

1.6 VISUALBASIC CONTROLS

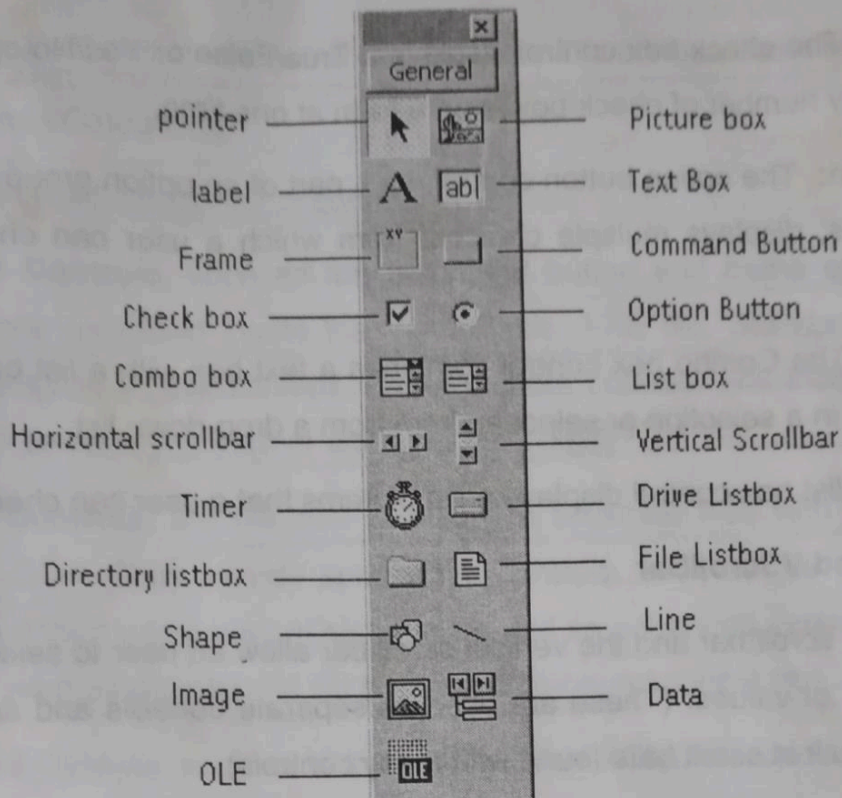


Figure 1.8 : ToolBox

The VisualBasic Toolbox contains the tools we use to draw controls on our forms. Each tool in the toolbox represents a control.

Pointer : The pointer provides a way to move and resize forms and controls (Note that this is not a control).

Picture Box: The picture box control displays bitmaps, icons or Windows metafiles. It displays text or acts as a visual container for other controls.

Label : The label control displays text a user cannot interact with or modify.

TextBox : The text box control provides an area to enter or display text.

Frame : The frame control provides a visual and functional container for controls.

CommandButton: The Command button control carries out a command or action when a user chooses it.

CheckBox: The check box control displays a True/False or Yes/No option. You can check any number of check boxes on a form at one time.

OptionButton: The option button control, as a part of an option group with other option buttons, displays multiple choices, from which a user can choose only one.

ComboBox: The Combo box control combines a text box with a list box. Allows a user to type in a selection or select an item from a drop-down list.

ListBox: The list box control displays a list of items that a user can choose from.

HScrollBar and VScrollBar

The horizontal scroll bar and the vertical scroll bar allow an user to select a value within a range of values. (These are used as separate controls and are not the same as the built in scroll bars found with many controls).

Timer: The timer control executes timer events at specified time intervals.

DriveListBox: The Drive list box control displays and allows a user to select valid disk drives.

DirListBox: The Directory list box control displays and allows a user to select directories and paths.

FileListBox: The File list box control displays and allows a user to select from a list of files.

Shape: The shape control adds a rectangle, square, ellipse or circle to a form.

Line: The line control adds a straight-line segment to a form.

Image: The image control displays bitmaps, icons, or Windows metafiles; acts like a command button when clicked.

Data: The data control enables us to connect to an existing database and display information from it on forms.

OLE: The OLE container control embeds data into a VisualBasic application.

1.6.1 Control Categories

There are broad categories of controls in VB.

Standard Controls, such as the command button and frame controls. These controls are contained inside the VisualBasic .EXE file. Standard controls are always included in the Toolbox, unlike custom controls and insertable objects, which can be removed from or added to the Toolbox.

Custom Controls, are controls available in separate files with file extensions .VBX or .OCX. They include specialized controls, such as the common dialog control and third party custom controls, as well as enhanced versions of standard controls, such as data-bound list box and data-bound combo box controls.

Insertable Objects, such as bitmap image, Media Clip, Wordpad document etc.

1.7 DRAWING OBJECTS ON THE FORM

To draw objects on a form, you need to use the Toolbox, which appears on the left side of the screen. The Toolbox contains little drawings that represent the various objects you can draw on a form.

To draw any object on a form, you always have to follow these steps:

1. Click on the object in the Toolbox to tell VisualBasic what you want to draw on a form.
2. Move the mouse pointer onto the form where you want to draw the object.
3. Hold down the left mouse button and drag the mouse to draw your chosen object on the form.