

LETTERx

3.3

Apple Macintosh Version

beta-release • 16 MAY 1995

Abstract

The nominal (normal) height of PostScript fonts is usually bigger than the actual height of the capital letters (also known as versal letters which are normally measured by the height of the X or H). The ratio between the height of the versal letters (VH) and the nominal font height (NH) is unfortunately not constant and differs from typeface to typeface. letterX is an extension which provides direct access to the encrypted VH of the PostScript file, thus allowing QuarkXPress users to specify and measure the real PostScript letter height, as it has been designed by the typeface creator. As you will see later, letterX can do a couple more things.



Getting started

Before starting QuarkXPress put letterX into the XTension folder (inside the program folder of QuarkXPress). Create or open a document and activate any text box.

letterX uses a floating palette whose functionality is comparable to the standard measurement palette of QuarkXPress.

In our example letterX shows the selected type of letter measurement (VH), the selected measurement unit (mm) for VH and the calculated VH value in the top line.

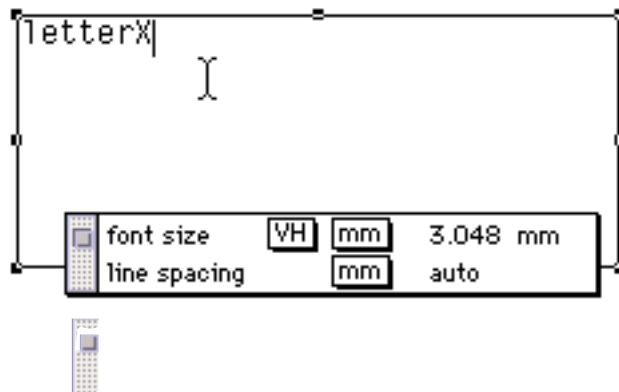


The bottom line shows the selected measurement unit (mm) and the value of the line height.

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Changing the units popup menus will immediately update the displayed values. This feature lets you view the measurements in your preferred units (in contrast to the built in measurement palette of QuarkXPress). Of course, all settings are always saved as defaults for your next QuarkXPress session.

Feel free changing between different measurement units
mm, cm, pt, pica, cicero, inch.



You can choose between following measurement options:

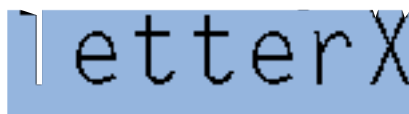
- VH - versal character height
- MH - small character height
(m stands for minuscule)
- NH - nominal height
(common font size)

Changing the kind of letter measurement type to MH letterX displays the calculated value of small characters (6.348 pt)

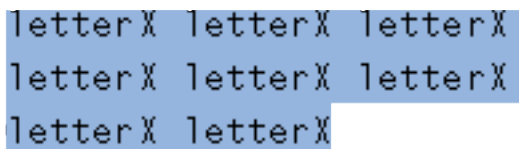
If the selected font's design contains only capital letters, or letterX cannot calculate the value because of a missing PostScript file, the value field will be inactivated, showing the dimmed na (not available) message.



The value-fields can be edited just like the ones in the standard measurement palette. Click and drag (or doubleclick) the value fields and enter a new value. Use enter, return or tab to confirm entered values: letterX changes immediately the size (or line height) of the selected text (the standard measurement palette will reflect this change in its own measurement fields). The entered values will show in the currently selected units (you are allowed to enter values with a different unit specifier).



If there is a size- or font-conflict in the selected character range, letterX will show an empty value field. (Same as the standard measurement palette)



Advanced Techniques

Type a word into the text box mixing capital and small letters, such as lETtERx.
Set VH for all letters to 15 mm.



Change each letter using different typeface, like this:



Start changing each letters VH (if it is a capital letter) or MH (if it is a small character) to 15 mm respectively. Do that for the whole word.



At finish you get characters aligned to their real height, independently if they are capital or small letters.



The Highlights of letterX

1. letterX lets you to measure and change the font sizes of PostScript-typefaces by specifying the real capital height or the real small letter height, as these has been designed by the typeface creator.
2. letterX lets you specify, change and display the letter height and line spacing in your preferred units of measurements. Possible selections:
mm, cm, pt, pica, cicero, inch.

Demo Restrictions

The DEMO version of the letterX extension will make your QuarkXPress into a demo application as long as it is loaded (loading takes only place if the extension is placed in the home-folder of QuarkXPress or in the special XTension folder inside the home folder).
See the manual of your QuarkXPress application to learn about the restrictions of a demo version of QuarkXPress .

THIS PROGRAM CONTAINS AN XTENSION WHICH ENABLES IT TO BE USED WITH QUARKXPRESS 3.3 APPLE MACINTOSH VERSION.

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