

# Handy design utilities

*Here are a few software utilities that can help simplify some of the tasks frequently encountered by graphic designers and communicators.*

Art Director's Toolkit ([www.code-line.com](http://www.code-line.com)) for Mac and Windows, and Digital Design Buddy ([www.lakegroupsoftware.com](http://www.lakegroupsoftware.com)) for the Mac only, are "Swiss army knife" utilities that offer several useful functions for designers. These utilities can help you convert fractions to decimal units, calculate image file size, mix or identify colors, locate symbols within typefaces, calculate scale percentages, preview fonts, identify standard page and envelope sizes, and more.

Conversion, ([personalpages.tds.net/~graffix/software/conversion/](http://personalpages.tds.net/~graffix/software/conversion/)) for Mac

and Windows, is a program that converts between any two measurement systems that you can imagine. Useful when you need to "internationalize" a document and convert gallons to liters, feet to meters, etc. The Paladin Unit Converter ([www.paladinsoft.com](http://www.paladinsoft.com)) is a free plug-in for Adobe InDesign (Mac) that provides a similar function.

Clipcleaner ([mnorris.wellington.net.nz/software.html](http://mnorris.wellington.net.nz/software.html)) is a Macintosh utility that allows you to "clean up" text on the clipboard, and remove multiple spaces and returns, convert straight quotes to

typographer's quotes, convert hyphens to en dashes, etc. Clip Strip ([www.iscreations.com/clipstrip/](http://www.iscreations.com/clipstrip/)) is a Windows program that strips all formatting from text on the clipboard. This is useful for working with text copied from email programs and Web pages.

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