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EMBARGO UNTIL TUESDAY, SEP. 1, 1998:

WACOM Announces Intuos™ Graphics Tablet System

**New Intelligent Graphics Tablet System Introduces Significant
Advances for 2D, 3D, CAD, A/V and Web Graphics Authoring**

VANCOUVER, WA., Sep. 1 — In its most significant development since introducing its pressure-sensitive pen tablet 10 years ago, Wacom Technology Corp. today announced the new Intuos intelligent graphics tablet system incorporating more than a dozen major technological and ergonomic advances for 2D, 3D, CAD, A/V and web graphics authoring.

The Intuos system comprises a completely new line of five graphics tablets and four innovative input devices with never-before-available capabilities. The system offers a host of important new enhancements including more pressure levels, improved pressure response, flexible two-handed input, device rotation, on-screen pop-up menus, navigational zip areas, and device memory. In addition, the entire line of Intuos tablets, pens and pucks has been completely redesigned for enhanced comfort and increased productivity.

Intuos' first-of-their-type input tools are:

- the **Intuos 4D Mouse**, which introduces the world's first pressure-sensitive ambidextrous mouse and features a revolutionary new thumbwheel control for zooming, navigating 3D, and even shuttling videotape;
- the **Intuos Airbrush**, the world's first digital airbrush equipped with not only a pressure-sensitive pen tip for controlling height but a pressure-sensitive fingerwheel for simultaneously controlling ink flow;
- the **Intuos Pen and Tablets**, all redesigned from the ground up with a host of ergonomic and technical improvements including doubled tip sensitivity, 1,024 levels of pressure, and a new 9" x 12" size, all industry firsts;
- the **Intuos Lens Cursor**, the first with a rotating crosshair lens, for easier viewing in CAD.

Another Intuos innovation with far-reaching potential is **Tool ID™**. By means of a unique identifying digital code embedded in all Intuos tools for recognition by software, it provides new capabilities such as allowing multiple, personalized pens to be used, one as an oil brush, another as a pencil along with user-set preferences.

Through the new Intuos **DualTrack™** feature, two tools can even be used at once: a 4D Mouse can be held in one hand to orient an object in 3D space while the other paints it with the Intuos Pen.

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Intelligent System

“What is most exciting about Intuos is that it inaugurates the concept of a graphics tablet system, one that is intelligently aware that users have needs for both freehand and non-freehand tools for a variety of applications, such as 2D, 3D, audio/video, and CAD,” said Scott Rawlings, director of product line management for Wacom. “The Intuos system of tools work together so intuitively and intelligently that users will be amazed they ever got along without them.”

Major Vendor Support

Wacom’s development of the Intuos system was warmly welcomed by software developers.

Alias|Wavefront. “Intuos pushes tablet technology far beyond the pen. It’s a suite of input devices specifically designed for artists in the digital content creation market. Being able to use both the Intuos 4D Mouse and the Intuos Pen simultaneously will allow our customers to reach new levels of expressiveness and productivity with Maya and other Alias|Wavefront products,” said Gord Kurtenbach, Ph.D., manager of UI Research.

Avid Effects. “With the advent of Intuos, users can interact with our software in new, more powerful ways. The increased pressure-sensitivity is a great plus for paint artists. The additional input devices available with the new Intuos Airbrush and 4D Mouse will allow our customers to control their tools and workspace quickly and transparently, letting them focus on the creative process. Intuos is a great step forward,” said Iain Chapman, product manager.

Electric Image. “The ability of Intuos to support two devices simultaneously brings a whole new range of possibilities to 3D applications, allowing the artist to easily move and rotate the object in 3D space with one hand while modifying the object’s surface characteristics with the other,” said Matt Hoffman, director of product development.

Macromedia. “Wacom’s new Intuos products provide users with a uniquely intuitive and productive way of working because design is a fluid process. Their ability to rotate, move, and resize objects in a single operation makes for a direct and dynamic interaction with the basic elements of design like shape and composition. The Intuos Airbrush and Intuos 4D Mouse are exciting new technologies that promise big benefits to users of our graphics tools like FreeHand and Fireworks,” said Tom Hale, director of product management.

Ulead Systems. “Intuos provides the type of precision and control that our users longed for. The innovative 4D Mouse with its sidewheel now allows editors to effortlessly zoom in on frames, and the Pen and Airbrush provide unparalleled control and sensitivity when rotoscoping. What we have found particularly useful is Intuos’ new DualTrack support for controlling two Intuos devices simultaneously. That means an editor can now dynamically control the position and size of a mask, while the other is painting out wires or objects,” said Brent McKendry, video product marketing manager.

New Input Tools

The new Intuos Pen, standard for the entire line, has been ergonomically designed to minimize stress and maximize control by providing a tapered waist that allows a user to grip a thinner or thicker part of the pen according to preference. The pen now has 1,024 pressure levels, 4 times more than previously and 17 times the 60 levels of pressure provided by the original Wacom pressure-sensitive pen 10 years ago. Its pen tip is twice as sensitive so that it is even more responsive to the user's touch.

More than 60 applications across Mac, PC and SGI platforms support the Wacom pressure-sensitive pen standard including such industry standards as Adobe Photoshop 5.0 with 15 pressure-sensitive tools, Corel PhotoPaint 8 with more than 40 pressure-sensitive tools, and MetaCreation's Painter with more than 100 pressure-sensitive tools.

With the new Tool ID feature, multiple Intuos pens may be used, each with its own user-set software tool. This allows artists to work as they do in a traditional art environment, selecting different color-coded pens to function as a pencil or chalk or oilbrush. In MetaCreations' Painter Classic, which is bundled free with all Intuos systems, each Intuos Pen will default to the last software tool selected with its pen tip. Enabling the software to do this is a unique 64-bit identifying code on a digital chip inside each Intuos input tool. Another benefit of Tool ID is that multiple users who share a single workstation can customize their own input tools, and the workstation and application will switch automatically to each user's preferences without the need to change Control Panel settings.

The Intuos Airbrush uniquely offers simultaneous control over all six degrees of freedom (x location, y location, z height, tilt angle, tilt direction and ink flow) to provide a true digital airbrush, one that for the first time works like a real airbrush with height and ink flow variables independently controllable at the same time. The Intuos Airbrush was ergonomically designed to be held between a user's thumb and middle finger. This design allows the forefinger to roll a fingerwheel on top of the airbrush to control ink flow or another airbrush variable such as brush size or opacity. Fingerwheel travel is approximately 1/3 inch. Rolling it backwards increases ink flow and forward reduces it. For additional control, the fingerwheel's sensitivity range can be customized to suit a user's preference from maximum (default) to medium or minimal wheel movement to achieve maximum effect.

The Intuos 4D Mouse introduces two important new technical advances over a conventional mouse: a high-resolution thumbwheel and rotational data. The thumbwheel has 2,048 levels of control for plus-minus zooming in 2D bitmap and vector applications with the speed depending on how far the thumbwheel is displaced from center. This capability may also be used for navigating 3D space or orienting an object/eye point along the z-axis in 3D applications. The 4D Mouse is especially well suited for handling audio/video shuttling and editing because its thumbwheel springs to center just like a video shuttle on a professional video tape recorder and shuttle speed varies according to pressure on the thumbwheel. The cordless 4D Mouse also provides axis rotational information, another first.

Through thumbwheel positioning, the 5-button 4D Mouse can be transformed into a 15-button control box. By default, the thumbwheel emulates the roller on the Microsoft Intellimouse. Moving the thumbwheel scrolls through documents in applications that support the Intellimouse. When the thumbwheel is released, it springs back to the neutral position leaving the scrolled list at the last position selected.

The 4D Mouse can be set for either right- or left-handed use. The default is for the sidewheel to be on the left side and for the left-click button to be under the user's index finger. However, the mouse can be adjusted so that a second sidewheel is exposed on the side next to a user's left thumb.

The Intuos Lens Cursor's crosshair lens rotates left or right by up to 50 degrees for easier viewing in CAD and in technical graphics applications where precise coordinate position information is needed.

Input Technologies

The DualTrack feature, supported by Intuos 6x8 and larger tablets, allows use of two input devices simultaneously with supporting software such as Alias StudioPaint.

Pop-up Menus, available on Wacom tablets for the Macintosh platform since 1993, have been extended to the Windows platform. Pop-up menus are user-defined and can include keystroke macros such as cut, copy and paste, or options such as Pen Mode, Mouse Mode, or QuickPoint Mode.

As part of ergonomic design of the Intuos Tablets, its overlay surface texture has been enhanced to more closely mirror the drag of a pen tip on paper. Intuos tablets also now have replaceable and user-customizable menu strips.

A new QuickPoint™ area, available on 9" x 12" and larger tablets, allows for two independent areas on the tablet, a large one for drawing and a small area for quick menu navigation. QuickPoint Mode is selected using a screen Pop-up Menu or a menu strip function key.

For the first time, a 9" x 12" tablet is available. Its active area is exactly sized for use with 8-1/2 x 11 pages, and because of its smaller size, it has a lower cost. It also takes up less desk space than the larger 12" x 12" tablet formerly required for full page tracing or drawing. It is available in serial port and ADB (Apple Desktop Port) versions.

Bundled Software

Two pieces of software that take advantage of the Intuos system's new capabilities are provided with every Intuos tablet at no extra cost. MetaCreations' Painter Classic specifically supports Intuos Tool ID and Intuos Airbrush features. Painter Classic provides a simplified interface to a powerful program that mimics traditional art media like chalk, pens, pencils, crayons, oils and airbrush with numerous paper textures and variations. Its SRP purchased separately is \$99.

Wacom's PenTools 3.0 suite of eight Photoshop Plug-ins has been updated to allow complete use of the Intuos Airbrush from within Photoshop 3.05 and later. It enables six PenTools filters to take advantage of the Intuos Airbrush's fingerwheel feature. PenTools' pressure-, tilt- and eraser-aware brushes consist of: a Brush-on Noise tool, selective Despeckler and Pen Duster tools, a 3D Chisel tool, a Metal Leaver tool, and Bit Blaster to brush on textures with freehand control and penpoint accuracy.

System Configuration

Wacom's line of Intuos graphics tablets range in size from 4" x 5" to 12" x 18". All Intuos tablets are tilt- and bearing-sensitive. A selected drawing tool responds to the tilt of the Intuos Pen in an amount up to 60 degrees tilt from vertical and in bearing, which is the tilt direction on a 360-degree circle. Pen tilt sensitivity – how much to tilt the pen to produce the maximum effect – can be custom set with the Wacom control panel. The five tablets are:

- **Intuos 4x5** (ADB and Serial). This small-format graphics tablet (4" x 5" active area) takes up less space than a mouse pad. It is Wacom's most affordable professional tablet. It is targeted for the professional artist who is just getting into computer designing, and it is also suitable for photo retouching and web page design where there is less need for large strokes.

- **Intuos 6x8** (ADB and Serial). With a 6" x 8" active area, this tablet provides the right balance of professional features, functionality and size to meet the demands of creative professionals needing to illustrate, paint or manipulate images on a computer. The Intuos 6x8 provides high-end design capability and functionality in a size that fits easily on a desktop, a laptop, or in a briefcase. It is unobtrusive and highly portable.

- **Intuos 9x12** (ADB and Serial). The 9x12 tablet features a unique 9" x 12" active area that provides the flexibility for the professional whose artistic style or mechanical needs require room for full arm motion, full page creation at scale, extensive 8-1/2" x 11" page layout and image manipulation tasks, or full page tracing of art. Each 9x12 comes with both the Intuos Pen and the Intuos 4D Mouse.

- **Intuos 12 x 12** (Serial). The Intuos 12x12 provides a large 12" x 12" active area for pre-press engineers, industrial designers, and other design professional who require that size for page layout, or for use with CAD templates, or for drawing with large, sweeping arm movements.

- **Intuos 12 x 18** (Serial). The Intuos 12" x 18" active area tablet is for the industrial designer, modeler, textile designer, or pre-press professional who needs the ability to trace or strip media at scale or otherwise perform tasks in tabloid or full magazine size format. It is provided with both the Intuos Pen and Intuos 4D Mouse.

Price and Availability

The new Intuos tablets in serial and ADB (Apple Desktop Bus) versions for PC, SGI and Macintosh platforms will be available September 1, the company said.

<u>Model</u>	<u>SRP</u>	<u>Included Tools</u>	<u>Included Software</u>
Intuos 4x5			
Mac	\$ 199.99	Intuos Pen	Painter Classic & PenTools 3
PC	199.99	Intuos Pen	Painter Classic & PenTools 3
SGI	399.99	Intuos Pen	
Intuos 6x8			
Mac	\$ 383.99	Intuos Pen	Painter Classic & PenTools 3
PC	383.99	Intuos Pen	Painter Classic & PenTools 3
SGI	583.99	Intuos Pen	
Intuos 9x12			
Mac	\$ 509.99	Intuos Pen and 4D Mouse	Painter Classic & PenTools 3
PC	509.99	Intuos Pen and 4D Mouse	Painter Classic & PenTools 3
SGI	709.99	Intuos Pen and 4D Mouse	
Intuos 12x12			
Mac	\$ 509.99	Intuos Pen	Painter Classic & PenTools 3
PC	509.99	Intuos Pen	Painter Classic & PenTools 3
SGI	709.99	Intuos Pen	
Intuos 12x18			
Mac	\$ 819.99	Intuos Pen and 4D Mouse	Painter Classic & PenTools 3
PC	819.99	Intuos Pen and 4D Mouse	Painter Classic & PenTools 3
SGI	1019.99	Intuos Pen and 4D Mouse	

<u>Intuos Tools</u>	<u>SRP</u>	<u>Compatibility</u>
Intuos Pen*	\$49.99	Intuos Tablet Only
Intuos Airbrush	99.99	Intuos Tablet Only
Intuos 4D Mouse	69.99	Intuos Tablet Only
Intuos Lens Cursor	69.99	Intuos Tablet Only
Intuos Inking Pen	79.99	Intuos Tablet Only
Intuos Stroke Pen	79.99	Intuos Tablet Only

* For additional or replacement pens

Wacom Technology

Wacom Technology Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of Wacom Co., Ltd. in Japan, is headquartered in Vancouver, WA. Wacom revolutionized the nature of computer art when it introduced in America in 1989 the world's first cordless, batteryless, and pressure-sensitive pen, allowing electronic artists to paint and draw with freedom and creativity just as with traditional paintbrushes, pens and pencils.

Additional information may be obtained from Scott Rawlings at Wacom Technology Corp, 1311 SE Cardinal Court, Vancouver, WA 98683; 1-800-922-6613. Wacom's web site is: <http://www.wacom.com>.