

Shape of Things is QuarkXTensions™ software that allows you to create star-shaped picture boxes for use in QuarkXPress™ and QuarkXPress Passport™ software. Shape of Things provides a Starburst tool feature that makes star-shaped boxes simple to create and manipulate.

### Topics

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## Minimum System Requirements

### For Mac OS or Windows

QuarkXPress 5.0 or QuarkXPress Passport 5.0

### Installation Instructions for Mac OS

To install Shape of Things, follow these steps:

- 1** Quit QuarkXPress or QuarkXPress Passport.
- 2** Decompress the software archive.
- 3** Copy the “Shape of Things” file to the “XTension” folder within your QuarkXPress application folder.
- 4** Launch QuarkXPress to access the features of Shape of Things.

### Installation Instructions for Windows

To install Shape of Things, follow these steps:

- 1** Exit QuarkXPress or QuarkXPress Passport.
- 2** Decompress the software archive.
- 3** Copy the "Shape of Things.xnt" file to the "XTension" folder within your QuarkXPress application folder.
- 4** Launch QuarkXPress to access the features of Shape of Things.

## Feature Usage

### Starburst tool

The **Starburst** tool ☆ allows you to create star-shaped picture boxes for use in QuarkXPress. The **Starburst** tool displays at the bottom of the **Tools** palette.

### Starburst tool preferences

To view and edit the **Starburst** tool preferences:

Double-click the **Starburst** tool ☆ at the bottom of the **Tools** palette, or select the **Starburst** tool and click in the document window. This will display the **Starburst** dialog box, which will allow you to view and edit the following preferences:

- The height and width of your star-shaped box.
- The number of spikes on your star-shaped box.
- The depth of the spikes on your star-shaped box. The value in the **Spike depth** field is expressed as a percentage of the distance from the tip of the spike to the center of the star.
- The amount of randomness applied to the spike depth. The value in the **Random spikes** field is expressed as a number between 0 and 100: 0 is no randomness applied, and 100 is randomness fully applied.

### Using the Starburst tool to create star-shaped picture boxes

You can create a star-shaped picture box in either of the following ways:

To click and drag:

- 1** Select the **Starburst** tool ☆ at the bottom of the **Tools** palette.
- 2** Click and drag to create a star-shaped picture box.

To define specific attributes as you create the box:

- 1** Click the **Starburst** tool ☆ at the bottom of the **Tools** palette.
- 2** Place the crosshair pointer + in the document, where you want to position the *center* of the star-shaped box. Click to display the **Starburst** dialog box.
- 3** Confirm or edit the attributes in the **Starburst** dialog box and then click **OK** to create the star-shaped picture box.

**NOTE** Any changes made to the attributes displayed in this dialog box will be applied to your **Starburst** tool preferences.

### Limitations

- When **Auto Constrain** is checked in the **Preferences** dialog box **General** pane (**Edit** → **Preferences** → **Preferences**), you cannot create a star with a single click.
- The star you create might not be the exact size you specified for width and height. This is because the perimeter of the star spikes is based (geometrically) on an oval rather than a square.

### Contacting Quark

For information about technical support and how to contact Quark, see the “Contacting Quark.pdf” file on the QuarkXPress or QuarkXPress Passport CD-ROM.

#### In the Americas

If you are unable to access the “Contacting Quark.pdf” file, contact Quark™ Technical Support by phone at (303) 894-8899 between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time, Monday through Friday, or click the “Contact Us” link on the Quark Web site at [www.quark.com](http://www.quark.com).

#### Outside the Americas

If you are unable to access the “Contacting Quark.pdf” file, contact your local Quark office or Quark Full Service Distributor.

For an up-to-date list of Quark offices and Quark Full Service Distributors, click the “Contact Us” link on the Quark Web site at [euro.quark.com](http://euro.quark.com).

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