



12.0 - GRAYSCALE PICTURE ENGRAVED ON WOOD

Material Required: Wood, 12 inches wide by 4 inches high

Difficulty Level: Easy

When laser engraving a picture, rendered in grayscale, on wood, the laser beam's effective intensity is greater for deeper shades. This results in a 3D effect for many pictures.

For this job, we'll engrave text and a picture of Babe Ruth on a 12 by 4 inch wood plaque. The finished job file is shown in Figure 12-1.

12.1 The Job Plan

For this job, we'll import a grayscale photo of Babe Ruth. We'll position it on the left side of the material and we'll then enter text to its right.

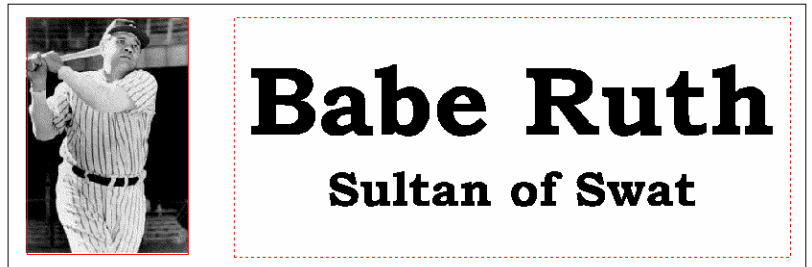


Figure 12-1 Completed Job

12.2 Designing the Job

Open a new file in **GravoStyle5** Laser and define the material size as 12 inches wide by 4 inches high. Assign a zero margin since we'll place the graphic and the text by eye. We'll then simply import the graphic, size it and position it. Finally, we'll enter our text.

12.3 Importing the Graphic.

- Click on **"File"** and then **"Import"**.
The "Import" dialog window will

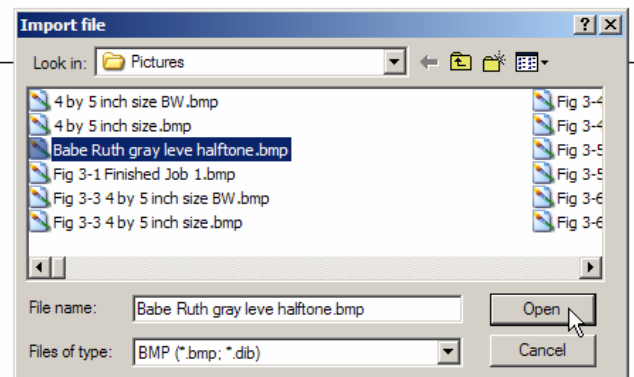


Figure 12-2 Import Dialog Window



pop up and we'll set the file type to ".bmp" and browse for our file (Figure 12.2) Click "**Open**" and the graphic file will appear on our design screen.

- Scale the graphic, if necessary, by dragging any of its

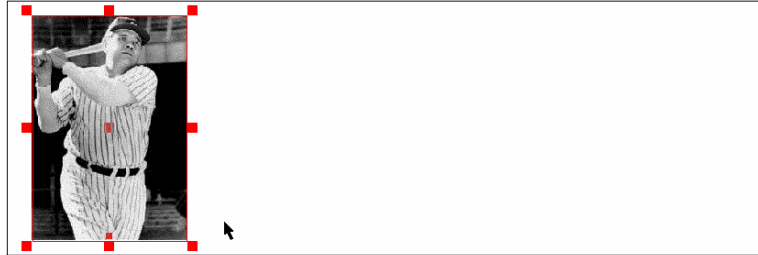


Figure 12-3 Graphic Positioned

corner boundary handles and we'll drag it into position on the left side of the material (Figure 12-3).

- Now drag a text box (Text into Rectangle tool) in the size and approximate position that we want on the work piece. Set our text to 1 inch in height with center justification and select our font, say, "Bookman Old Style"
- Enter "**Babe Ruth**" and press the "**Enter**" key to type "**Sultan of Swat**" on the second line. We'll find that the second line's text is compressed and looks too large for this job. To correct this, we'll select the entire second line by dragging the text cursor fully across it. Change the character height to, say, **.5** inches and press "**Enter**". Our job at this point will appear as in Figure 12-4.
- All that's left to do is to give the graphic and the text their final position. So, drag them to position them side-to-side by eye and then select them both. Open the "Alignment Tools" fly-out tool pallet and click on "Vertical Center" to center our job from top-to-bottom.

Our design is now completed.

LOOK FURTHER

GravoStyle5 has a built-in graphics editor. It's accessible by clicking on tool labeled "Bitmap Editor". It's the bottom tool on the right column of the tool pallet at the left of the design screen, and it provides you with the tools you need to prepare bitmap graphics for engraving.



12.4 Engraving the Job

Click on the “Lasering” icon on the top tool bar to open the *GravoStyle5* driver dialog window. Enter a value of 65 for the power setting and 60 for speed. Set the resolution to 300 dpi, which is fine for most woods. You may need to experiment a bit with these settings due to variations in the wood.



Figure 12-4 Text Entered

Next, find the tool labeled “Auto focus” (Figure 12-5) and click on it. This will imbed a command into the job file. That command will be sent to the L-Solution engraving machine and will instruct the machine to move the laser beam head into the engraving area and automatically focus itself before starting any engraving. Auto focus can be used with nearly any job that will be engraved on an entirely flat work piece and can be a real productivity enhancer.

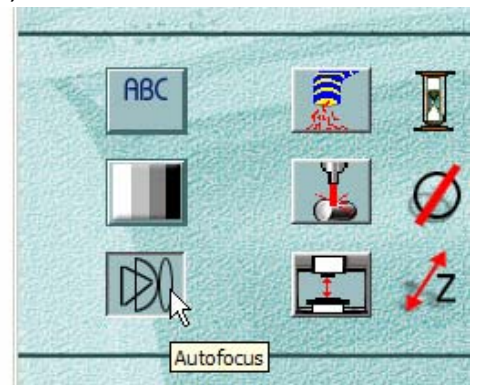


Figure 12-5 Autofocus Tool

When we start the engraving we’ll notice two things about the engraving process. First, the auto focus will take place. Second, the text will be entirely engraved before the graphic is started, even though they’re both colored black. This is normal. Unlike raster filled vector images, bitmap graphics of the same black color are engraved last

12.5 What We’ve Learned

By designing this job, we’ve learned:

- How to import a bitmap graphic file
- How to access the bitmap graphics editor
- How to engrave bitmap graphic images
- How to use the “Auto focus” feature