Printing Braille Page Images with Braille2000

(see a separate writeup for using ViewPlus "Tiger" embossers)

What is "Image Braille"

Image Braille is braille that is embossed from its photographic image, such as braille that is engraved by photo lithography or printed on so-called "puff paper" and then thermally expanded or printed on a raster embosser such as the Tiger series of graphics embossers.

To output image braille, Braille2000 creates a digital photo image of each braille page and then prints that image to the selected printer device. Notice that the operation is "Print" and not "Emboss" for this output technique. The target device can be any Windows printer.

How to print Image Braille

To get an image braille output, click the Print button and set Print As to "Image Braille". The concept is similar to but different from the previous Print As option called "Simbraille Dots". The difference lies in the way the output is constructed and its geometrical accuracy. Simbraille Dots mode continues to be useful for ink-printing braille dots (usually with little guide dots for unraised dot positions) for proofreading from paper. The dots for Simbraille Dots are created by a simbraille font that is scaled to the size of the paper, so that it is a nice size for proofreading.

Image Braille is generated according to standard braille geometry, closely following NLS Specification #800 for the size and positioning, regardless of paper size. In this way Image Braille would always be good for photo lithography engraving while simbraille might be much less accurate, and of course Image Braille never shows guide dots.

ImageBraille Choices

The Image Braille print specification has settings for
- The Tiger series of graphics embossers
- Puff paper (normally first printed by a laser printer)
- Engraving (photo lithography)

To change the setting, click the Options button (after setting Print As to Image Braille).

Characteristics

When set to Tiger, the prepared image is for a raster device at 20 dots per inch. The resulting braille does not exactly conform to NLS Specification #800 but is close and it embosses perfectly on a Tiger embosser. When set to Engraving, the dots are positioned and sized according to NLS Specification #800 and when set to Puff paper, the dots are positioned according to NLS Specification #800 but are under-sized to allow for thermal expansion.

Custom geometries are possible but not recommended. You may need to adjust page margins to position the braille image where you want it on the page.