



Tech Info Library

LaserWriter: Adobe Font Metrics Information

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TOPIC -----

This article discusses how to set the actual size (the width and height) of the characters of the built-in fonts. These are the Adobe Font Metrics (AFM). The LaserWriter does not use true fonts for Bold, Italic, and so on. Instead it does some algorithmic calculation to create the these fonts from the plain typeface. This is where the discrepancies between the LaserWriter documents and some typesetting equipment appears. One typesetter uses the true Bold and Italics, and the LaserWriter uses algorithms. As a result, the documents are not quite the same.

DISCUSSION -----

Within PostScript, the shape of each character used in a given font is described in the Metrics for the character. There is no size associated with the character, only a description of how the character is to be drawn. The size of a character is set within a PostScript program using the command "scalefont".

For example: /Times-Roman findfont 12 scalefont setfont

Complete information on how PostScript fonts are scaled is in the "PostScript Language Reference Manual, ISBN #0-201-10174-2", Chapter 5, section 5.2, Organization and Use of Fonts.

The actual PostScript fonts used in the LaserWriter ROMs are available from Adobe as downloadable. When using the LaserWriter fonts in PostScript, the font type must be declared (Bold, Italic, Demi, and so on). Here is a list of the proper font names for the LaserWriter Plus:

Times-Roman
Times-Bold
Times-Italic

Times-BoldItalic
Helvetica
Helvetica-Bold
Helvetica-Oblique
Helvetica-BoldOblique
Courier-Bold
Courier-Oblique
Courier-BoldOblique
Symbol
AvantGarade-DemiOblique
AvantGarade-BookOblique
AvantGarade-Demi
AvantGarade-Book
Bookman-DemiItalic
Bookman-LightItalic
Bookman-Demi
Bookman-Light
Helvetica-Narrow-BoldOblique
Helvetica-Narrow-Oblique
Helvetica-Narrow-Bold
Helvetica-Narrow
NewCenturySchlbk-BoldItalic
NewCenturySchlbk-Italic
NewCenturySchlbk-Bold
NewCenturySchlbk-Roman
Palatino-BoldItalic
Palatino-Italic
Palatino-Bold
Palatino-Roman
ZapfChancery-MediumItalic
ZapfDingbats

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