



Introduction

This application note describes how to use the Overlays feature and the “Slate and Black” leaders/trailers feature available on the ClipMail Pro. You must have ClipMail Software Version 3.0 or higher to use these features.

Images must be in Portable Network Graphics (.PNG) format and no larger than 640x480 pixels. Image manipulation software such as Adobe Photoshop® can be used to convert other image formats to .PNG.

Converting an Image to .PNG Format

We will use Adobe Photoshop® in this procedure.

1. From the menu bar select **File->Open** to open your image in Photoshop.
2. Select **File->Save A Copy** and save your image in .PNG format. When the **PNG Options** dialog box comes up, choose *None* for both of the options. If you don't need to use transparency keying (see Setting Up Transparency Keying below), you can stop here, your image is now ready to be used as an overlay in ClipMail Pro.

Retrieving .PNG Files

You can use existing .PNG files located on your local drive or your LAN. You must use the Network Controller Application to get these files.

1. Click the **OVERLAY** button from the Make New Clips screen.
2. On the Blacks, Slates, and Overlays screen, check the **Enable** box and click the **OVERLAYS** radio button. Click the **EDIT** button.
3. On the Overlay screen, click the **NEW** button.
4. On the Select screen, browse your local or LAN directories for the desired .PNG files. Click (highlight) a single file, or highlight a range of files; click the **SELECT** button.
5. On the Overlay screen, click **DONE**. The selected files will be accessible from the **IMAGE:** drop down list box in the Blacks, Slates, and Overlays screen.

Slate and Black - Creating Leaders and Trailers

You can create slate or black leaders and trailers to use with your clips. You don't need a .PNG file for black; simply record a black clip. For slate, you will use .PNG files for leaders and trailers. If you want both a leader and a trailer for a clip, you will need one .PNG file for the leader, and one .PNG file for the trailer.

Record a Black Leader/Trailer

1. Click the **OVERLAY** button on the Make New Clip screen.
2. Check the **ENABLE** checkbox and click the **BLACK** radio button. Click **DONE**.
3. Click **NEXT** from the Make New Clip screen.



4. Enter a Duration to Digitize time. Check the MANUAL Recording Method radio button. Click NEXT.
5. Click START on the Make New Clip screen. (Wait for the clip to finish digitizing.)
6. From the Add Clips to Send... screen, Add the black leader or trailer clip to the Clips To Send list box. Click DONE.
7. Repeat Steps 1 – 6 if you need a leader and a trailer.
8. Go to Send Mail/Clips To Send...Click the SAVED BOX. To create a clip having a leader and trailer, make up a parcel of three clips in the following order:
 - the leader (black) clip
 - the clip
 - the trailer (black) clip
9. Click DONE Save the Parcel. Go to Check Mail, View Parcel. Click Record To Tape.

Record a Slate Leader/Trailer

1. Click the OVERLAY button on the Make New Clip screen.
2. Check the ENABLE checkbox and click the SLATE radio button.
3. Click on the Image: drop down list box and select the desired .PNG file. Click DONE.
4. Click Next from the Make New Clip screen.
5. Enter a Duration to Digitize time. Check the MANUAL Recording Method radio button. Click Next.
6. Click START on the Make New Clip screen. (Wait for the clip to finish digitizing.)
7. From the Add Clips to Send... screen, Add the leader or trailer clip to the Clips To Send list box.
8. Repeat Steps 1 – 7 for the each desired .PNG leader/trailer file.
9. Go to Send Mail/Clips To Send...Click the SAVED BOX. To create a clip having a leader and trailer, make up a parcel of three clips in the following order:
 - the leader .PNG clip
 - the clip
 - the trailer .PNG clip
10. Click DONE Save the Parcel. Go to Check Mail, View Parcel. Click Record To Tape.

Setting Up Transparency Keying

ClipMail Pro has the ability to treat portions of your overlay image as transparent. As before, we will use Adobe Photoshop® in this procedure.

ClipMail Pro implements overlay transparency by treating any image pixels which reference the color palette index 255 (0xFF) as transparent. You prepare your image by 'painting' those portions of your image you want to be transparent with the color stored at that palette location. The following steps explain how to do this.

1. Close your original image and open the .PNG version you just created in "Converting an Image to .PNG Format."
2. Change the Image Mode if necessary: Select **Image->Mode**. If something other than *Indexed Color* is selected you will need to convert the image to *Indexed Color* by choosing that option. If the Indexed Color dialog comes up, make sure the Color Depth is set to *8 bits/pixel*.
3. Set the transparency key color:



Select **Image->Mode->Color Table**. In the **Color Table** dialog, click on the color square at index 255 (the bottom right color square). In the **Color Picker** dialog, specify a unique color to be used as your transparency key color by entering its numeric RGB values in the appropriate fields. You can choose any color you like for this, see “Choosing A Transparency Key Color” on page 3 for some suggestions. Click OK to exit Color Picker. Click OK to exit Color Table.

4. Make the desired portions of the image transparent:

Set your transparency key color as the drawing color by entering its RGB values in the **Color/Swatches/Brushes** toolbar, and use the drawing tools (for example, Paint Bucket) to paint the portions of your image that you want to be transparent.

5. Save the image by selecting **File->Save**.

6. Your image is now ready to be used as an Overlay in ClipMail Pro.

Choosing A Transparency Key Color

Grayscale Images

For Grayscale images, any non-grayscale color that is easy to see will work well (for example, Red: R=255, G=0, B=0).

Color Images

Gray (R=128, G=128, B=128) is commonly used for this purpose. Another good choice is pseudo black (R=1, G=1, B=1) which will look black, but won't interfere with true black (R=0, G=0, B=0) in your image and isn't likely to be generated automatically when converting images between formats or color palettes.