



# **FONTS**

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## FONTS

Fonts are found on an Apple Macintosh in the System Folder within a folder called Fonts. On a PC they are found in the Windows Folder within a folder called Fonts.

There are 3 main font formats used on Apple Macintosh computers and PC's:

### Postscript

Postscript is the programming language that along with Apple Macintosh, a laserwriter and Adobe PageMaker made Desktop Publishing possible in 1985. Part of the language provided for the description of fonts that could be used in any size that a program such as PageMaker chose to put in its menu.

As Postscript has been around for the longest on the Macintosh and PC's, it accounts for the vast bulk of fonts used in professional DTP. Arguably the technical quality is better and they cause fewer problems on high quality imagesetters.

The font comes in 2 parts, a screen font and a printer font.

The screen font used to be required to provide an image on the screen, but these days it is achieved by Adobe Type Manager. Adobe Type Manager manages fonts on the computer and renders smooth edges around fonts being used on screen.

The printer font carries the postscript code and by way of ATM gives an image on the screen and drives the printer to give an image in any size that the program allows.

Postscript fonts are stored in the special fonts folder. At least one size of the screen font is required to make the menus operate.

### TrueType

TrueType fonts is a format for TYPE and was invented by Apple and Microsoft in 1991. Microsoft bundle TrueType fonts with all versions of Windows. These fonts do not require separate screen fonts and require less space on the hard disk drive.

The main advantage of TrueType fonts is that they can be output from postscript and non-postscript laserprinters - no RIP (raster image processor, translates the postscript data into a pattern of dots that can be output by a laserprinter or imagesetter) is required. They can cause problems when output to an imagesetter. TrueType fonts should be avoided if used in the same page as Postscript fonts.

### Bitmapped

Apple Macintosh computers will have bitmapped fonts, these fonts are mainly named after cities. Chicago and Monaco are required for the Mac's menus and dialogue boxes. They give very poor printed output and should be avoided.



*Postscript  
Screen Font*



*Postscript  
Printer Font*



*TrueType Font*

### Font Issues

There is a theoretical limit of 128 fonts on a Apple Macintosh. This does not mean 128 families, but 128 individual fonts.

To overcome this limitation Suitcase software can be used to store fonts. This program sorts fonts for different purposes so that the Mac will run faster. Several Suitcases can be made to arrange fonts for particular jobs or customer needs.



*Suitcase Files*

### Problems Outputting Fonts

When receiving files from a client or customer, the following font information is required for successful output:

- Names of every font
- What company made the fonts, i.e. Adobe or Linotype etc. The same font can produce different line ending if the font on the imagesetter has been made by a different company.
- Postscript or TrueType
- Font ID numbers: 'Suitcase' will harmonise fonts preventing duplication of font ID numbers.

### Courier Type

If some text appears as a typewriter typeface, this means the output system could not find the correct font for the document. This often occurs when the correct font is not installed, but other conditions, such as fonts that are installed in both TrueType and Postscript versions clash.

The quick brown fox jumped  
over the lazy dog

### New Line Breaks

If the font appears correct, but the text seems to be setting tighter or looser than in the laser proof, that often means that the wrong version of the font was used for output. Fonts from different manufacturers, or even different versions of the font from a single manufacturer, may have subtle differences in letterspacing and other design elements that result in a slightly different look or different copy flow in output

The quick brown fox jumped over the  
lazy dog in Stratford-Upon-Avon  
Adobe Baskerville

The quick brown fox jumped over  
the lazy dog in Stratford-Upon-  
Avon  
ITC Baskerville

### Copyright of Fonts

Typefaces are the property of the designer or manufacturer. When they are purchased you merely purchase the licence to use the typeface on a computer. It is illegal to copy or distribute a font to other users.

It is illegal to copy a font for a repro house or printer. They need to buy a licence for use of the font itself.

## QUESTIONS ON FONTS

- (1) Name the 3 main font formats used on a Mac computer ?
- (2) What are the 2 parts of a postscript font ?
- (3) Name an advantage of truetype fonts ?
- (4) What font format is used for the Mac menus and dialogue boxes ?
- (5) Which font format gives the best results from a high quality imagesetter ?
- (6) How many fonts can a Mac computer store ?
- (7) How can a Mac computer use more than 128 fonts ?
- (8) Name 3 items of information required about fonts when receiving files from a client ?
- (9) Give a reason why the Courier typeface appears as a substitute font on a page ?
- (10) Define the law regarding copyright of fonts ?