Background

So, you think that transparency is impossible with 1 bit images? Well, you're right. But that doesn't mean that we can't fake it. A clever trick is to burn the annotation, with transparency, into an 8-bit greyscale image. Then convert that image to 1 bit. This will create the illusion that the annotation is transparent.

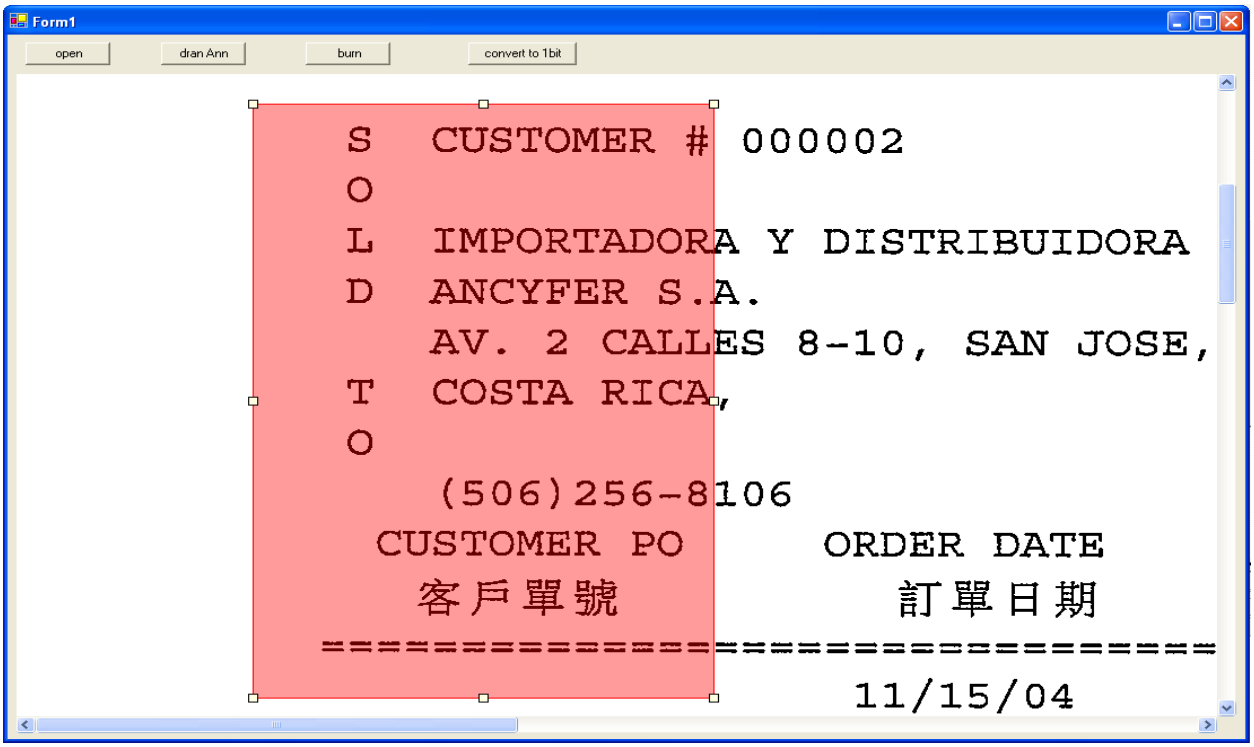
For this example, start off with an 8-bit greyscale image and draw a red rectangleAnnotation with alpha value of 100. The Code for this is simply,

[C#]

```
his.annotateViewer1.Annotations.CreateAnnotation(new RectangleAnnotation(new
Pen(Color.Red),new SolidBrush(Color.FromArgb(100, 255,0,0))));
```

[VB.NET]

```
e.annotateViewer1.Annotations.CreateAnnotation(New RectangleAnnotation(New Pen(Color.Red),New
SolidBrush(Color.FromArgb(100, 255,0,0))))
```



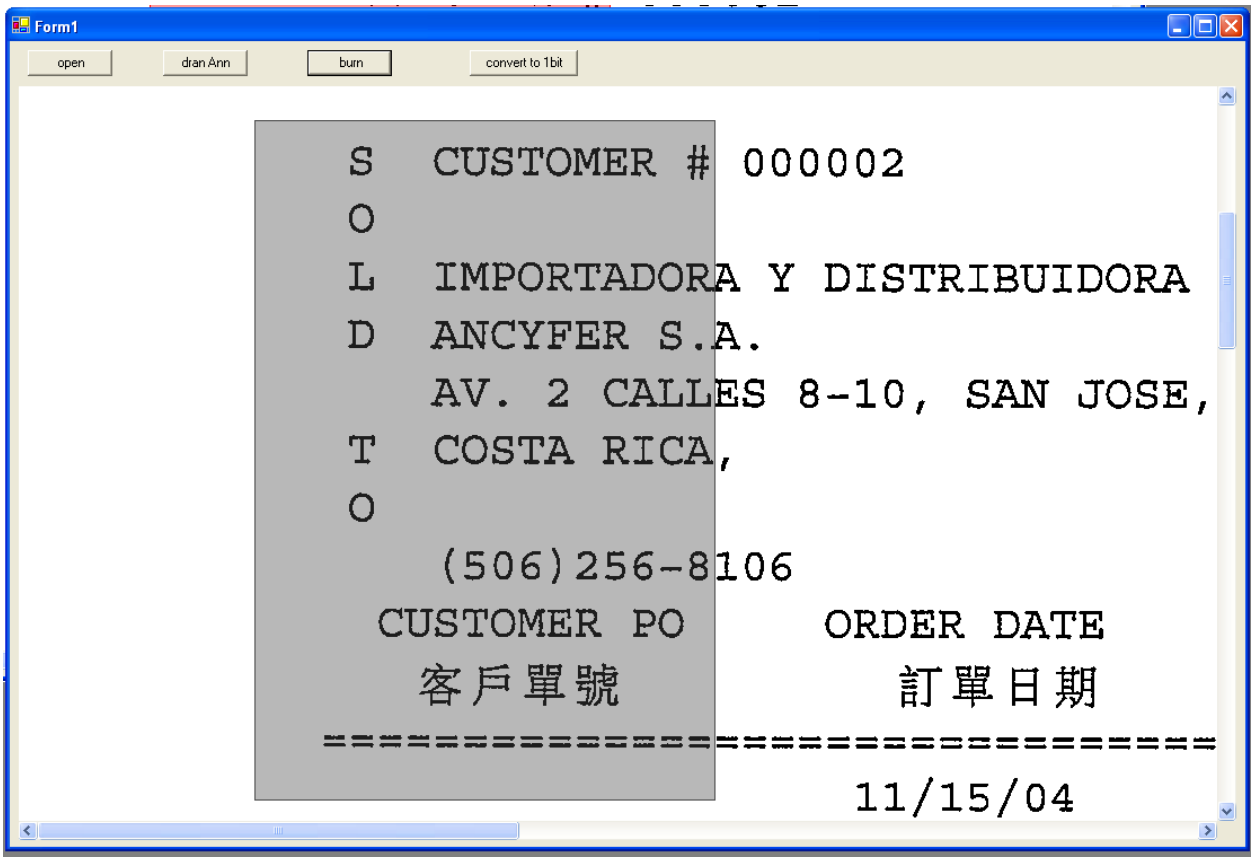
Next, burn the annotation onto the greyscale image, and then convert the Image to 1-bit... like this:

[C#]

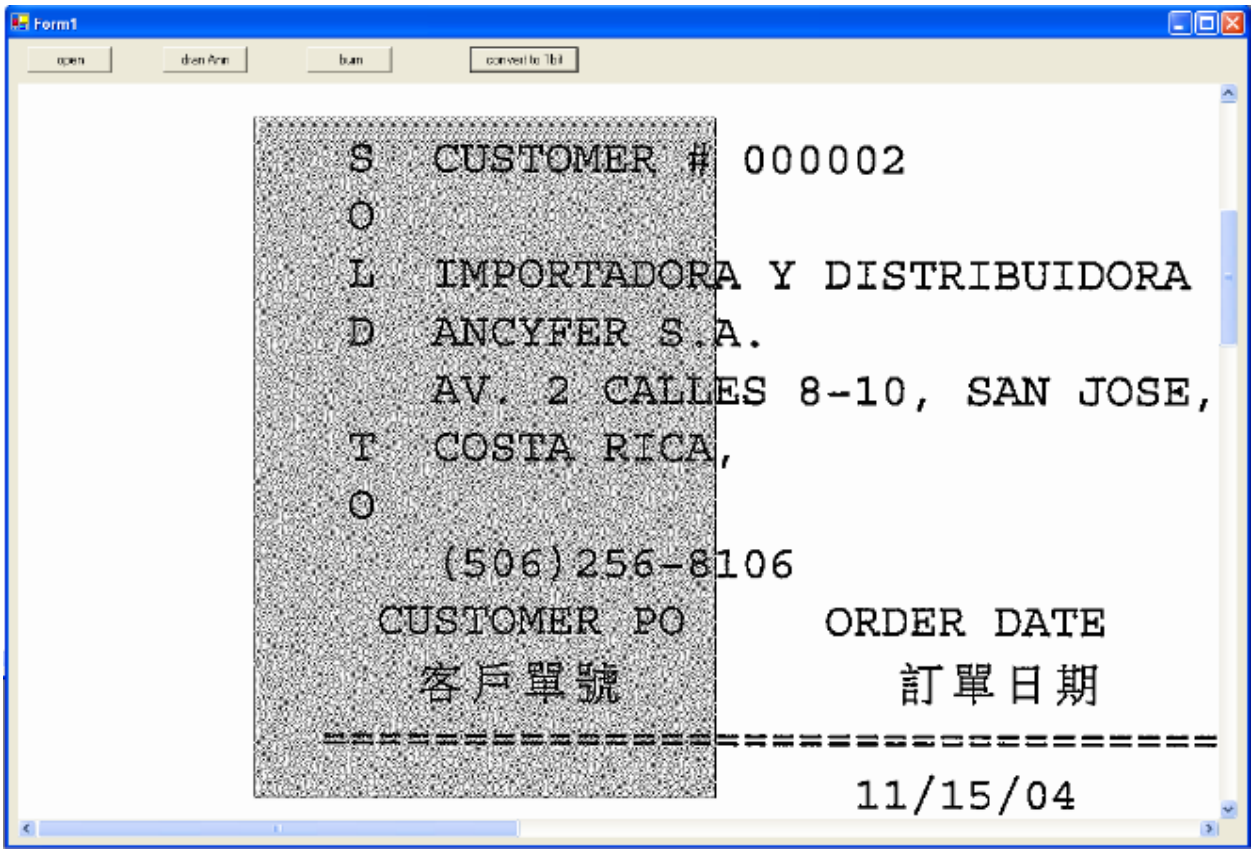
```
/ do the burn this.annotateViewer1.Burn(); // clear the annotation layers (otherwise you get "ghosts" foreach(Layer l in this.annotateViewer1.Annotations.Layers) { l.Clear(); } this.annotateViewer1.Refresh(); // Finally, convert to bitonal AtalaImage tmpImage = this.annotateViewer1.Image; this.annotateViewer1.Image = tmpImage.GetChangedPixelFormat(PixelFormat.Pixel1bppIndexed);
```

[VB.NET]

```
do the burn Me.annotateViewer1.Burn() ' clear the annotation layers (otherwise you get "ghosts" For Each l As Layer In Me.annotateViewer1.Annotations.Layers l.Clear() Next l Me.annotateViewer1.Refresh() ' Finally, convert to bitonal Dim tmpImage As AtalaImage = Me.annotateViewer1.Image Me.annotateViewer1.Image = tmpImage.GetChangedPixelFormat(PixelFormat.Pixel1bppIndexed)
```



There, that's it! The last image was left in such a large size so it can be seen that the conversion actually looks pretty good. This process can be used on any transparent Annotation.



Original Article

Q10117 - HOWTO: Burn transparent Annotations on a 1 bit Image

Last Update

2026-11-11 - TD - (Moved Images)

Atalasoft Knowledge Base
https://www.atalasoft.com/kb2/KB/50319/HOWTO-Burn-transparent-Annotations-o...