

## Java GUI Programming

Sean P. Strout ([sps@cs.rit.edu](mailto:sps@cs.rit.edu))

Robert Duncan ([rwd@cs.rit.edu](mailto:rwd@cs.rit.edu))

10/24/2005

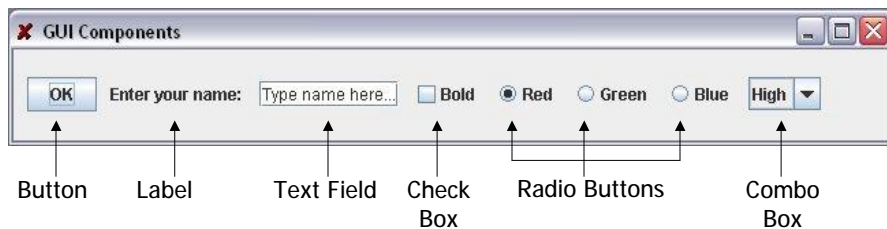
Java GUI Programming

1



### What is a GUI?


- Java has standard packages for creating custom **Graphical User Interfaces**
- Some of the fundamental GUI components:



10/24/2005

Java GUI Programming

2


Department of  
Computer Science

ShowComponents.java


```

import javax.swing.*;
import java.awt.*;

public class ShowComponents extends JFrame {
    public ShowComponents () {
        Container container = getContentPane();
        container.setLayout(new FlowLayout (FlowLayout.LEFT, 10, 20));
        container.add(new JButton("OK"));
        container.add(new JLabel("Enter your name: "));
        container.add(new JTextField("Type name here..."));
        container.add(new JCheckBox("Bold"));
        container.add(new JRadioButton("Red", true));
        container.add(new JRadioButton("Green"));
        container.add(new JRadioButton("Blue"));
        container.add(new JComboBox(new String[]{"High", "Med", "Low"}));
    } // ShowComponents
    public static void main(String args[]) {
        ShowComponents frame = new ShowComponents();
        frame.setTitle("GUI Components");
        frame.setDefaultCloseOperation(JFrame.EXIT_ON_CLOSE);
        frame.setSize(650, 100);
        frame.setLocation(100, 100);
        frame.setVisible(true);
    } // main
} // ShowComponents

```

10/24/2005
Java GUI Programming
3


Department of  
Computer Science


What is AWT?

- The **Abstract Window Toolkit** was a part of Java from the beginning


```
import java.awt.*;
```

- All AWT components must be mapped to platform specific components using **peers**
  - The look and feel of these components is tied to the native components of the window manager
- AWT components are considered to be very error prone and should not be used in modern Java applications


10/24/2005
Java GUI Programming
4


What is AWT?

- The same application using only AWT components, running on X-Windows:



10/24/2005
Java GUI Programming
5


AWTComponents.java

```


import java.awt.*;
public class AWTComponents extends Frame {
    public AWTComponents () {
        /* set up the window layout */
        setLayout(new FlowLayout (FlowLayout.LEFT, 10, 20));
        setLocation(100, 100);
        setTitle("AWT components");
        resize(600, 125);

        /* button */
        add(new Button("OK"));
        /* label */
        add(new Label("Enter your name: "));
        /* text field */
        add(new TextField("Type name here..."));

        /* check box group */
        CheckboxGroup cbg = new CheckboxGroup();
        add(new Checkbox("Bold", cbg, false));
        add(new Checkbox("Red", null, true));
        add(new Checkbox("Green"));
        add(new Checkbox("Blue"));
    }
}

```

10/24/2005
Java GUI Programming
6


AWTComponents.java - continued

```

/* Must put priorities in a menu bar */
MenuBar mb = new MenuBar();
Menu fileB = new Menu("Priority");
mb.add(fileB);
MenuItem highB = new MenuItem("High");
MenuItem medB = new MenuItem("Medium");
MenuItem lowB = new MenuItem("Low");
fileB.add(highB);
fileB.add(medB);
fileB.add(lowB);
setMenuBar(mb);


/* show the window */
setVisible(true);

} // AWTComponents

public static void main(String args[]) {
    new AWTComponents();
} // main
} // AWTComponents

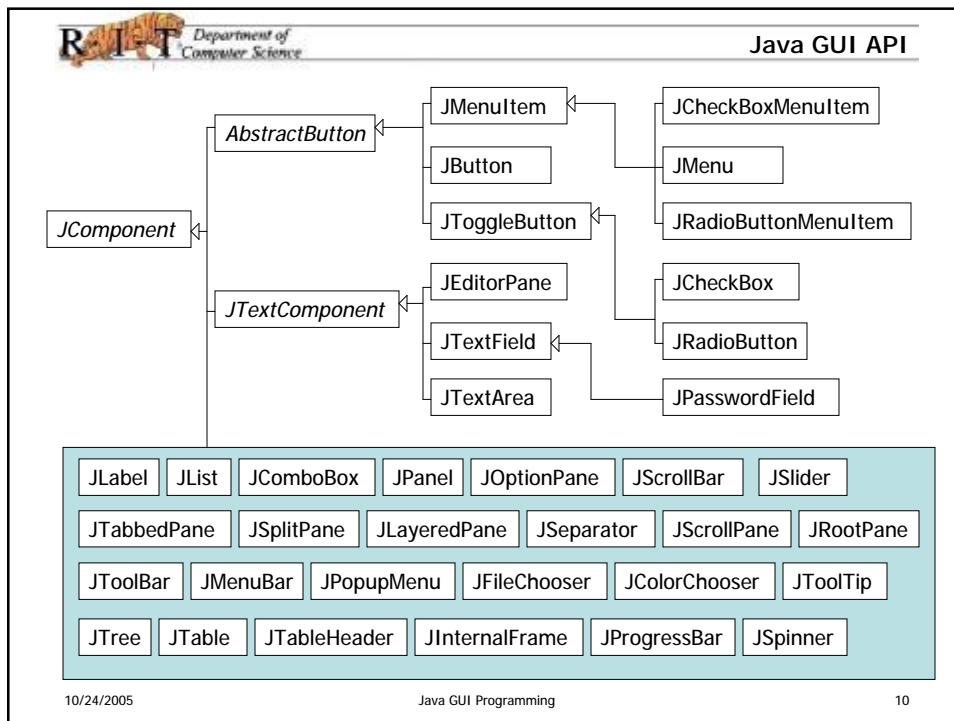
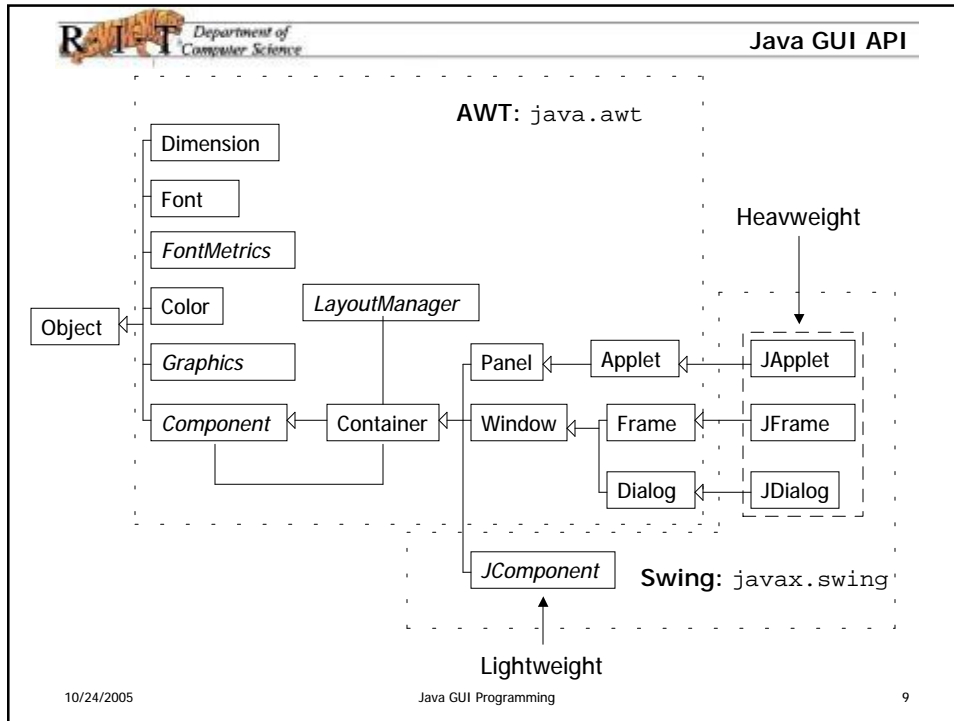
```


10/24/2005
Java GUI Programming
7


What is Swing?

- With the release of Java 2, the AWT user interface components were replaced with **Swing**
- Swing is built on top of AWT to give a more flexible, robust library
  - **Lightweight components** don't rely on the native GUI
  - **Heavyweight components** do depend on the target platform because they extend AWT components
- Swing components are directly painted onto the canvas using Java code

10/24/2005
Java GUI Programming
8






Department of  
Computer Science

## Container Classes

- **Container classes** are GUI components that are used as containers to contain other GUI components
  - For Swing use: `Component`, `Container`, `JFrame`, `JDialog`, `JApplet`, `Jpanel`
  - **JFrame** is a window not contained inside another window
  - **JDialog** is a temporary popup window or message box
  - **JApplet** is an applet that can run in a web browser
  - **JPanel** is an invisible, nest-able container used to hold UI components or canvases to draw graphics
  
- A **layout manager** is used to position and place components in a container

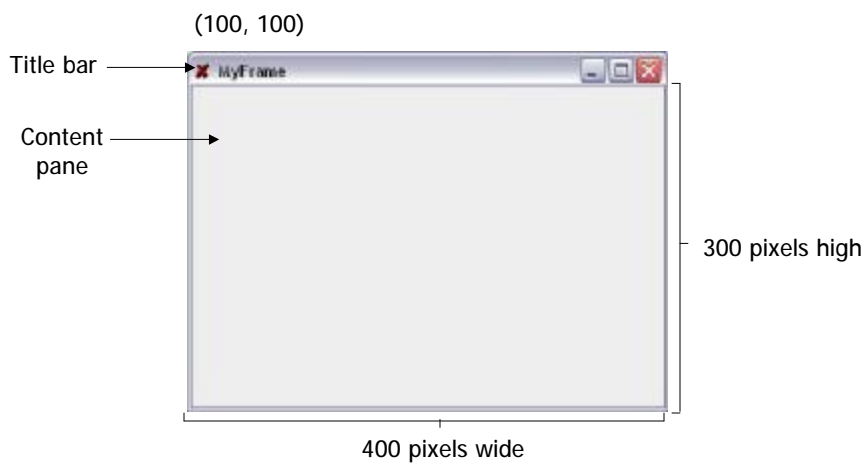
10/24/2005
Java GUI Programming
11



Department of  
Computer Science

## Frames

- You need a **frame** to hold the UI components



(100, 100)


Title bar →

Content pane →

400 pixels wide

300 pixels high

10/24/2005
Java GUI Programming
12



**MyFrame.java**

```

import javax.swing.*;
public class MyFrame {
    public static void main(String args[]) {
        // Create frame with the title "MyFrame"
        JFrame frame = new JFrame("MyFrame");

        // Set the size of the frame to width=400, height=300.
        // If this is not set, it will just be the size of the title bar
        frame.setSize(400, 300);

        // The frame is not displayed until this statement
        frame.setVisible(true);


        // The location of the frame on the screen. The upper-left corner is 0,0
        frame.setLocation(100, 100);

        // Tell the program to terminate when the frame is closed.
        // If this is not used, the program does not terminate and
        // it must be stopped manually (CTRL-Z then 'kill %' )
        frame.setDefaultCloseOperation(JFrame.EXIT_ON_CLOSE);
    } // main
} // MyFrame
10/24/2005

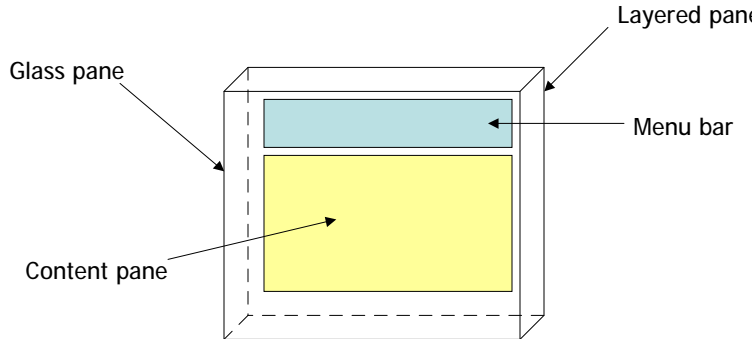
```

Java GUI Programming

13



**Content Pane**



The diagram illustrates a window structure. It shows a 3D perspective of a window with a dashed outline. Inside, there is a 'Layered pane' which contains a 'Menu bar' at the top and a 'Content pane' below it. The 'Content pane' is highlighted in yellow. Arrows point from the labels to their respective parts in the diagram.

- The **content pane** is the part of the frame where the UI components will be placed
- It is a `java.awt.Container` object

10/24/2005

Java GUI Programming

14

- UI components can be add'ed to the content pane after they are created



- Here, the OK button is centered in the frame and occupies the whole frame, no matter how it is resized

```
import javax.swing.*; // JFrame
import java.awt.*; // Container
public class MyFrameWithButton {
    public static void main(String args[]) {
        JFrame frame = new JFrame("Frame with components");

        // Get the content pane, which was made when the
        // frame was created.
        Container container = frame.getContentPane();
        // Create an "OK" button
        JButton okButton = new JButton("OK");
        // Add the button into the frame via the content pane
        container.add(okButton);

        // Set up the frame behavior
        frame.setSize(400, 300);
        frame.setLocation(100, 100);
        frame.setVisible(true);
        frame.setDefaultCloseOperation(JFrame.EXIT_ON_CLOSE);
    } // main
} // MyFrameWithButton
```




- There are three basic layout managers which control how UI components are organized on the frame
  - FlowLayout
  - GridLayout
  - BorderLayout
  
- Once created, the layout can be set in the content pane using `setLayout`
  
- As the window is resized, the UI components reorganize themselves based on the rules of the layout

```
public class GUIMain extends JFrame {
    // construct GUI interface with components
    public GUIMain() {
        // set the layout manager
        Container container = getContentPane();
        container.setLayout(...);

        // create UI components and add
        container.add(...)
    } // GUIMain

    // create instance of GUIMain and set
    // frame behaviors
    public static void main(String args[]) {
        GUIMain frame = new GUIMain();

        frame.setTitle(...);
        ...
    } // main
} // GUIMain
```

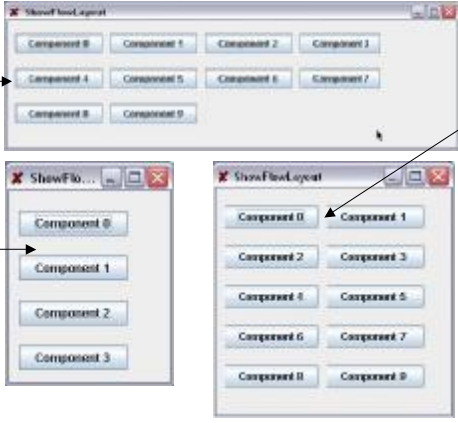


Department of  
Computer Science

## FlowLayout

- With **flow layout**, the components arrange themselves from left to right in the order they were added

Rows/buttons are left aligned using  
`FlowLayout.LEFT`




Horizontal gap of 10 pixels

Vertical gap of 20 pixels

10/24/2005

Java GUI Programming

19



Department of  
Computer Science

## ShowFlowLayout.java

```

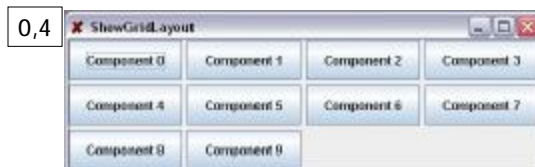
public class ShowFlowLayout extends JFrame {
    // Constructor places components in the frame
    public ShowFlowLayout() {
        // Get the content pane from the frame
        Container container = getContentPane();
        // Set FlowLayout, aligned left with a horizontal
        // gap 10 and vertical gap 20 between components
        container.setLayout(new FlowLayout(FlowLayout.LEFT, 10, 20));
        // Add 10 buttons into the frame
        for (int i=0; i<10; i++) {
            container.add(new JButton("Component " + i));
        }
    } // ShowFlowLayout
    public static void main(String args[]) {
        ShowFlowLayout frame = new ShowFlowLayout();
        frame.setTitle("ShowFlowLayout");
        frame.setSize(600, 200);
        frame.setLocation(100, 100);
        frame.setVisible(true);
        frame.setDefaultCloseOperation(JFrame.EXIT_ON_CLOSE);
    } // main
} // ShowFlowLayout
    
```

10/24/2005

Java GUI Programming


20

- With **grid layout**, the components arrange themselves in a matrix formation (rows, columns)
- Either the row or column must be non-zero
- The non-zero dimension is fixed and the zero dimension is determined dynamically
- The dominating parameter is the rows



10, 10





Department of  
Computer Science
ShowGridLayout.java

```

public class ShowGridLayout extends JFrame {
    public ShowGridLayout(int rows, int cols) {
        // Get the content pane of the frame
        Container container = getContentPane();
        // Set the grid layout based on user input for
        // the rows and columns. The gaps are 5 pixels
        container.setLayout(new GridLayout(rows, cols, 5, 5));
        // Add 10 buttons to the frame
        for (int i=0; i<10; i++) {
            container.add(new JButton("Component " + i)); }
    } // ShowGridLayout
    public static void main(String args[]) {
        if (args.length != 2) {
            System.err.println("Usage: java ShowGridLayout rows cols");
            System.exit(-1); }
        int rows = Integer.parseInt(args[0]);
        int cols = Integer.parseInt(args[1]);
        ShowGridLayout frame = new ShowGridLayout(rows, cols);
        frame.setTitle("ShowGridLayout");
        frame.setSize(600, 200);
        frame.setLocation(100, 100);
        frame.setVisible(true);
        frame.setDefaultCloseOperation(JFrame.EXIT_ON_CLOSE);
    } // main
} // ShowGridLayout

```

10/24/2005
Java GUI Programming
23


Department of  
Computer Science
BorderLayout

- With **border layout**, the window is divided into five areas:

```

BorderLayout.NORTH

BorderLayout.WEST  BorderLayout.CENTER  BorderLayout.EAST

BorderLayout.SOUTH

```

- Components are added to the frame using a specified index:

```

container.add(new JButton("East"), BorderLayout.EAST);

```

10/24/2005
Java GUI Programming
24

**BorderLayout**

10/24/2005                      Java GUI Programming                      25

**ShowBorderLayout.java**

```

public class ShowBorderLayout extends JFrame {
    public ShowBorderLayout() {
        // Get the content pane of the frame
        Container container = getContentPane();
        // Set the border layout with horizontal gap 5
        // and vertical gap 10
        container.setLayout(new BorderLayout(5, 10));
        // Add buttons to the frame
        container.add(new JButton("East"), BorderLayout.EAST);
        container.add(new JButton("South"), BorderLayout.SOUTH);
        container.add(new JButton("West"), BorderLayout.WEST);
        container.add(new JButton("North"), BorderLayout.NORTH);
        container.add(new JButton("Center"), BorderLayout.CENTER);
    } // ShowBorderLayout
    public static void main(String args[]) {
        ShowBorderLayout frame = new ShowBorderLayout();
        frame.setTitle("ShowBorderLayout");
        frame.setSize(600, 200);
        frame.setLocation(100, 100);
        frame.setVisible(true);
        frame.setDefaultCloseOperation(JFrame.EXIT_ON_CLOSE);
    } // main
} // ShowBorderLayout


```

10/24/2005                      Java GUI Programming                      26

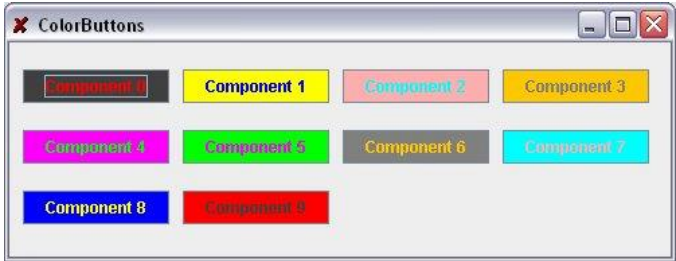
- The window stretches for each component:
  - North and South stretch horizontally
  - East and West stretch vertically
  - Center can stretch in both directions to fill space
- The default location for a component is `BorderLayout.CENTER`
- If you add two components to the same location, only the last one will be displayed
- It is unnecessary to place components to occupy all areas

- The color of GUI components can be set using the `java.awt.Color` class
- Colors are made of **red**, **green** and **blue** components which range from 0 (darkest shade) to 255 (lightest shade)
- Each UI component has a background and foreground:


```
Color color = new Color(128, 0, 0);  
JButton button = new JButton();  
button.setBackground(color); // red  
button.setForeground(new Color(0, 0, 128)); // blue
```


Color

- There are 13 constant colors defined in `Color`:
  - `BLACK`, `BLUE`, `CYAN`, `DARK_GRAY`, `GRAY`, `GREEN`,  
`LIGHT_GRAY`, `MAGENTA`, `ORANGE`, `PINK`, `RED`, `WHITE`,  
`YELLOW`



10/24/2005
Java GUI Programming
29


ColorButtons.java

```

public class ColorButtons extends JFrame {


    // Constructor places components in the frame
    public ColorButtons() {
        // Get the content pane from the frame
        Container container = getContentPane();

        // Set FlowLayout, aligned left with a horizontal
        // gap 10 and vertical gap 20 between components
        container.setLayout(new FlowLayout(FlowLayout.LEFT, 10, 20));

        Color colors[] = new Color [10];
        colors[0] = Color.RED;
        colors[1] = Color.BLUE;
        colors[2] = Color.CYAN;
        colors[3] = Color.GRAY;
        colors[4] = Color.GREEN;
        colors[5] = Color.MAGENTA;
        colors[6] = Color.ORANGE;
        colors[7] = Color.PINK;
        colors[8] = Color.YELLOW;
        colors[9] = Color.DARK_GRAY;
    }
}

```

10/24/2005
Java GUI Programming
30



ColorButtons.java

```


// Add 10 buttons into the frame
for (int i=0; i<10; i++) {
    JButton button = new JButton("Component " + i);
    button.setForeground(colors[i]);
    button.setBackground(colors[9-i]);
    container.add(button);
}
} // ColorButtons

public static void main(String args[]) {
    ColorButtons frame = new ColorButtons();
    frame.setTitle("ColorButtons");
    frame.setSize(600, 200);
    frame.setLocation(100, 100);
    frame.setVisible(true);
    frame.setDefaultCloseOperation(JFrame.EXIT_ON_CLOSE);
} // main
} // ColorButtons
    
```

10/24/2005
Java GUI Programming
31


Panels

- Write a program to organize the components for a microwave oven:



button


text field

12 buttons

- The problem is we want to use different layouts for different components

10/24/2005
Java GUI Programming
32




Panels

- The window can be subdivided into different panels
- The panels act as sub-containers for grouping UI components

The content pane uses a border layout:  
Panel2: East  
Button: Center

button


text field

12 buttons

Panel 2 uses a border layout:  
text: North  
Panel 1: Center

Panel 1 uses a grid layout

10/24/2005
Java GUI Programming
33


MicrowaveUI.java

```

import java.awt.*;
import javax.swing.*;

public class MicrowaveUI extends JFrame {
    public MicrowaveUI() {
        // Get the content pane of the frame
        Container container = getContentPane();


        // Set the border layout for the frame
        container.setLayout(new BorderLayout());

        // Create panel1 for the button and
        // use a grid layout
        JPanel panel1 = new JPanel();
        panel1.setLayout(new GridLayout(4, 3));

        // Add buttons to the panel
        for (int i=1; i<10; i++) {
            JButton button = new JButton("" + i);
            button.setForeground(Color.WHITE);
            button.setBackground(Color.BLACK);
            panel1.add(button);
        }
    }
}

```

10/24/2005
Java GUI Programming
34


MicrowaveUI.java


```

        JButton button = new JButton("0");
        button.setForeground(Color.WHITE);
        button.setBackground(Color.BLACK);
        panel1.add(button);
        button = new JButton("Start");
        button.setForeground(Color.WHITE);
        button.setBackground(Color.BLACK);
        panel1.add(button);
        button = new JButton("Stop");
        button.setForeground(Color.WHITE);
        button.setBackground(Color.BLACK);
        panel1.add(button);

        // Create panel2 to hold a text field and panel1
        JPanel panel2 = new JPanel(new BorderLayout());
        JTextField textField =
            new JTextField("Time to be displayed here...");
        textField.setForeground(Color.WHITE);
        textField.setBackground(Color.BLACK);
        panel2.add(textField, BorderLayout.NORTH);
        panel2.add(panel1, BorderLayout.CENTER);
        // Add panel2 and a button to the frame
        container.add(panel2, BorderLayout.EAST);
        button = new JButton("Food to be placed here");
        button.setForeground(Color.RED);
        button.setBackground(Color.BLACK);
        container.add(button, BorderLayout.CENTER);

        } // MicrowaveUI
    
```


10/24/2005
Java GUI Programming
35


MicrowaveUI.java

```

        public static void main(String args[]) {
            MicrowaveUI frame = new MicrowaveUI();
            frame.setTitle("Zap It!");
            frame.setSize(400, 250);
            frame.setLocation(100, 100);
            frame.setVisible(true);
            frame.setDefaultCloseOperation(JFrame.EXIT_ON_CLOSE);
        } // main
    } // MicrowaveUI
    
```

10/24/2005
Java GUI Programming
36



Graphics

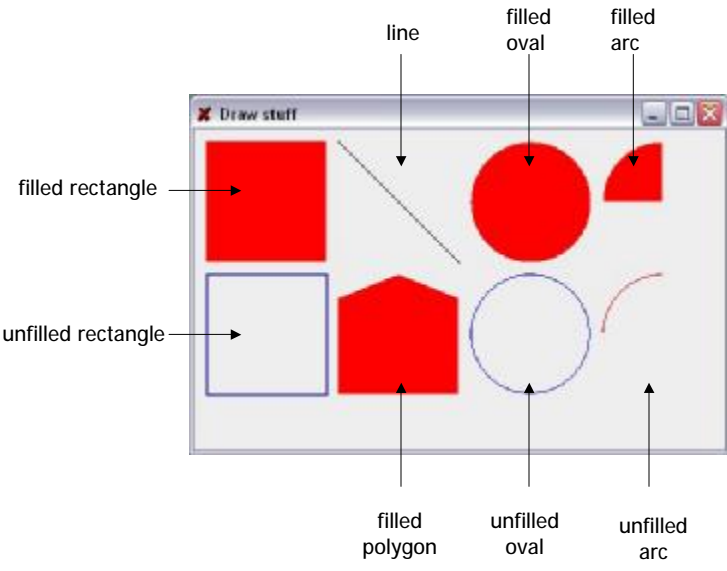
- Graphics can be drawn using a class which extends `JPanel`
- Swing will call the `paintComponent` method to draw:
 

```
protected void paintComponent(Graphics g);
```
- There are a variety of drawing methods:
 

```
drawLine(int x1, int y1, int x2, int y2);
drawRect(int x, int y, int w, int h);
drawOval(int x, int y, int w, int h);
drawPolygon(int[] xpoints, int[] ypoints, int npoints);
```

10/24/2005
Java GUI Programming
37


Graphics



line
filled oval
filled arc

filled rectangle
unfilled rectangle

filled polygon
unfilled oval
unfilled arc

10/24/2005
Java GUI Programming
38