

# You know you've been ray tracing too long when...

- you've tried rendering hair with each strand as an object,
- you cannot go anywhere without thinking at least 5 times: "I wonder how I could render that",
- your friends are used to the fact that you will suddenly stop walking in order to look at objects and figure out how to do them as CSGs,
- you have ever snuck out of your bedroom to monitor the progress of an overnight render,
- other people upgrade their computers so they can play GP3 and strangle themselves with Windows whilst you upgrade so you can render faster,
- people around you are astounded by the computer-animated tails they put on babies in *The X-Files*, you on the other hand complain that it looks fake because they didn't bother to put in the tails' shadows,
- dream of real-time raytraced games and game engines,
- you've ever thought or said out-loud, "I'll bet I can raytrace that !",
- your friends run *Fractint* to make t-shirts and ads for raves, you run *Fractint* to make terrain maps for ray tracing landscapes,
- your other half knows the difference between scientific visualisation and photorealistic rendering, even though they wouldn't know a polygon from a camel,
- you look at a matrix transform and know instantly what it does,
- you know how far away a scene's light source is just by looking at the shadows,
- your spouse accidentally tripping over your PC's power cord and interrupting your complex rendition seems to be adequate grounds for divorce,
- you can figure out how long an image will take to render even before it starts,
- you decide to stop testing that wonderful recursive structure you've created and so you bump up the recursion level for that final overnight render and go to bed, only to wonder the next morning why the swap file has grown to nearly 2 Gb, your hard disk is making dying noises and the ray tracer is still parsing,
- you watched the *Last Starfighter* in an empty theatre and marvelled at it thinking it was \*even\* better than *TRON*,
- you get drunk and suddenly you get real excited examining the light relected through the jenever,
- you wonder how nature processes all those photons so damn quickly,
- you own one or more of the following : a glass sphere, a prism, more than two copies of Foley and Van Dam, a computer which cost more than your car, a computer which cost more than your house, a pet named Phong, a graphics board from a defunct supercomputer (properly framed) or a Rubics Cube (original).

*Most of the above phrases were picked from various locations on the Internet that seemed to make me laugh out loudly (and they still do). Some of them are even perfectly applicable to me... shiver...*