

## How to Use Picture Tubes

You can use the Picture Tube tool to paint with a collection of objects. For example, you can add butterflies and beetles to a picnic setting or frame a picture with flowers.

[Watch this webinar](#) to learn everything you need to know about picture tubes


Picture tubes are PspTube files. Each picture tube file is made up of a series of images arranged in rows and columns, called cells. Picture tubes may have any number of cells. As you paint with the Picture Tube tool, PaintShop Pro paints one image from the picture tube after another. Many picture tubes create discrete images (such as zoo animals), and others create the effect of a continuous image (such as grass).

Use the following location to save the picture tube(s) you have downloaded:

C:\Users\YOURNAME\Documents\Corel PaintShop Pro\2021\Picture Tubes

*If you are using an earlier version of PaintShop Pro, replace **2021** in the filepath above with your version.*

### To paint with a picture tube:

1. On the **Tools** toolbar, choose the **Picture Tube** tool. 
2. On the **Tool Options** palette, select a picture tube from the drop-down list.

**Note:** Most picture tube previews show the first image rather than all images in the picture tube. To view all images, select the desired picture tube and then paint with it, or open the .PspTube file in PaintShop Pro.

3. If necessary, adjust the following:
  - **Scale** — determines the percentage (10% to 250%) for reducing or enlarging each image in the picture tube and scaling the step
  - **Step** — determines the distance in pixels (1 to 500) between the centers of each picture tube cell that you paint
  - **Placement mode** — determines how the images are placed. Choose **Continuous** to space the images evenly by step size, or choose **Random** to randomly space the images, with intervals ranging from 1 pixel to the step size.
  - **Selection mode** — determines how PaintShop Pro selects images from the cells within the picture tube file. **Angular** selects images based on the direction you drag; **Incremental** selects images one by one from top left to bottom right; **Pressure** selects images based on the pressure you apply on a pressure-sensitive tablet; **Random** selects images randomly; and **Velocity** selects images based on the speed with which you drag.
4. In the image window, click to paint with one picture tube image, or drag to paint with multiple picture tube images.

You can make further changes to the behavior of the current picture tube by clicking the **Settings** button on the **Tool Options** palette and adjusting settings in the **Picture Tube Settings** dialog box.

When you click the **Settings** button on the **Tool Options** palette, the **Picture Tube Settings** dialog box appears. You can use this dialog box to update the current **Tool Options** palette settings and to modify the look of the current picture tube. However, you can also make the settings permanent by marking the **Save as default for this Picture Tube** option.

- **Current Picture Tube name and path** — The name and path of the picture tube appear at the top of this dialog box.
- **Cell arrangement** — The **Cells across** and **Cells down** fields display the current cell layout of the tube. The ranges for these values depend on how the tube was created. The **Total cells** field shows the product of multiplying the **Cells across** value by the **Cells down** value.
- **Placement options** — Modifying any of these settings updates the corresponding setting on the **Tool Options** palette. Note that the **Scale** setting is only available for some picture tubes.
- **Save as default for this Picture Tube** — Mark this check box if you want to save any modifications made in the **Picture Tube Settings** dialog box. If you do not mark this check box, the changes affect only the current use of the picture tube.

**TIP:** To make picture tube elements easier to edit, it is helpful to paint them on a separate layer. The **Picture Tubes** tool works only on raster layers in grayscale and 16 million–color images. Using this tool on a 256-color or lower raster image automatically promotes the image to the appropriate color depth. To convert a vector layer to a raster layer, choose **Layers > Convert to Raster Layer**.