Converting PhotShop Brush Sets to Gimp Brush Sets

by Jacob Dillon aka Droz928

Most of us gimp users at one point have seen a set of Photoshop brushes and wished The Gimp had some thing like it. Well now you can have it. All you need is a little time and when I say little I mean little.

Acknowledgments

Before i get started with this tutorial i would like to thank Fencepost from Gimp talk for originally showing me how to convert brushes and being pacent enough to answer all my silly questions. The process has come quite a ways since he first showed me how to do it.

I would also like to thank Vnt87 from Gimp Battle Dome for showing me the abrView program. Vnt87 did write a great tutorial covering the abrView program at GBD if you would like to read it here is the link.

A huge THANK YOU goes out to Kward1979uk from Gimp talk with out his awesome scripting ability this whole process would still take a lot of time. I can't thank him enough for taking the time to write the scripts i have asked for and do it in very professional manner!

I would also like to thank fotocomics of Gimp talk for providing the links for MS .Net Framework 2.0.

Resources need for tutorial

For this tutorial you are gonna need four things.
    1: abrView - **download here**
    2: Gimp Batch Brush Converter Script by kward1979uk - **download here**
    *Questions regarding the installation of this script Read this tutorial first! *
    3: Gimp 2.+
    4: A PhotoShop ABR file

Ok now i shall explain what all of these are.

1: abrView is a sweet little program written in C# to view and export ABR files. ABR files if you didn't already know are the default PhotoShop brush file format. AbrView only works in windows and you need the .net framework for it to run correctly.
Which for most of you who update your win box this shouldn't be a problem. If you do not have the .net frame work installed already you can get it from here. I recommend using the 2.0 ver of .Net, but if you have troubles installing it try ver 1.1.

Microsoft .NET Framework Download Links
[Microsoft .NET Framework Version 1.1 Redistributable Package](#)
[Microsoft .NET Framework Version 2.0 Redistributable Package](#)

Now i am not saying you can't get abrView to run under different OS's I just don' know how! If any one does please feel free to let me know. In fact if there are any Ubuntu Linux users out there who know how to get it to run please let me know!!

2: Gimp Batch Brush Converter Script is a very awesome script written by kward1997uk. What it does is takes a group of images that are of a certain file type and converts them to a gbr file, or a gimp brush file.

3: By now all of should know what Gimp 2.+ is LOL.
4: Finally an abr file or a PhotoShop brush set. These can be found all over the Internet. Try looking on [deviantART](#) for some.

Now lets get started with the tutorial kids!

Prep Work

The very first thing you should do is go to [deviantART](#) or any other site were you can download an abr file. Search until you find a PhotoShop Brush set you really like and download it.

Just as a side not not all files you download are abr file some people compress them into zip, or rar archive files. All you need to do with these is just extract the abr file to anywhere you want just reamber were!

Setting up the folder!

1: I find it a lot easier to start out by setting up some folder. For the little amount of time it takes you to do this step it saves a lot more. Go to My Document and create a new folder Call it Converted Brush Sets.

2: Now open your newly created folder create another folder named after the PhotoShop brush author you are converting. For example I am gonna Convert ThaSprot's Keep Dreaming Vol 32 so my folder would be named ThaSprout.

3: Once again open the new folder and create two new folders one name after the brush set you are converting for example mine would be named Keep Dreaming Vol 32. Name the other folder PNG dump.

Setup is now complete. You can just repeat this every time you convert a new set, but if you

convert more than one set from the same author you only need one PNG Dump folder. Just clear it out when you finish creating the gbr files.
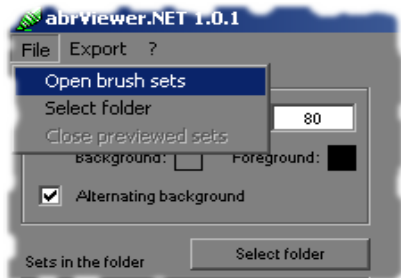
4: Download and install abrView.

5: Once abrView is installed run the program you should see a screen like this.

You really don't need to mess with any of the settings. The default settings when it installs will work just fine.
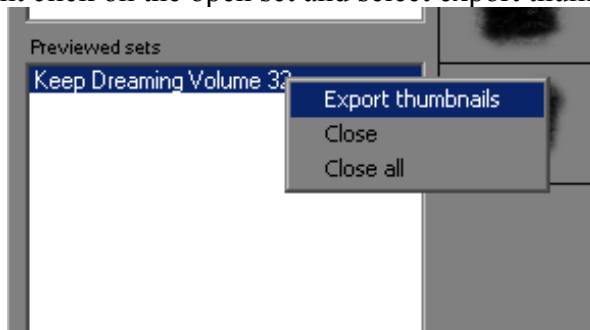
6: Click *File> Open brush sets* and find were you downloaded your PhotoShop abr file to and select it!
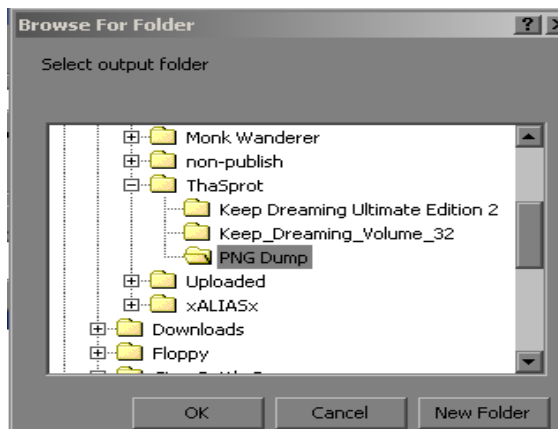

Once the brush set is open you will see a bunch of thumbnails of each brush in the set. Pretty cool huh!

7: In the lower left hand corner there is a list of the brush sets you have open and you can select multiple sets if you wish. This is kinda handy when converting say 10 sets at a time, but i will not be covering that!

Right click on the open set and select export thumbnails.

8: Choose the folder you created in your my documents called PNG Dump and click ok.

Now abrView is gonna convert all the thumbnails into png files. Once it is done you can close abrView. We are now one step closer to a gimp brush file.

9: Download and install the Gimp Batch Brush Converter Script by kward1979uk.

10: Run Gimp.
***** **VERY IMPORTANAT*******
Before you run the batch script make sure you have the **foreground color set to black and background color set to white.**
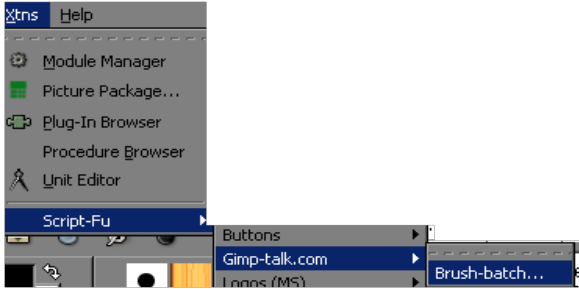

Click the reset to default button (in the glowing circle).

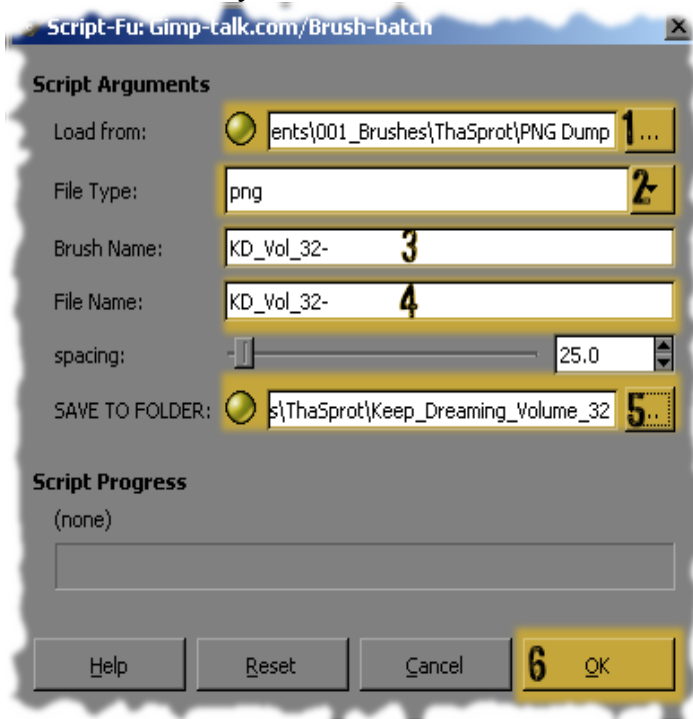The reason is that the script flattens the image first.
When you flatten an image it gets rid of the transparent regions by filling it with your background color. Gimp sees the white part of a GBR file as transparent so if it is any other

color your brush will end up looking like a big block.

Now click *XTNS>script-fu>gimp-talk.com>brush-batch.*

11: Once it loads you should now have a screen like this.

Now let us go through the Numbers

- 1 - **Load from:** - this is where your you are gonna load all the images you want to convert. For this tutorial we are using the PNG Dump folder. Browse to it and select it!
- 2 - **File Type:** - This is the file type that is going to get converted. Since we used abrView to get all of our thumbnails they are all in PNG file format. Click the down arrow and select PNG
- 3 - **Brush Name:** - Pretty self explanatory it is the name of the brush. Do not put a number at the end. kward was cool enough to make the script auto number the files.
- 4 - **File Name:** - This will be the name of every brush you convert. Once again no need to number them.
- 5 - **SAVE TO FOLDER:** - This is where all the gbr brush files are gonna be placed. I

selected the folder i created named Keep Dreaming Vol 32
- 6 - **OK** - Once the set up is complete click this for your brushes!

Well kids there you have it you have now converted a PS brush set. Goto the output folder select all the gbr files and copy them to your Gimp Brush folder.

This method beats the snot out of the old way of converting trust me!

One other thing if you want to post your converted sets please get the brush authors permission before you do. I found that most authors at deviantART are very nice and will let you post them for the rest of the gimppers to use. Always give credit to the original authors it is just respectful!