T), in the box - type the first letter and press Enter, type the second letter and press Enter etc.... for the other letters. Justify in the centre. Choose height and click the button OK.

You can change the font, the height and the spacing between letters by using visual text spacing or mathematical spacing between lines using text spacing.

### ***I can not see my drawing in the cutting control panel or objects are missing.***

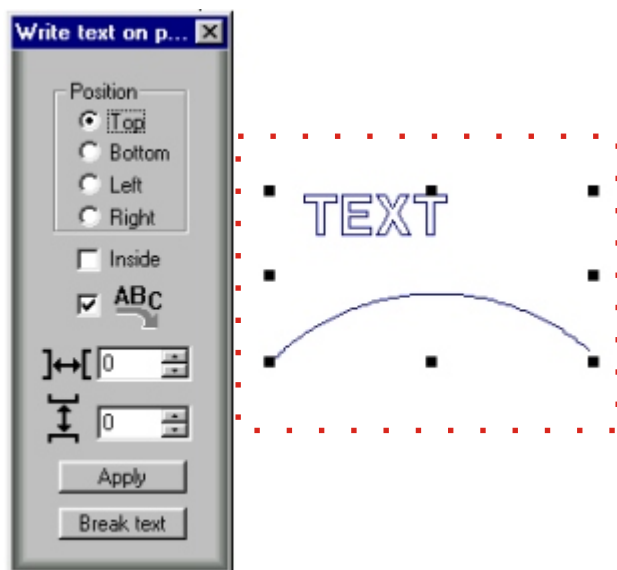
If an object does not appear in the cutting control panel: the lines are white or you have an **image** - only vector objects are seen by the cutting control panel. To display a vector object containing white lines you can use wire frame function.

You can also right click on the object to see its properties. Check to see if the object is an image or a cuttable vector object.

In the cutting control panel images will not display and will not cut. You must convert them to vector objects in order to cut them.

## *How to Place Text on a Path?*

From the Text Menu use function Place Text on a Path after selecting both the text and the path.



## *How to correct weird letter ?*



The blade offset value is set wrong. See page 7

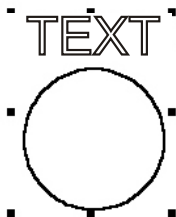
## ***How to use function to fit a text on a circle ?.***



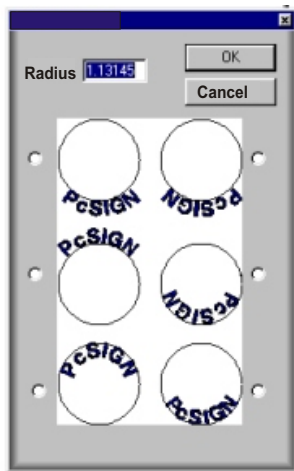
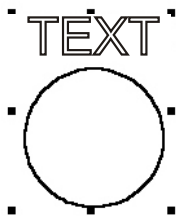
1) Draw a circle by using the tool encircle, not confuse with the tool ellipse.

2) Type your text and to adjust height and length

3) Select the text and the circle.



From the menu text use function place a text on a circle.



Adjust the circle radius, and choose the position of the text on the circle, click the button OK

## Questions

***I keep getting an error message that says that the cutter cannot be initialized-check the configuration.***

You have to configure your cutter in the configuration menu by using the serial port Com1 to Com6 and the serial cable supplied with the cutter, certain cables have an end for the computer and an end for the cutter. Using USB serial adapter, you have to install the USB driver for your adapter you will find a CD-ROM supplied with your adapter.

Setting Plotter codes

Check the active plotter and the port selected.

***I obtain ERROR FONT***

You have to erase of the Win PCSIGN directory the file " Document .sav ".

C:\Program Files \ SignMAX \ WinPCSIGN Basic 14E

***This can be taken from their web page, the edges are not straight and I can not see the drawing in the cutting window..***



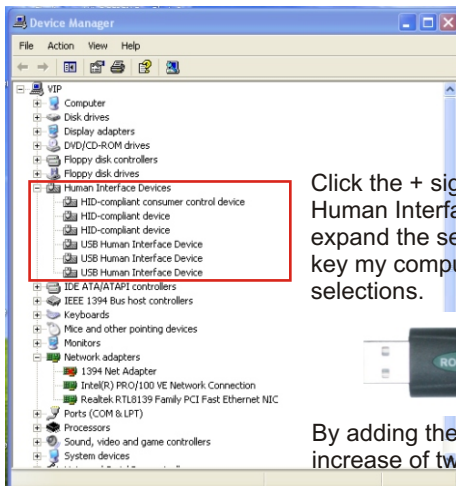
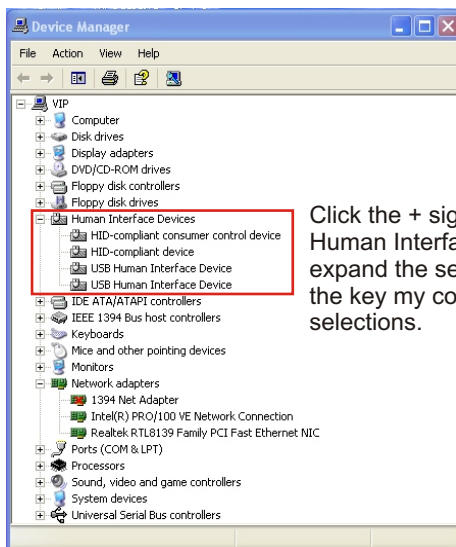
Zoom 2X  
Anti-aliasing

Images for Web are small and 96 or 72 dpi, they have no quality and must be digitized in the screen. Use fonts to reproduce them.

An image cannot be cut it does not contain vectors (lines, arcs or curves) it has to be vectorized or transformed into vectors. Save the image in BMP or JPG format to import in WinPCSIGN Basic



From the Device Manager, (See page 9) you can verify if the key is installed, here is two screen showing absence and presence of the ROCKEY 2 key on a USB port.



# Notes

WinPCSIGN      Letter ☐    Basic ☐    Plus ☐

WinPCSIGN Version Number :

Letter version password:

Cutter's Model :

Connection type :

Serial Com Port                      (Com1, Com2, etc..)

USB converter to Serial    (Com1, Com2, Com3 to Com6)

Sign Max website      [www.signmax.us](http://www.signmax.us)

VIP Studio website      [www.vipstudio.com](http://www.vipstudio.com)

Dealer information :

For the support and training on our products, visit our

Forum in the [www.signmax.us](http://www.signmax.us) site, also view movies on

the bleu multimedia CD-ROM

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