Corel Concepts
Shaping Paragraph Text

By way of review, two articles ago we embarked on the task of "shaping up your text." We've now covered the top two examples shown in **Figure 1**: applying envelopes and the perspective effect to artistic text. This month, I embark upon the third example: placing paragraph text inside a path.

Figure 1

Text Inside a Path

Sound familiar? It should. Many moons ago, we explored **Text on a path**. (Ooh, close-but no cigar.) If you recall the 'on' version, you'll have no problem with the 'inside' version. Let's begin with a little screen gestalt. Open up your CorelDRAW and follow along.

1. On a new document, draw a healthy ellipse. Make the ellipse approximately 4 inches wide and 2 inches tall. (Precision is not important.)

2. Select the Text tool. As a first step, simply watch the text cursor as you slowly move it from outside the ellipse to inside the ellipse. Note the following:

• When the cursor is completely off the ellipse (**Figure 2**-left), it's a plain ole' text cursor ready to place Artistic text (click the mouse) or Paragraph text (drag the mouse) on the page.

• When it is directly on the outline of the ellipse, it changes (**Figure 2**-left centre). Click now and you create **Text on a path**.

• When the cursor is just inside the ellipse, it changes again (**Figure 2**-right centre). Click now and you create **Text inside a path**.

• Finally, when the cursor is well inside the ellipse (**Figure 2**-right), it returns to its normal version.
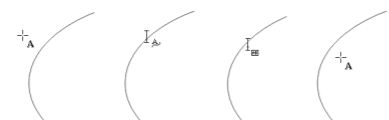

Figure 2

3. Okay, now bring the cursor back to the **Text inside a path** version and simply click the mouse. You'll immediately note a path is created inside the ellipse that serves as the frame for the paragraph text. Note also that there is a blinking text cursor inside, ready for you to…

4. Type away! The text flows in with the default attributes of Paragraph text. When placing **Text inside a path**, be conscious of formatting the text appropriately. For example, the ellipse lends itself to centre alignment. Remember also that you can always force a line break using **Shift-Enter**.

The ellipse and Paragraph text are dynamically linked. Should you change the shape of the ellipse (or whatever the container), the contained Paragraph text will reshape itself. In **Figure 3**, I selected the ellipse (officially a **Control ellipse**), converted it to curves, and edited the control handles to make it bulge. The contained Paragraph text adjusted itself automatically to the new shape.
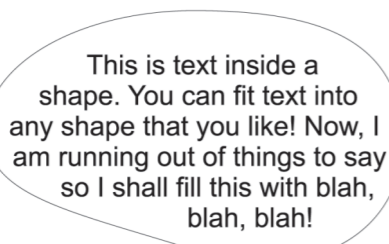

Figure 3

As with any dynamically linked objects, you can separate the text from its control object by choosing **ARRANGE**/Break.

Wrapping Text Inside a Shape After the Fact

Although wrapping text on the fly is clever, in the real world it presents an impracticality-editing. A more likely scenario is that you will create your text, then edit it and finally, shape it. It is much easier to edit text shaped as a normal paragraph as opposed to some polygon, or whatever! Fortunately, placing Text inside a path after the fact is really quite simple. Simply drag the text using the right mouse button over the shape.

1. Using a curve drawing tool of your choice, draw a closed curve.

2. Using the Text tool, key in some Paragraph text. You should now have something like **Figure 4**.
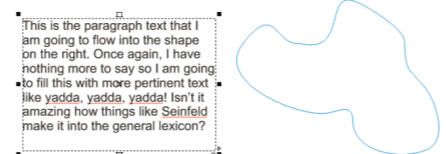

Figure 4

3. Using the Pick tool, with the right mouse button, drag the text over the curve. When the cursor changes to a 'target' cursor, as shown in **Figure 5**, release the mouse. You will be presented with a pop-up. Simply choose **Place Text Inside** (**Figure 6**) and the text is placed inside (**Figure 7**).
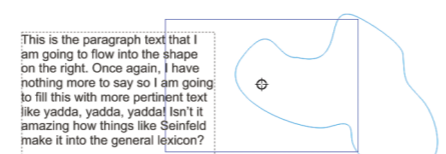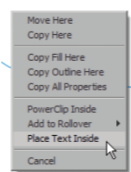

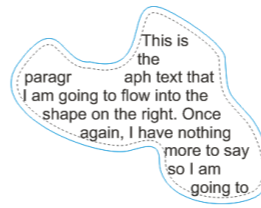*Figure 5*

Figure 6

Figure 7

Obviously, this example requires a bit of editing because the container is pretty radical.

Text Flow Mania

Just to show you how much freedom Corel provides with text flow, perform this little exercise.

1. Using the curve drawing tool of your choice, draw a nice curve approximately 4 inches long. Then, create an ellipse, again approximately 2 inches high and 3 inches wide. Accuracy is not important at all.

2. Using the Text tool, drag out a paragraph frame approximately 4 inches square. Again, accuracy isn't very important here. Fill the frame with text set in any 10-point font of your choice. The text itself can be gibberish. The intention here is to get plenty of Paragraph text for you to use.

3. Using the Pick tool, select the frame and reduce its size using the bottom-centre handle so that there is now text that can be reflowed. Recall that the bottom handle on the frame changes to an arrow to indicate that there is additional text present. Your document should now look somewhat like **Figure 8**.
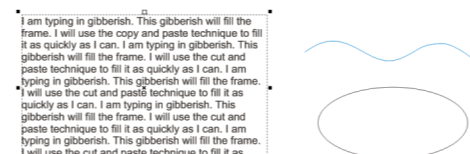

Figure 8

4. With the pick tool, click on the arrow to reflow the text. Then, bring the cursor directly over the curve. The cursor changes to an arrow as shown in **Figure 9**.
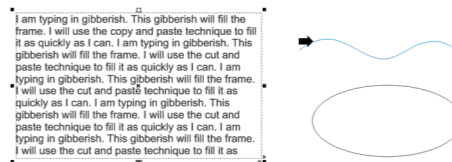

Figure 9

5. Click the arrow cursor on the curve. The text now flows from the frame to the curve, but it is Paragraph text flowing on the curve! Note that it has a frame on it denoting there is more text to reflow.

6. Using the Pick tool, select the text so that the text alone appears in the Status Bar (i.e., not **Text on a Path**). Now repeat the process of text reflow, that is, click on the lower reflow arrow and bring the cursor just inside the ellipse (**Figure 10**).
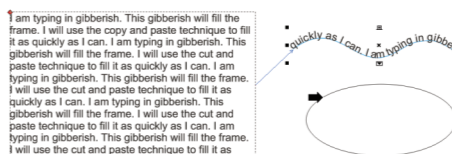

Figure 10

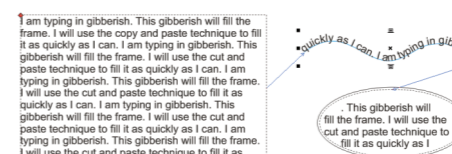7. Click again and the text flows into the ellipse (**Figure 11**).

Figure 11

Although it is wildly flexible and pretty cool, would you ever flow text this way? Probably not. More likely is that you would break it into pieces. But Corel always makes a point of showing off this feature in all their demos, so we threw it in as well.

Next month, the final installment in this series-wrapping text around objects.

Please send your comments and questions to questions@retlabgraphics.com. Pradhan Balter has taught CorelDRAW since it was invented. He lectures frequently at the regional and national ARA shows. His training manuals are available through ARA at www.ara.org/products.

EURO TEN veröffentlicht in regelmäßiger Folge Artikel von Pradhan Balter über CorelDRAW. In dieser Ausgabe beschäftigt er sich mit der visuellen Gestaltung von Textabschnitten.

EURO TEN pubblica regolarmente articoli di Pradhan Balter su CorelDRAW. In questa edizione, Pradhan si occupa del cambiamento di forma del testo in paragrafi.

EURO TEN publie régulièrement des articles de Pradhan Balter sur CorelDRAW. Dans cette édition, il s'intéresse à la mise en forme du texte de paragraphe.

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