# Tactile Graphics and Duxbury

## BANA [Guidelines and Standards for Tactile Graphics, 2010](http://www.brailleauthority.org/tg/)

D.1.1 Embossed Braille Image When producing embossed braille graphics with a braille embosser, an image is generated using software for both braille and graphics which are then printed on a graphics embosser. The electronic file can be saved for further editing or duplication. (See Supplement Example 31, Story Web.)

The production and duplication equipment required are: a computer, braille translation software, graphics software, specific braille fonts, braille paper, and a graphics embosser.

Embossed braille graphics are developed with computer software and can be either drawn from scratch or imported from other sources. The computer image will likely require simplification before embossing. After the image has been manipulated and braille labels and/or text are added, it is sent to the embosser for the hard copy to be printed.

Images can be imported into some braille translation software and embossed as part of a regular braille document.

Though embossed braille graphics can be produced very quickly, they often lack some of the characteristics of tactual readability. There is little variation in height, point symbols are difficult to discern, and the number of textures that can be produced are limited. The implementation of good design techniques for the graphic is imperative when producing embossed braille graphics.

When embossed graphics lack definition, their tactual quality can be enhanced by adding embellishments such as collage to the page to provide the height and variance in texture that will make the tactile graphic more readable.

Most standard braille embossers have graphics mode capability. With variations in resolution, the braille dots can be embossed closer together than when embossing braille text. Some embossers permit a change in height of the dot as well. As hardware continues to become more sophisticated, more software programs are being developed to produce better tactile graphics.

Other embossers are capable of printing whatever appears on a computer screen.

## QUICKTAC (low-resolution standard braille embossers)

The QuickTac program (freeware from Duxbury Systems) allows the creation of embosser graphics. To download, visit <https://www.duxburysystems.com> and select the “products” link. Click the proper link to download an installer for either Windows or Mac. The latest update for both is June 2020. There is no phone or email support. According to their website, Duxbury Systems has received recent reports that QuickTac does not work on a Windows XP system. Duxbury wishes to make it clear that Windows XP itself is no longer supported by Microsoft.

“Standard braille embossers in graphics mode Low resolution graphic modes are available in most standard embossers that many readers will recognize- Romeo, Juliet, Index, Versapoint, Thiel, etc. Low resolution means they can produce graphics at less than 18 dots per inch (dpi). The dots don't stray very far from the point that would produce a good braille cell, so they don't do as sophisticated a job at producing graphics as will high resolution embossers that are designed specifically to produce high quality graphics as well as braille text. Currently, QuickTac is the only program in the US that will support design of graphics for low resolution embossers. It is actually a re-design of part of an old program from Australia called TGD Pro, and being re-developed by Peter Sullivan of Duxbury. It can be used for graphics alone without DBT, however. There isn't anything available that allows you to import an image, translate it to a different image, and send to a low resolution embosser.” -Lucia Hasty [tactilegraphics.org](http://tactilegraphics.org/index.html)

[Using QuickTac and Duxbury (tsbvi.edu)](https://www.tsbvi.edu/attachments/article/3189/Using%20QuickTac%20and%20Duxbury.pdf) written by Patrick Van Geem, TVI. This PDF covers the toolbar, interface window, drawing and text tools. Information of saving and importing into Duxbury is also included.

## TACTILEVIEW (high-resolution Index Embossers)

TactileView allows the creation of sophisticated (high-resolution) tactile graphics which can be incorporated into DBT 11.3. TactileView drawing software can be downloaded and purchased from Thinkable [https://thinkable.nl/tactileview-drawing-software](https://thinkable.nl/tactileview-drawing-software/).

[Inserting TactileView designs in Duxbury Braille Translator - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aMGmBxoEhGI) presented by Jaap Breider, Thinkable

[9.01 Inserting graphics in Duxbury Braille Translator (DBT)](https://thinkable.nl/tv-manual-insert-design-in-dbt/) section 9 from TactileView user manual version 2.500

## Other High-Resolution Embossers

For high-resolution embossers that do not use TactileView (Phoenix, Tiger, PixBlaster, etc.), space can be left in the Duxbury file where you intend to display a tactile graphic (Don’t forget to manually add required blank pages). The braille text can be copied and pasted from the DXB into a drawing program. Once the graphic has been drawn, the graphic page(s) can be run on your high-resolution graphic embosser. The entire Duxbury file would be embossed on a standard braille embosser. Manual graphic collation will be necessary for a complete volume.