



Tips and Tricks

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PAPER AND PEN GO DIGITAL

Wacom's New Tablets

I really love that technology can better the way we create images. Being able to brush in effects using Wacom tablets allows me to create exactly what I envision in the creative process. And fortunately, I have had the pleasure of working with both the professional and consumer tablets, and they're both equally terrific.

BY HELENE DELILLO

INTUOS2 PROFESSIONAL

The new Intuos2 professional graphics tablet from Wacom has 1,024 levels of pressure sensitivity and responds faster than previous versions. This is a major upgrade from previous versions, and is easily noticeable.



As I worked with it, I was amazed by how fast my movements were transferred to the computer. It was also much more accurate.

That said, my favorite improvement has to be the new Grip Pen. This is because when I hold a pen, I have a tendency to use a lot of tension in my hand. This new version feels much more like a natural extension of my hand and is much more comfortable.

It is cushioned, and according to Wacom studies, reduces your grip effort by up to 40 percent, so you can work comfortably with less stress.

The Grip Pen also features a patented batteryless, cordless technology with 1,024 levels of pressure sensitivity.

The new tablets also come with a cordless, ball-free

mouse. The mouse features a scroll-wheel, which makes it much easier to navigate around your computer.

The tablet comes in several different sizes: the 4x5 and 6x8 tablets include a three-button Intuos2 2D Mouse; the 9x12, 12x12, and 12x18 tablets include the five-button Intuos2 4D Mouse.

The five-button mouse is great for 3D work and programming shortcuts for your repetitive tasks.

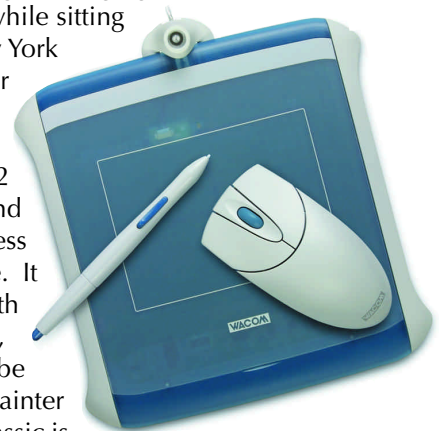
GRAPHIRE2

Graphire2 is ideal for anyone who wants a small, portable, powerful tool for working on your digital images. The tablet has 512 levels of sensitivity, which is very good.

I like this tablet because of its size. This is because I can use it easily while I travel — it doesn't take up much space and I can do digital imaging work on my laptop while sitting on a flight from New York to destinations far and away.

The tablet includes a pen that sports 512 levels of pressure, and a cordless, batteryless and ball-free mouse. It is also bundled with lots of cool software, such as Adobe Photoshop LE and Painter Classic — Painter Classic is great for tracing over photos to create cool-looking paintings and special effects.

One of the things I love most about these tablets is that you can use them in business applications as well. I was very surprised when I was visiting Wall Street and on the trading floor I noticed people working with Wacom tablets.



For more information, go to www.wacom.com.

CINTIQ

Wacom also recently announced another new professional tablet called Cintiq. This system combines an LCD monitor with the pressure sensitivity of a Wacom tablet. It is really beautiful! Look for a review of this product in an upcoming issue.



DeLillo specializes in digital imaging, and is the owner of Dancing Icon, Inc., in New York City.