

Nova Print Explosion Deluxe

by Jerry Haselhuhn

All I can say is WOW! I haven't won anything for years and years and after enjoying Jim Tetzlaff's presentation I thought that Print Explosion Deluxe would be great to own. Nova Development Corp. has surely filled a niche in my perceived needs. You need to understand that with some financial prodding for my birthday from our children, the retired Gramps had just become the proud owner of a new iMac G5 with GarageBand. They all want me to make cd's of my violin playing for posterity, (I don't feel that old). What would be great, putting the cart before the horse, would be to be able to make my own CD labels for the yet to be recorded music. That and the continuous purchasing of cards for eleven grandchildren seems to make this program a must! So, with visions in my head of the possibilities, I signed up for 'the program'.

Part 1.

After a very simple installation process I was up and running and impatient to begin. I scanned my notes of Jim's presentation and a few pages of the manual and began with a selection from the ready made card section, a birthday card for my granddaughter soon to be eleven. It was simple to select from occasions, 'birthdays' then 'for children' and then a bright sunny basic card and voile I had an image on the workspace. I had put down the notes and manual and decided to see just how far I could go with this thing. What a marvelously intuitive program this is. There were tab choices for Front, Inside Front, Inside Back and Back. Also a nice print preview selection before committing to the real printing process. Before long I was picking fonts, coloring them from the palette at the right side of the screen and tweaking the corners and sides of the selected frame to get things just right. Before long I had added sentiments and personalized the card. With my wife's



additional suggestions we soon had just the card we wanted for our grand daughter. I even added a tiny "cards by G&G" (Gram and Gramps) at the bottom of the back side of the four way fold card.

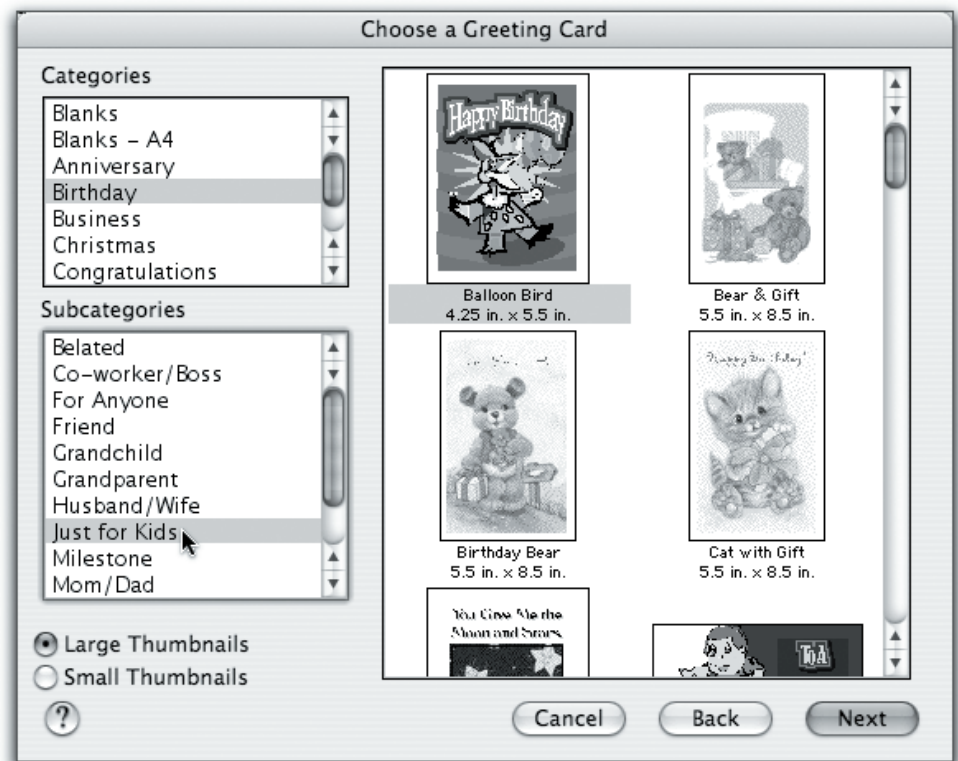
Next, with the help of our trusty 'all in one' Epson Stylus CX5400 printer, copier, scanner I ran a test sheet and proudly folded it. How this all ended is in part 2.

The next project was to try the CD label. Again the simple selection process led me to a music label. I was getting bold by now

and started with a basic label but quickly deleted all but the background and flashed back and forth with fonts, shapes and colors. Some were filled, bordered, shadowed and all were curved to fit the label. The pages of the manual were yet to be turned. I was on a roll! With straight lettering on the left side for 'Disc 1' and the right 'Oldies but Goodies' I was quickly imagining Christmas albums, childhood songs, and an album of religious melodies (I had played at each of our daughters' weddings).

Giddy with accomplishment I quickly clicked on to the next project. Uh Oh, you guessed it, I hadn't 'SAVE AS', oh well, lesson learned. It wasn't hard to do and I'd have probably changed it anyway.

I'm sure working with the graphics will come just as easily, only this time I will crack the manual. I'm also going to try to import some photos from our iPhoto albums for card graphics. I'm not sure it can be done but there is a way according to the index to scan graphics in so I'm hopeful.



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Now on to Part 2.

Jim and others talked about papers and 'card stock' and bantered about such well known companies as Avery etc. Well, let me tell you, the adventure has just begun! I also had checked the ink levels of the Epson and decided to 'kill two birds with one stone' as the saying goes. Well, I started at Target (closest to us) just to check prices. They had the inks, gulp \$\$\$\$, but not the rest. The next two stops were at the well known office supply stores, (Staples is about to open not too far away). Each had different products for 'card stock' none of them Avery and I learned that there is 70, 90 and 110 pound stock and that my Epson would take all weights while other printers would not (made the right choice there). Then there was white, pastels, matte or flat (no shiny) to chose from. By the way, we're out of quarter fold envelopes because of graduation, you will want some won't you? Then there were the prices, all over the map with companies like Wausau and Georgia Pacific as well as the 'store brands'.

I decided to push my luck and ask about the CD labels. "Well, you have the kit, don't you?" "What kit?", I asked innocently. "Why, the labeling kit with stand, jewel boxes, inserts and all." Another gulp, "how much will it cost me?" the reply was anywhere from \$15.95 to \$39.95 and I'd need a supply of labels too, wouldn't I? At that point I thanked the helpful clerks and decided I'd record some music first before making that investment. We're retired, don't you know? Everything is an investment! That still left the card stock and envelopes to acquire. Onward to 'Wally's World', surely I could find what I

need there. The cost savings going to CDW were at this point miniscule what with gasoline costs what they are.

Well, 'Wally's World' inks were about the same cost as Target (both lower than the office supply stores) and I got Georgia Pacific 110 pound card stock and white envelopes all at the right price so proceeded home.

Editor's Note – Yes, brand name inks are expensive! If you do not require perfect color matching to specific ICC profiles, take a look at the many third party ink vendors. I use Carrot Ink cartridges <www.carrotink.com>, and there are LOTS more out there. Find one that you're happy with. As for papers, Avery offers many varieties of cards and labels. Stomper CD labels are available at Sam's Club at considerable savings. As to colors of paper, keep in mind that what you see on the screen will change if you are not using white paper.

The Epson took the 110 pound stock beautifully and the card was all but professional, one nice big unfolded heavy card! I suppose there is a gadget for that too but I found my steel carpenters square in the 'toolbox' (not on the mac), and with the aid of the back of a kitchen knife I scored the card and gingerly folded it to quarter card shape. It fit beautifully into the envelope and is now on the way to our soon to be eleven year old grand daughter. No, I didn't push my luck by trying to print the envelope, that will come later!

In retrospect, I suppose the 110 pound stock is overkill but it gives a store bought feeling to the card and will do well for half sheet folds as well. As for the music labels, they're a long way off. Garage Band has a significant learning curve when working with 'real instruments'. As for Print

Explosion Deluxe goes, I couldn't be happier and am sure that the manual will continue aiding my imagination in future projects!

