



## KICKING THE TIRES

by Frank Petrie



### *Review*

Product: **ShapeShifter v1.1**

Company: Unsanity and geekspiff

<<http://www.unsanity.com/haxies/shapeshifter/>>

Requirements: OS X.2 or greater

Price: (US) \$20.00

Test Rig: iBook G4/933/640 MB RAM

Review Date: 26 February 2004

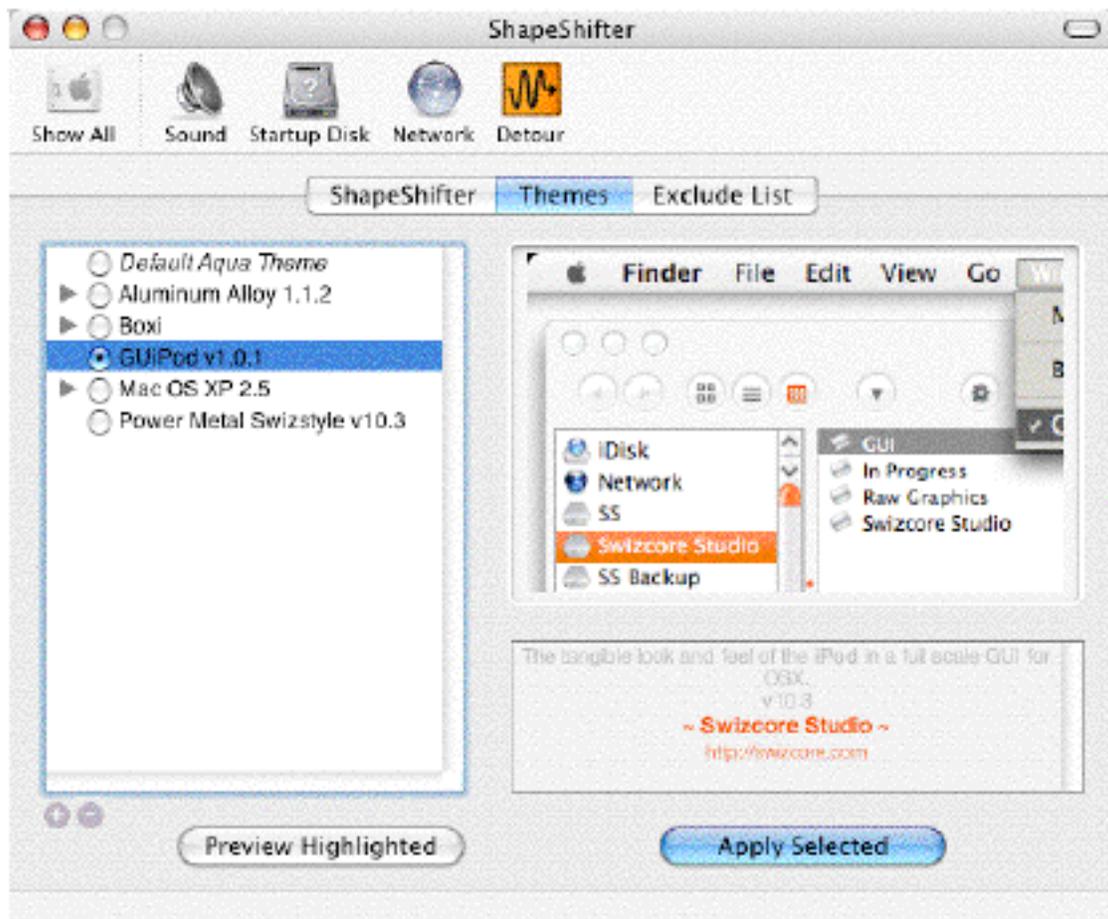
If you were to take a poll, I think it would be a safe bet that most people would ask that the brushed aluminum look be done with. In 9 and earlier, you could personalize your desktop's appearance with Arlo Rose's wonderful Kaleidoscope. Well, Arlo has gone on to create the wonderful Konfabulator (and if you haven't checked that one out, do it after you play with ShapeShifter!). So, into the breach steps Unsanity with ShapeShifter.

"ShapeShifter is a revolutionary new product that lets you change the overall appearance of your Mac using 'themes'. We're not talking about just desktop backgrounds and icons here, we're talking about everything – the look of windows, menus, buttons, absolutely everything. You don't wear the same clothes everyday, your house doesn't look exactly like your neighbor's – why should the computing interface you use everyday be any different. You personalize your physical workspace to suit your tastes and whims, so why not your Mac?"

Naw! You serious? Only one way to find out, boys and girls.

## THE GOOD

Easy to use installer that holds your hand through each step. It comes with two themes already pre-installed. One of them gives you the experience of the iPod with everything in white and small lit window buttons when you rollover them. It's a hoot!



All that you have to do is open up the SS pref pane and select your theme. Click apply, quit your apps and re-log in. Voila! I'm writing this with my desktop and apps resembling Windows XP - 'CEPT IT WORKS!!!

Currently there are only a couple dozen of themes out there. And some you have to do a little extra work with like installing special skins for Safari or Mail. And a few could use some tweaking. But just like with widgets, once people start

getting into this, different themes will be popping up like wild mushrooms.

## THE BAD

You'll sit at your computer for hours trying on different looks or designing your own. Best write down your spouse's name and birthday.

## THE UGLY

Nada.

## THE CLOSE

Again Apple dares you to be creative, to be yourself. In this case, with the help of a inexpensively priced haxie, ShapeShifter, you can go further than you thought in X.

Hate brushed aluminum? Got a few bucks to spare? I know that you can complete that thought.

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Thank you.