

**Online Gambling Choose your game now !!!**

Blackjack     Slot Machines    **Play Now?**

Roulette     Video Poker

**CASINO ON NET** [Games review](#)

You are here: [About](#) > [Computing/Technology](#) > [Desktop Publishing](#)



# Desktop Publishing

One of Over 700 Sites  
with Guide  
Jacci Howard Bear  
[Bio](#) | [Contact](#)



[Site Home](#) · [Join Chat](#) · [Post in Discussions](#) · [Get Site Newsletter](#) · [Become a Member](#)

Search for

in

[Sites A to Z](#)

## Subjects

- [Getting Started](#)
- [Learning DTP](#)
- [Teaching DTP](#)
- [Graphic Design](#)
- [Things to Design](#)
- [Typography](#)
- [Scanning](#)
- [Prepress](#)
- [PostScript](#)
- [Printing](#)
- [Career](#)
- [DTP in Canada](#)

- [Hardware](#)
- [Software](#)
- [Paper](#)
- [Templates](#)
- [Free Clip Art](#)
- [Free Fonts](#)
- [Free Photos](#)

- [Adobe FrameMaker](#)
- [Adobe InDesign](#)
- [Adobe PageMaker](#)
- [Corel Ventura](#)
- [MS PowerPoint](#)
- [MS Publisher](#)
- [Microsoft Word](#)
- [QuarkXPress](#)

[Subject Library](#)

[All articles on this topic](#)

## Prepress Tasks traditional vs. digital

Prepress is the process of taking a document from an idea to a final product. It involves design including type and images, preparing files for output, proofing, revisions, and then finally printing the final publication.

For many of us who might never have worked in publishing prior to the advent of desktop publishing, digital prepress may be the only type of prepress we know or understand. But before PageMaker and laser printers there was a whole other industry (and a lot more people) involved in getting a book or a brochure published.

To help understand the differences and similarities in the two processes, here is a *brief rundown and comparison of conventional or traditional and digital prepress tasks*. You may immediately notice how many different jobs the designer takes on now that desktop publishing software has replaced (or substantially changed) the job of the typesetter, paste-up professional, stripper, and others.

Task	TRADITIONAL PREPRESS	DIGITAL PREPRESS

### Advertising

[AllBusiness.com](#)

Create your business plan. Here's how.

[win millions!!](#)

Just three easy steps can make you a millionaire!

[HotJobs.com](#)

Better Jobs for a Better Life

[Win a piece of \\*NSYNC!](#)

Head to Alloy.com for a chance to score your very own platinum copy of No Strings Attached!



### Marketplace

- - free stuff - -
- [get a website\\$499](#)
- [long distance deal](#)
- [\\$\\$\\$\\$ win big \\$\\$\\$\\$](#)
- [cheap computers!](#)
- [free tech stuff](#)
- [high paying jobs](#)
- [quick jobs search](#)
- [free ebiz solutions](#)
- [looking for love?](#)
- [ebusiness info](#)
- [\\$50 off mp3](#)
- [player](#)
- [discover romance](#)
- [book club](#)
- [longdistancedeal](#)

Find books related to this topic [Click Here](#)

**Videostore**

Find videos related to this topic [Click Here](#)

**ShoppingAbout**

Your favorite products, right here [Click Here](#)

**Stay up-to-date!**

Subscribe to our newsletter.

**Do you like our sites?**

Wish to share them with others - and earn money?

[Become an Affiliate](#)

[More Sites on this Topic](#)

[Wanted Fonts](#)

<b>Design</b>	Individual or a group choose the overall look and feel, purpose, budget, and the form of the publication. The designer may or may not be involved in the conceptualizing. The <b>designer then takes the information and comes up with rough sketches (generally more refined than just thumbnail sketches) for the project which include measurements for specific elements and type specifications.</b>	Individual or a group choose the overall look and feel, purpose, budget, and the form of the publication. The designer may or may not be involved in the conceptualizing. The <b>designer then takes the information and comes up with rough representations done on the computer (they may do their own thumbnail sketches initially). These rough comps may use dummy (greeked) text and placeholder graphics. Several versions can be quickly turned out.</b>
<b>Type</b>	The typesetter receives text and type specifications from the designer. Typesetting that may have been done with lines of metal type, later gave way to type composition by machine, such as Linotype. The type then goes to the <b>paste-up person who puts it on a paste-up board along with all the other elements of the publication.</b>	The <b>designer has complete control over type -- digital type -- changing it on the fly, arranging it on the page, setting leading, tracking, kerning, etc. No typesetter, no paste-up person.</b>

## Related sites

- [on About](#)
- [Amateur Photography](#)
- [Art/Technology](#)
- [Computer Peripherals](#)
- [Graphic Design](#)
- [Graphics Software](#)
- [Photography](#)
- [Publishing](#)
- [Scrapbooking](#)
- [Technical Writing](#)
- [Web Design](#)

<b>Images</b>	Images are photographed, cropped, enlarged, or reduced using traditional photographic processes. FPO boxes ( <i>for position only</i> ) are placed on the paste-up board where images should appear.	The <b>designer may take digital images or scan in images, do cropping, scaling, photo enhancement (including color correction) in an image editor then place the actual digital images into the publication.</b>
<b>File Prep</b>	After text and FPO boxes are in place on the paste-up boards the pages are shot with a camera, negatives made. The <b>stripper takes these negatives plus the negatives of all images previously acquired and sized to fit the FPO boxes. The stripper checks everything then assembles it all into sheets or flats. These flats are then imposed -- arranged in the order in which they are to be printed depending on how they will be folded, cut, and assembled. The imposed pages are made into plates from which the publication is printed onto paper on the printing press.</b>	The <b>designer places everything in the publication from text to images, rearranging as necessary. File preparation involves either preparing a digital file (insuring that all digital fonts and images are correct and supplied with the digital file or embedded as necessary) or printing out a "camera-ready" page. File prep may include imposition, which can often be done totally within the software used to create the publication.</b>
<b>Proofing</b>	A possibly time-consuming process where pages are printed and carefully proofread for errors. Fixing errors may involve making new negatives and carefully replacing the "bad" items in the original making sure they line up perfectly.	Because it is so much easier to print out interim copies or proofs (to a desktop printer, for instance) many, many errors can be caught in this way before the publication gets to the stage of making negatives, plates, and final prints.

	<p>The new plates are created and the pages are printed again. Errors can creep in at many stages as there may be many different people working with individual elements of the publication.</p>	
<b>Printing</b>	<p>Paste-up to Film to Flats for imposition (if required) to Plates to Printing.</p>	<p>The process may remain the same or similar (Laser Output to Film to Plates) but other processes are possible including output directly to film from the digital file or directly from digital file to plate.</p>

Learn more about [prepress and printing](#) through my extensive collection of links devoted to topics such as camera-ready artwork, collection & preflight, imposition, and working with service bureaus.

*Jacci Howard Bear*

**Your Guide to Desktop Publishing  
ICQ#10206585**

### **Related reading**

**Prepress jobs decline, Desktop Publishing on the rise**  
**Increased use of computers in typesetting and page layout will replace or force major changes in many prepress jobs. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects declining job opportunities for prepress workers, typesetters, paste-up workers, film strippers, and most other printing workers. But a projected growth rate of 74% and 22,000 new jobs for Desktop Publishing specialists puts**

## DTP in the top 10 of the fastest-growing professions. [\[Read full article\]](#)

### Subscribe to The Desktop Publishing Newsletter

Name

Email

### [More articles](#)

[Email this page!](#)

#### Sponsored Links

##### [Photo Cookie Greetings](#)

Imprint any image - photos, logos, products - on a cookie! 100% Edible! Custom imprinted tins are also available.

<http://www.eBake.com/> (Listing fee: \$0.67)

##### [Hewlett-Packard's Small Business Web Site](#)

HP's Business Center is the spot to find online services and computing information for your small business.

<http://www.hp.com/> (Listing fee: \$0.66)

##### [POWERFUL 13,000+ Work At Home JOBS Database](#)

The Independent Homeworkers Alliance posts telecommuting jobs daily, full benefits, chats, message boards and more. Get a free 2 week trial evaluation.

<http://www.homeworkers.org/> (Listing fee: \$0.57)

##### [Cheap-Software-Online.Com](#)

Large selection of deeply discounted cdrom software, wholesale software both current and previous version. Free software CD with purchase. Major Credit Cards and electronic checks accepted.

<http://www.cheap-software-online.com/> (Listing fee: \$0.55)

##### [Computer Training Videos & CD ROMs](#)

Planetlearn.com provides over 2000 self paced computer training programs available on video, cd rom, and online.

<http://www.planetlearn.com/> (Listing fee: \$0.38)

[Sponsor this site](#)

[More...](#)

Online Gambling Choose your game now !!!

Blackjack  Slot Machines  Roulette  Video Poker

Play Now?

CASINO ON NET [Games review](#)

## Explore More On The About Network

Search

[Arts/Humanities](#) · [Autos](#) · [Cities/Towns](#) · [Comedy](#) · [Computing/Technology](#) · [Cultures](#) ·  
[Education](#) · [Food/Drink](#) · [Gadgets](#) · [Games](#) · [Health/Fitness](#) · [Hobbies](#) · [Home/Garden](#) ·  
[Homework Help](#) · [Industry](#) · [Internet/Online](#) · [Jobs/Careers](#) · [Kids](#) · [Money](#) · [Movies](#) ·  
[Music/Performing Arts](#) · [News/Issues](#) · [Parenting/Family](#) · [People/Relationships](#) · [Pets](#) ·  
[Recreation/Outdoors](#) · [Real Estate](#) · [Religion/Spirituality](#) · [Science](#) · [Shopping](#) · [Small  
Business](#) · [Sports](#) · [Style](#) · [Teens](#) · [Travel](#) · [TV/Radio](#) ·

[About Canada](#) · [About UK](#)

For more information, visit [Our Story](#), [Be a Guide](#), or [Advertise](#).  
For rules of use, read our [User Agreement](#) and [Privacy & Kids Privacy Policy](#).  
[Having a problem?](#)  
[Report it here.](#)

Copyright © 2000 About.com, Inc.

About and About.com are registered trademarks of About.com, Inc.

The About logo is a trademark of About.com, Inc.

All rights reserved.