

**0005**

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# Chapter 1

## 0005

### 1.1 Personal Fonts Maker - 8. PFM: The Attributes Menu

#### 8. PFM: The Attributes Menu

This menu allows the user to associate some attributes to the current font. Attributes are used to describe the font, e.g. to say whether it is an italic or an underlined font, or both. This information is stored with the font when the Personal Fonts Maker or the Amiga font format is used. Some of the attributes listed in this chapter are not handled by the Amiga format.

Attributes are very important when a font is processed automatically by a program. For a human user it is very easy to tell whether a font is italic or bold, with fixed pitch or proportionally spaced. This task is, however, too complex to be implemented in a normal program. When a program asks the Amiga operating system to use an italic version of a given typeface, the operating system searches the font files for a font with the "Italic" attribute flag set. This is a fast and efficient solution, but requires the font files to have the attributes set properly. For this reason, it is important that when a font is designed or modified, the attributes are also set correctly.

The attributes can be set and cleared with the mouse, as described in section 1.9.8 ("Menus"). Some attributes automatically exclude other attributes. For example, a font cannot be light and bold, superscript and subscript or enlarged and condensed. The following subsections describe each attribute. Section 2.3 ("Typeface Classification and Typographic Basics") describes some font attributes in more detail. Appendix O explains how the attribute flags can be accessed with software other than the Personal Fonts Maker. The Amiga documentation should be read for additional technical information on the attributes handled by the Amiga font format.

#### 8.1 Italic

A font where all characters are slanted to the right is called italic. Sections 5.6 ("Italicize") and 7.4 ("Italic Factor") explain how italic variations of normal characters can be generated automatically. Italic

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fonts are also called oblique.

If this attribute is set, the Amiga FSF\_ITALIC style flag will be set if the font is saved in the Amiga font format (section 4.6, "Export Amiga Font").

## 8.2 Bold

A font is called bold if it is made of thicker lines than those of the typeface it is derived from. Section 3.19 ("The Four 'Shift' Gadgets") describes how to combine the "Shift" function with the "OR" to create bold variants of characters.

If this attribute is set, the Amiga FSF\_BOLD style flag will be set if the font is saved in the Amiga font format (section 4.6, "Export Amiga Font").

## 8.3 Light

A light font is the opposite of a bold font. Light typefaces have thinner and more delicate lines.

## 8.4 Underlined

It is probably more difficult to explain what an underlined font is than creating one. As for all other variations, it is possible to create a macro which underlines all characters in a font. It is important to remember to record the macro by underlining manually the widest possible character ("X Size" equal to "X Max").

If this attribute is set, the Amiga FSF\_UNDERLINED style flag will be set if the font is saved in the Amiga font format (section 4.6, "Export Amiga Font").

## 8.5 Outline

An outlined character has all its external and internal borders drawn, but is empty inside these borders. The Personal Fonts Maker comes with different macros which can be used to outline the characters of a normal font (section 12.5, "Predefined Macros").

## 8.6 Shadow

Shadowed characters have a visible shadow. One of the pre-recorded macros which come with the Personal Fonts Maker can be used to draw a shadow under the characters of a normal font (section 12.5, "Predefined Macros").

## 8.7 Superscript

Superscript characters are small characters which are usually written

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at the top right of normal text. Superscripts are normally used for references, quotes and mathematical or chemical writing. The "Y Max" parameter of a superscript font is usually equal to that of the font which is combined with the superscript. The difference lies in the size of the characters, which are smaller, and the baseline, which is much higher than normal.

#### 8.8 Subscript

Subscript characters are similar to superscripts in size, but usually rest on the same baseline of normal text, if not below it.

#### 8.9 Enlarged

Enlarged text is - as the word implies - an enlarged variant of normal text. It is normally used for headers and titles. Some printers have built-in "enlarged" fonts, while others are capable of algorithmically enlarging a normal font, even if it is downloaded. Average enlarged text is output at about 5 cpi (characters per inch) on a normal printer, as opposed to the 10 and 12 cpi of the pica and elite pitches.

The proportions of an enlarged font are not always the same as the original font. Sometimes only the width or only the height is affected. Such fonts are often called "Extended", "Double-Width" or "Double-Height".

If this attribute is set, the Amiga FSF\_EXTENDED style flag will be set if the font is saved in the Amiga font format (section 4.6, "Export Amiga Font").

#### 8.10 Condensed

A condensed font can be handy to print drafts and large tables at about 15 to 17 characters per inch. The height of the characters is usually the same as that of normal characters of that typeface, but the characters are narrower.

#### 8.11 Reverse

Reverse (also called negative) characters have the foreground and background colours reversed. On a normal black on white display this would mean having text in white on a black background. This variation is often used to emphasize text on screens and printouts of fixed-pitch character mode output systems. Section 5.7 ("Reverse") describes a function of the Personal Fonts Maker which automatically reverses an image.

#### 8.12 Serif

As described in section 2.3, serifs are little tails on the letters. Serifs are also used to classify fonts. A typeface with serifs is also called Roman. A typeface without serifs is called sans serif, or italic. This latter term can cause some misunderstanding, as fonts which are

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slanted to the right are also called italic. Usually when the word "italic" is used to indicate a sans serif font, "oblique" indicates that the font is slanted.

#### 8.13 Draft

A draft font is used for high speed printing. As described in section 2.5, some printers require a special format for draft fonts. For example, some printers will not print two adjacent dots in draft mode. Special draft fonts are designed to remain readable given these constraints. Horizontal lines look jagged and vertical lines cannot be thicker than one dot, but the text can be printed at least twice as fast as in letter quality mode. This flag can be used to indicate that the font is optimized for high speed printing (like the "Oberon\_Draft\_24" font on the Personal Fonts Maker disks).

#### 8.14 Fixed Pitch

This flag indicates that all characters in the font have the same width ("X Size"). This information is important for Amiga fonts. In a fixed pitch Amiga font the "Kerning" and "Space" values assigned to each character are ignored (they are not even saved). Fixed pitch Amiga fonts occupy less space than similar proportionally spaced fonts, and can be used to replace the Amiga "Topaz" default system font, as explained in section 4.6 ("Export Amiga Font").

If this attribute is set, the Amiga FPF\_PROPORTIONAL flag bit will be cleared if the font is saved in the Amiga font format (section 4.6, "Export Amiga Font"). While this flag must be set to save a fixed-pitch Amiga font, it is also important that all "On" characters in the font being saved have the same "X Size".

#### 8.15 Right to Left

This attribute indicates that the font was designed for text to be printed from the right to the left, as in Hebrew. The Amiga documentation calls this mode "Reverse Path".

If this attribute is set, the Amiga FPF\_REVPATH flag bit will be set if the font is saved in the Amiga font format (section 4.6, "Export Amiga Font"). Any texts in the dynamic view screen will also be displayed and edited from right to left.

#### 8.16 Landscape

A landscape font is designed to be used when the text is printed along the vertical axis of a sheet of paper (or display). This is called landscape mode, and is often used to print large tables as they may appear in spreadsheets. The font format information has the horizontal and vertical density information reversed, i.e. "X Dpi" must be set to the vertical density of the printer (in the normal mode), and "Y Dpi" to the horizontal density.

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