How to make easy slide labels on a PC
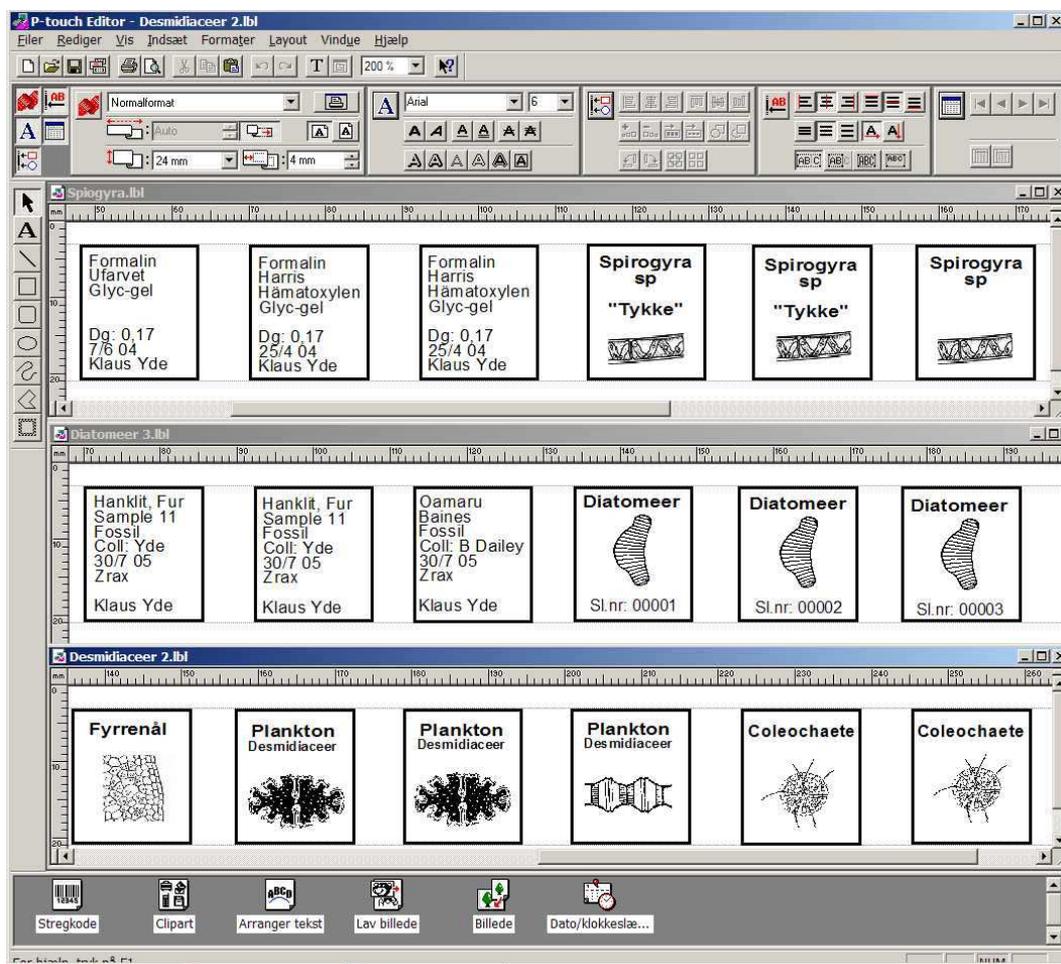## By Klaus Yde, Denmark

I have in many years – as many before me – used old-fashioned handwritten slide labels on my permanent slides. As my handwriting isn't so neat as could be wished, I have tried to find other solutions. Many colleagues have suggested to me, to use Tom Moores excellent slide labels from his Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet (if anyone wish to have the file – just mail me). They are very neat and nice, but you have to cut them out individually, glue them on the slide and then cover them either with some film or lacquer them. It gave some very nice slides, but it was a lot of work on top of making the slide and ringing it. As I - at that time - made lots of slides (waterbears) I looked for a more easy way to make reasonable aesthetic oil resistant slide labels.

The solution I found was a Brother P-touch 2420 label printer connected to my computer by an USB cable (fig: 1). But I would think that other label printers could be used with the same results.

The labels are designed using the program P-touch editor that comes free with the label printer. It is intuitive and easy to use, if you are familiar with a PC, text editing and is able to make your own small icons. If not – I will gladly share my little but growing collection of designs. Until now I have been able to print all the necessary information on one label and still been able to read it.

The program interface and some of my designs can bee seen at fig 2.

Just be aware that if you think the labels are a little odd, that it is Danish labels with Danish names and comments about fixing, dying and mounting. All your designs can of cause be saved and reused. The greatest problem for me has been finding the small drawings/icons for the labels.

The labels are printed on 24 mm wide plastic coated film, which can be had in several colours for specific slide series. I have only used white until now. I normally make 5-8 sets of labels at one time, which I then print out. You only then have to cut the labels across and as they are self-adhesive, they are easy to place on the slides

I have - until now - not had any problems with my slides. The oldest are about 3 years old and looks

still as new. Some of my finished slides can be seen at fig:3.

The cost of the printer is about 80-100€. And the labels cost about 10-12€ for 8-10 meters (which give a lot of labels). And of course the label printer can be used to a lot other purposes. I originally bought it for making address labels and other labelling purposes in my house.

Comments and questions are welcome and the above mentioned files/designs can be had at**: klaus.yde@dadlnet.dk**.

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