



# Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Outreach Programs

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## Using QuickTac 4.0 and Duxbury for Producing Tactile Graphics

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## Applications Required for Embossing

Both applications can be downloaded from the Duxbury Systems Inc. website at: [www.duxburysystems.com](http://www.duxburysystems.com). Duxbury Braille Translation (DBT) software has a 11.1 version as their latest application. QuickTac 4.0 is still in beta but it is the latest version of the software application. QuickTac can be downloaded from: <http://tinyurl.com/7j6v7se>.

The website instructions do not tell you how to import a QuickTac files into a Duxbury document for embossing as a tactile graphic. The help files in both QuickTac and Duxbury also do not contain instructions for importing.

When using QuickTac in conjunction with Duxbury, tactile graphics can be produced using many other embossers besides a Tiger embosser.

## QuickTac 4.0 (beta) Toolbar

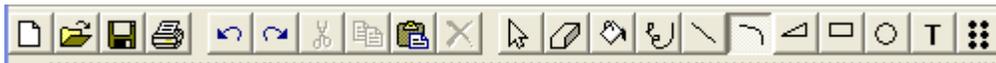


Figure 1: QuickTac Toolbar Screen Shot

### From Left to Right:

1. New Document: opens a new blank document.
2. Open: opens a dialog window to search in hard drive for a .dwt or .sig file (the only files that will open in QuickTac).
3. Save: saves a file in a .dwt or .sig format.
4. Print: produces a print copy of a QT document. Prints also a Tiger tactile graphic.
5. Undo: deletes the last action on a document.
6. Redo: reinstates the last action on a document.
7. Cut: deletes a selected portion of a document.
8. Copy: copies a selected portion of an illustration.
9. Paste: pastes a selected portion of an illustration.
10. Select: will highlight a portion of an illustration for performing an action.
11. Erase: deletes information as needed.
12. Fill: will fill a closed object with a 1:1 dot pattern.
13. Doodle: used for drawing freeform shapes.
14. Line: produces straight lines.

- 15. Curve: draws a curve line.
- 16. Triangle: draws a triangle
- 17. Rectangle: draws a rectangle.
- 18. Circle: draws a circle.
- 19. Text: produces embossed print text on a document.
- 20. Braille: produces braille text on a documents.

## QuickTac 4.0 Interface Window

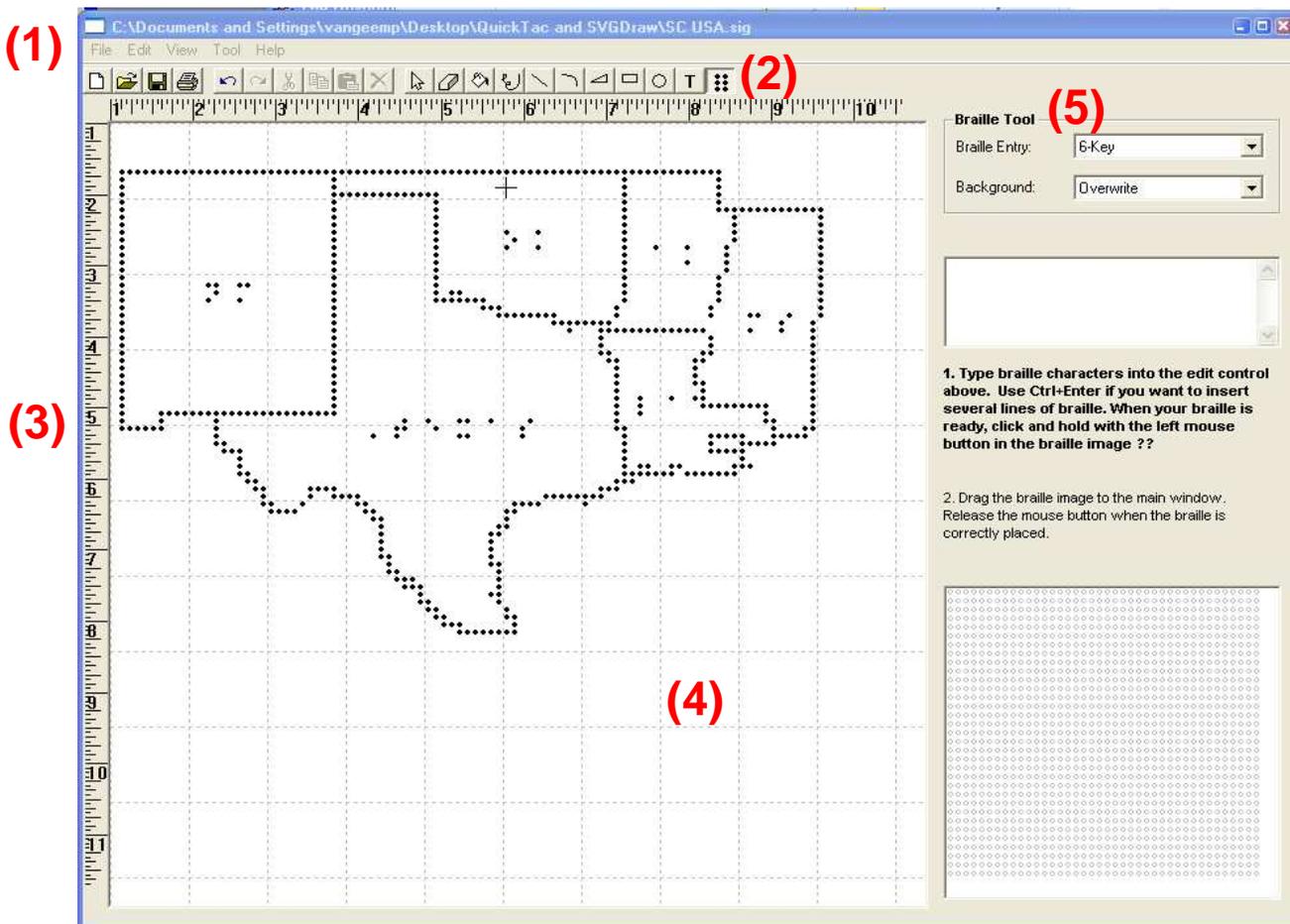


Figure 2: Screen Shot of the QuickTac Drawing Layout Window with numbers 1-5 identifying sections of the window.

- (1) File Menu List
- (2) Drawing Toolbar
- (3) Rules (vertical and horizontal)
- (4) Drawing Window
- (5) Selected Tool Information

The Selected Tool Information section is where certain tools need parameters set, such as:

- Line Weight
- Tool Use Instruction
- Object Fill Pattern
- Text (typeface, font size and background)
- Braille (six key or single key entry)

The Selected Tool Information section also contain instructions on how to use certain tools.

## Drawing with QuickTac

### Freehand Drawings

Actual freehand drawing with QuickTac is no easy task. It is suggested that a mouse is used when draw with computers. Like all computer-generated drawing, using the track pad is extremely difficult especially when drawing fine detailed illustrations. Wacom ([www.wacom.com](http://www.wacom.com)), makers of the Bamboo Create Tablet is a good option for drawing graphics. The pen (which is really a mouse) looks and feels like a regular pen. With this technology you can place a line drawing, like a map, on the tablet and trace around the outline.

### Lines and Shapes

Shapes and lines are the easiest object to draw. All shapes can have various line weights and fills. Decision on the fill patterns and line weights need to be determined (in the Information Section) before drawing shapes or lines.

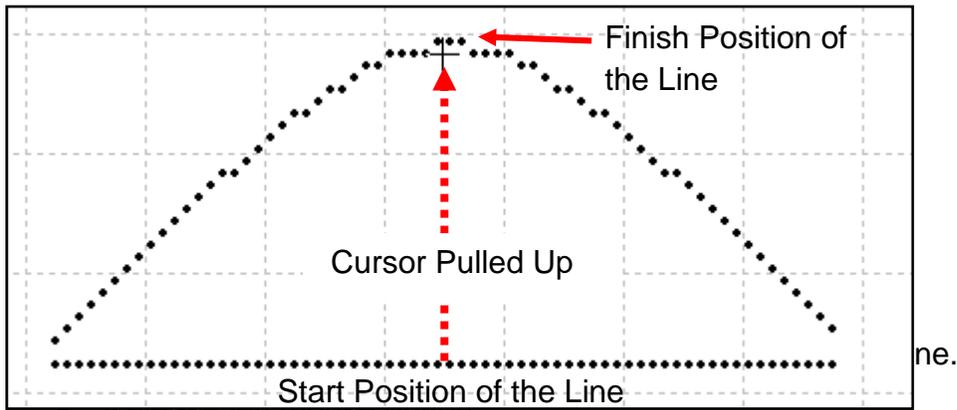
### Eraser

The eraser tool can be used anytime during the drawing process. It deletes any information on the document layout. Eraser size must be set before erasing. Size varies from extra small to extra large.

### The Curve Tool

The curve tool is unique only to QuickTac. Most curve tools draw "point to point", which means starting at Point A then move up (or down) to Point B and finally ending at Point C. Each point is a left mouse click stop or anchor point. The amplitude of the curve depends on how far up or down Point B is from Points A and C.

Start using the QuickTac curve tool by first drawing a straight line. The cursor is then placed somewhere on the line. With the cursor on the line, press and hold the left mouse button down then "pull" the line up (or down) to produce a curve line.



• Release left mouse button.

- Place the cursor anywhere on the freshly drawn straight line.
- Press and hold the left mouse button.
- Drag the cursor away from the straight line.
- A curve line is produced. The amount of curve depends on how far away from the straight line position it is pulled.

## Text and Braille Tool

The text tool is for producing printed letters on the document. These letters will be embossed (not in braille). Included in the Instruction Section are typeface and font size settings.

The braille tool is for producing braille text. The tool offers a 6-key (sdfjkl) and alpha letter key (qwerty) entry input. Both tools have you enter information in one field and drag the text from another field into the drawing layout window.

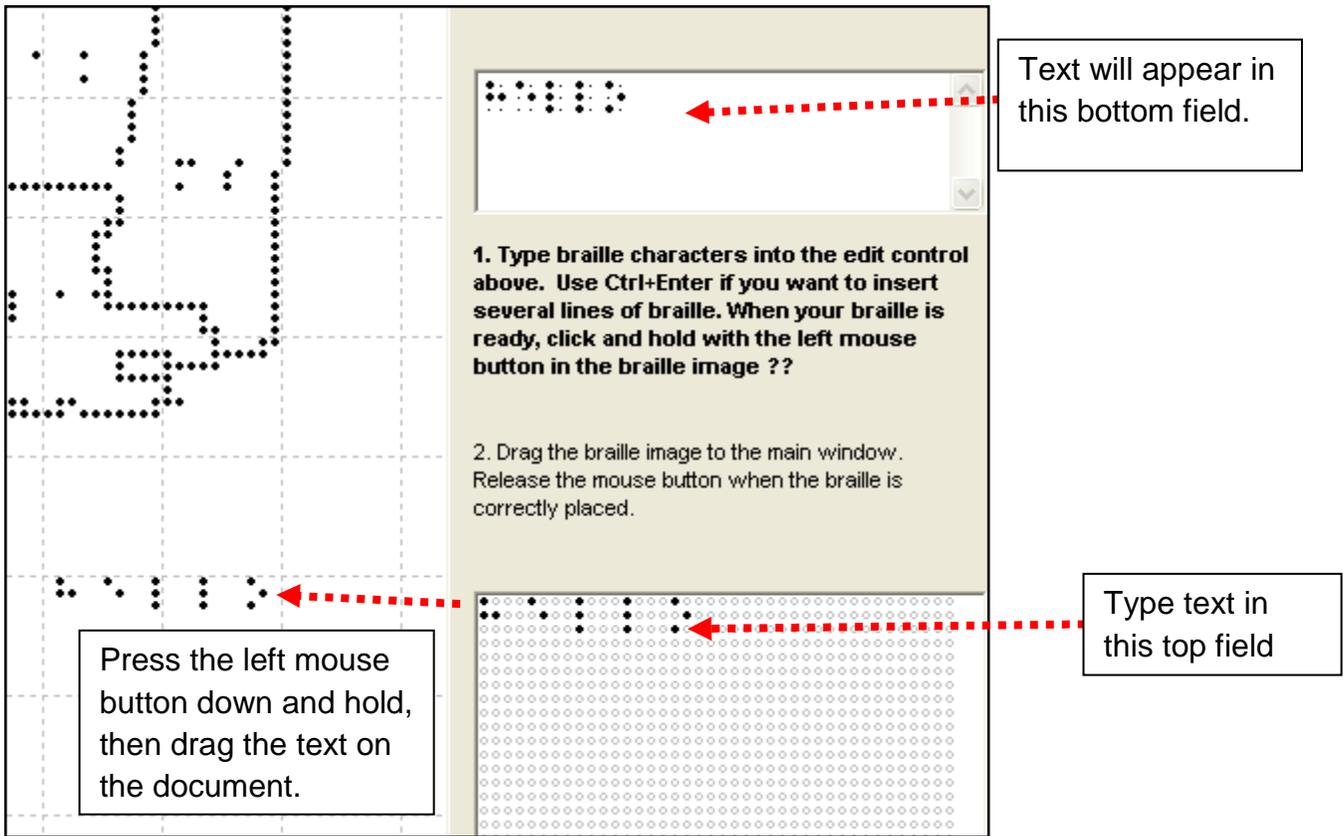


Figure 4: Screen shot indicating where braille is written for labels, then dragged to the layout window.

## Importing into Duxbury

### Saving the QuickTac File

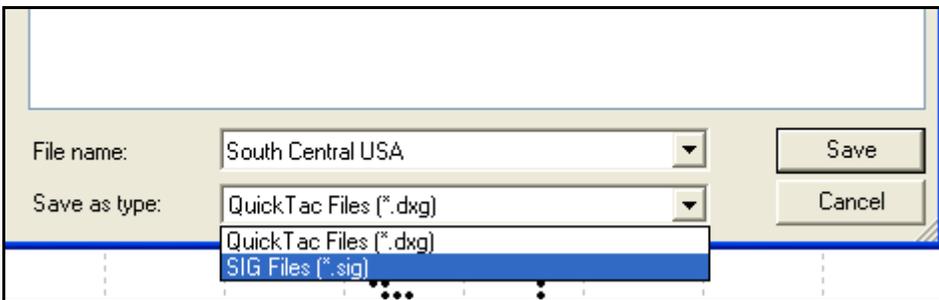


Figure 5: Screen Shot of the Save As dialog window with SIG File (\*.sig) selected.

After drawing with the QuickTac save the file as a .sig file. A .sig file is considered a picture (bitmap) document. It will import into a Duxbury file as a "picture" much like pasting an image into a Word document. Also like an image, after it is imported into a Duxbury document, editing the image, like adding or deleting text, is not possible.

## Importing into a Duxbury File

### Opening a DBT File

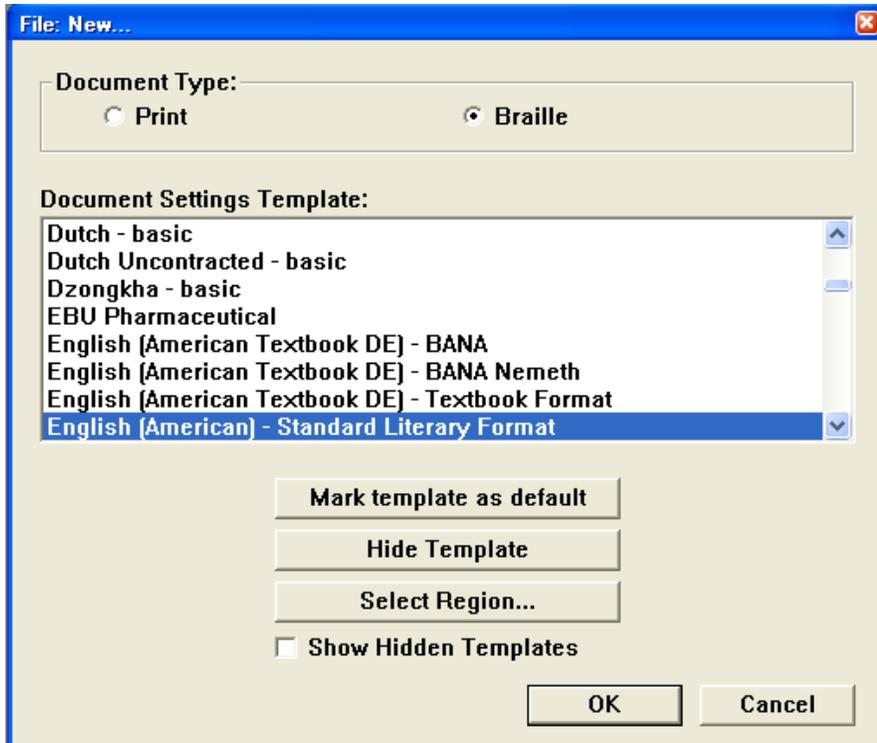


Figure 6: Screen shot of the New File format dialog window in DBT with English (American)-Standard Literary Format selected.

Select "New" in Duxbury. This will open a new document.

Select the document type as "Braille"

Select the "Standard Literary Format" or "BANA Nemeth".

Be sure to press "OK"

## Cursor Placement

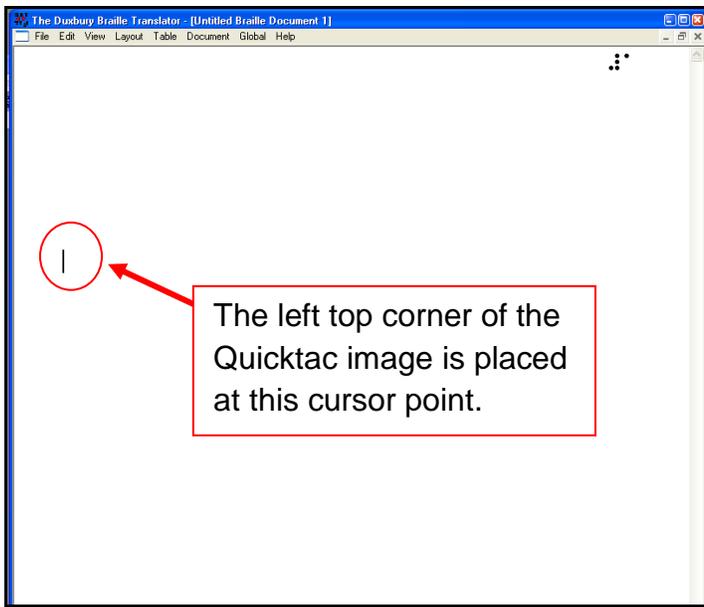


Figure 7: Screen shot of the DBT layout window indicated where the cursor is located on the document.

It is very important to place the cursor on the exact point where you want the QuickTac image to appear. If you want to enter braille text above the image (i.e., title or introductory information), the cursor needs to be advanced further down the page. This is accomplished by pressing the "Enter" key several times. This same procedure is used when pasting an image into a Word document.

## QuickTac Image Importing

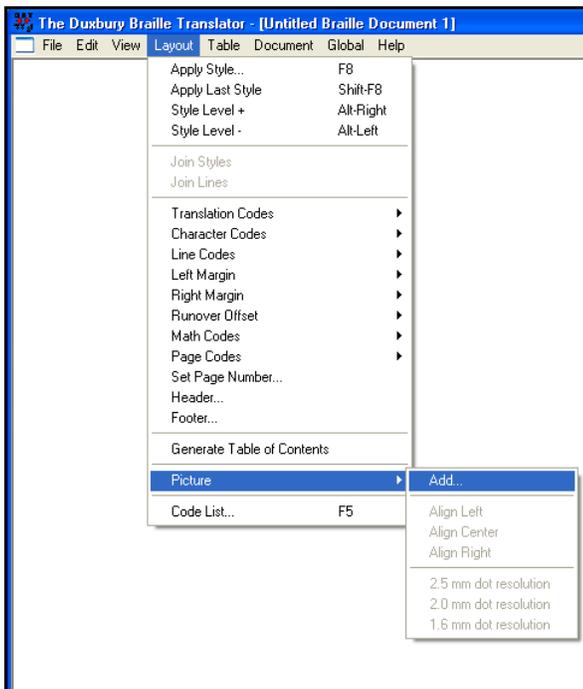


Figure 8: Screen shot with Layout in the File menu selected and "Picture" within the menu listing selected.

On the new DBT document go to "Layout" on the File Menu bar.  
Select "Picture" which will open a sub menu.  
Select "Add..."  
A dialog window is activated.

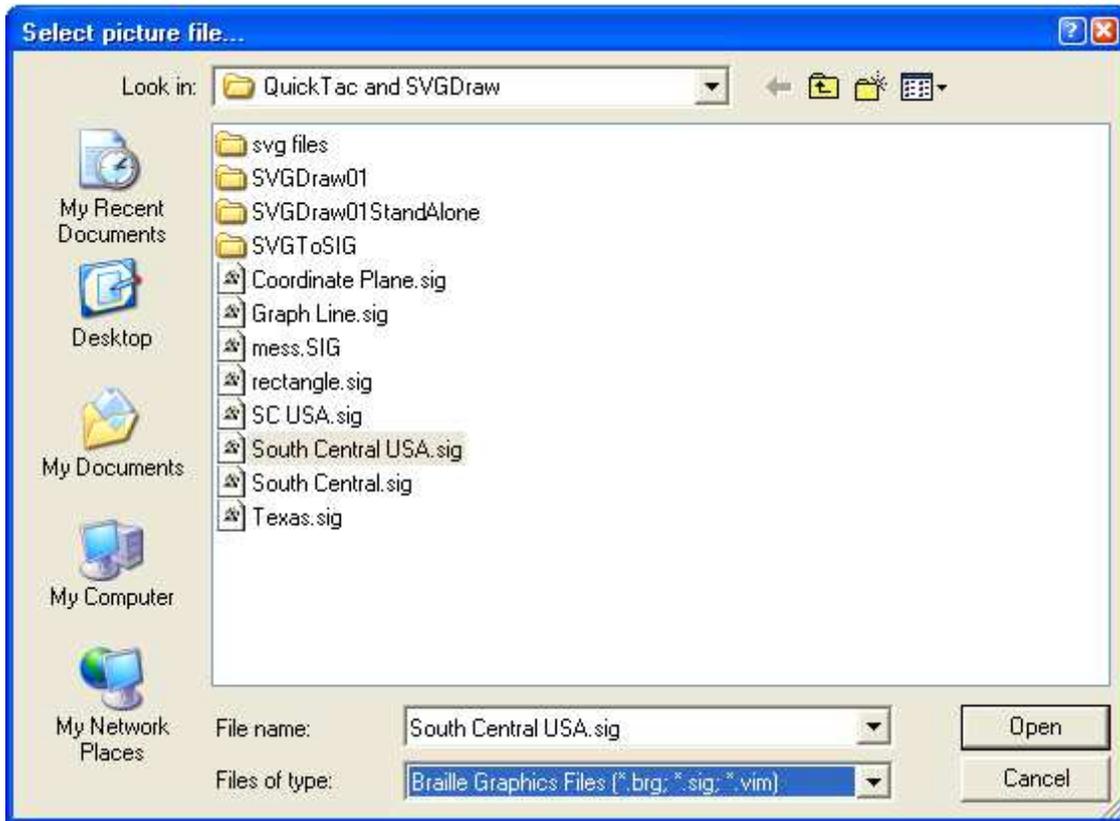


Figure 9: Screen shot of the "Select picture file.." dialog window. Braille Graphics File is the file type selected.

Find the QuickTac document.  
It should contain a .sig suffix. A .dwt or .brg will not import correctly into a DBT document.  
Select the "Open" button.

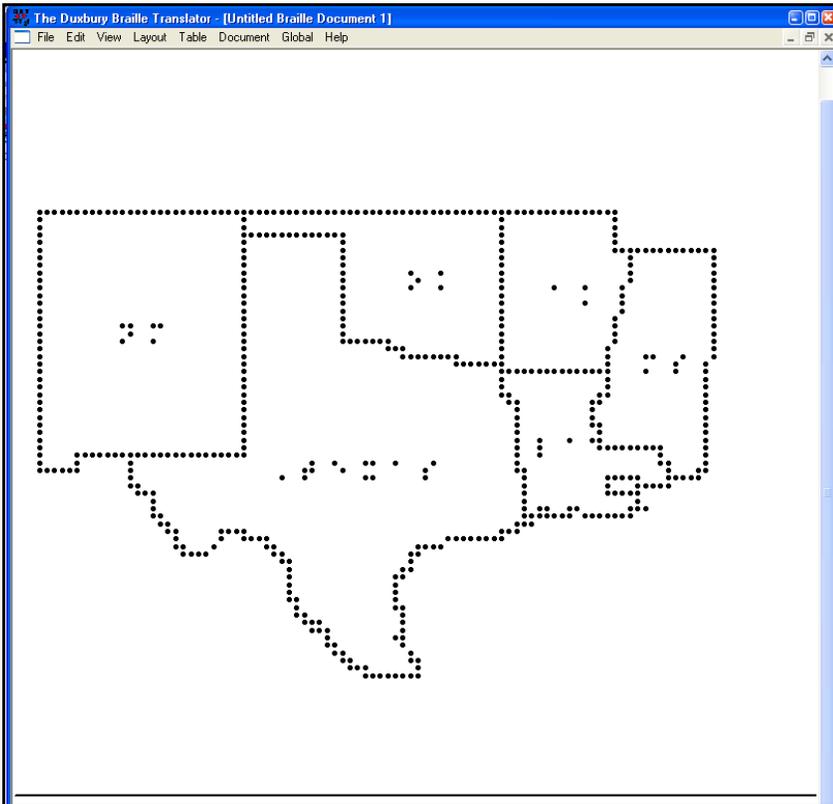


Figure 10: Screen shot of the DBT layout window containing the QuickTac imported picture.

The QuickTac image will appear wherever the cursor entry point is located. The image will always paste in Column 1 (the leftmost placement) where the cursor is located. The image above is set at Column 1 and Line 6. When using 6-key entry, braille can be entered in lines 1-7 and after 23 (below the image). Because of the image placement, no text can be entered between lines 8-22.

## Notes to Remember

The braille in the image is not quite as true as 6-key entered braille. Keep in mind that QuickTac is still in "beta" which could spell trouble at times. It is glitchy.

One glitch occurs when reopening a QuickTac document for editing. The image in the reopened QT document does not appear correct. There is a work around. First open the QT document. Select the entire image in the document. Copy it. Paste it into a new QT document. Now it is ready for editing and pasting into a DBT document.