TrueEdit Baseline Table

In GX fonts, a *baseline* of a font is a line that defines the position of a glyph in a font relative to other glyphs in the font, or how they align to one another. In Roman-script fonts, glyphs generally sit on a baseline whose y-coordinate value in the em square equals zero, *y=0*. However, Line Layout supports scripts which descend from the baseline, such as Devanagari, and scripts which are centered on a baseline, such as Kanjii. Roman script fonts can now align properly when set with text whose baseline is predominately non-Roman.

To provide full-featured baseline controls in your font, you must include a baseline table, and define any of seven baselines (four of which are relevant to a Roman script font). The four baselines which pertain to a Roman script font are: Roman, Hanging, Math, Ideographic Centered, and (to accomodate inter-script alignment) Ideographic Low.

These values are suggested as starting points for defining baselines for a Roman font::

Roman: The y-coordinate value of *zero*
Ideographic Low: Equal to the roman baseline value, or zero
Ideographic Centered: Half the x-height
Hanging: The cap height of the upper case H
Math: Vertical center of the plus sign

Only one value that can be assigned to each baseline, and that value is shared by all glyphs in the font. You cannot create more than one of each type of baseline.

How to Add Baselines to a Font:

(Command-N) In TrueEdit's main window, create a new table. Scroll down to the entry "baseline" and select it. Click (OK). A dialogue box, labelled "Add Baseline Table, will then open, and require you to choose one of two formats:
                              • Distance Format
                                      • Control Point Format

Choose the Distance Format. The Distance Format will describe the baseline as the distance from the natural Roman baseline, as measured in pure F Units. This format allows different glyphs to have different dominant baselines.

Note: The Control Point Format requires that representative control points (whose purpose is specifying baselines) be added to one glyph. The control point-based format requires that this glyph then be selected as the "standard glyph" whose set of control points are used to define the baselines for all glyphs in the font, after TrueType instructing. Most instruction tools require that these control points be added prior to instructing the font.

The tag abbreviation for the baseline table is 'bsln', which will now be added to the list of tables in TrueEdit's main window.

(Command-T) or (DOUBLE-CLICK) on the tag 'bsln' in the main table window, to open the Baseline Table editing window. The window will open up displaying a glyph in the font. Use the scroll bar to scroll to any glyph in the font.

(Command-E) Edit the entry in the Baseline Table window. In this window, you create a baseline and a control point that will define the line in the y-direction (the x-direction for vertical baselines). The window also provides relevant benchmarks: the ascent, descent and units-per-em values already defined for the font. To choose the baseline and assign a value in x- or y-direction:

Baseline: Choose the type of baseline. When you click on the shadowed button, it opens to show the pre-defined baseline types. With the mouse down, scroll down to baseline type you wish to specify and select it.

Control Point: Type in a coordinate value for the baseline.