

## SCHEMATIC DRAWING SOFTWARE

◇ Readers occasionally ask me to recommend graphics software for drawing schematics. There are many answers to this question, so I think it's a good topic for Hints and Kinks. I'll give you some ideas this month, and collect what information you send me. I use Windows, so that's where I'm starting. We need to cover Mac and Unix/Linux based applications too. When there's enough material, I'll publish periodic updates.

After a couple years of making circuit boards in the ARRL Lab, I find dead-bug construction much more convenient. With no need to make circuit boards, I seek programs with simple drag-and-drop operation. *QST* described the simplest of these before, but the necessary files fell through the cracks when we discontinued the dial-up ARRL BBS. I've posted them again as [SCHEMAT.ZIP](#). This Zip file contains Schemat.bmp, which may be opened in the Windows Paint accessory or any simple bitmap editor. To make schematics, simply open Schemat.bmp in one instance of Paint and your drawing in another. To place a symbol, select it in Schemat.bmp, copy it to the clipboard and paste it into your drawing. If you want a quick, inexpensive way to draw schematics, this setup is available right now and the price is right.—*Bob Schetgen, KU7G, ARRL Staff*