

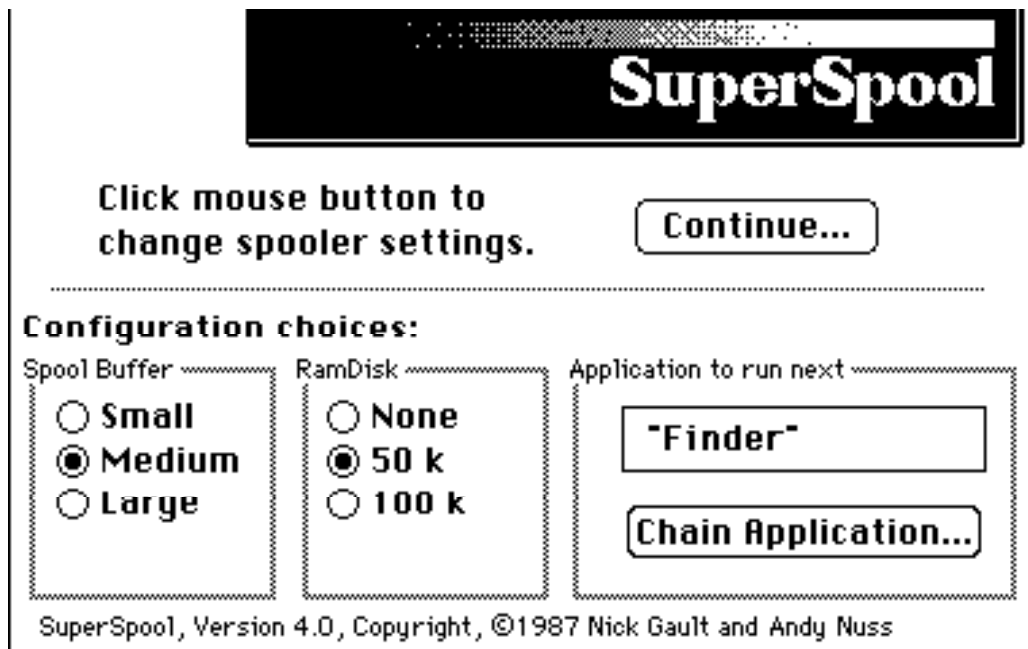
# SuperSpool 4.0 Release Notes

September, 1987

SuperSpool 4.0 introduces new spooling features for the Imagewriter which will expand your spooling capabilities. The following release notes explain these new features and provide answers to some commonly asked questions about SuperSpool.

## New Features

Upon launching SuperSpool, you will be presented with the configuration screen, pictured below. This screen will disappear unless you quickly click your mouse anywhere on the screen. You can then input your preferred features configuration and then press the "Continue" button to finish the launch.



### 1. RamDisk

For users who do not own a hard-disk drive, the RamDisk option may be SuperSpool's most important new feature. A RamDisk is an area of memory (or "RAM") that is set aside to be used as a disk. Because a RamDisk is in memory, it is much faster than magnetic media disks like floppies or hard drives.

Although the RamDisk, which will appear on the desk top, can be used like any other volume (you can place any file that will fit on it), SuperSpool's performance is best when the RamDisk is kept free for SuperSpool's private use. If SuperSpool sees that you have installed its RamDisk, it will make use of it in a special way: when ready to print a spool file, SuperSpool will automatically copy the spool file from whatever floppy it is residing on, to the RamDisk, delete the copy on the floppy, and then print the copy from the RamDisk. You will then be able to eject the floppy which originally held the spool file, and use your floppy drive any way you wish during printing.

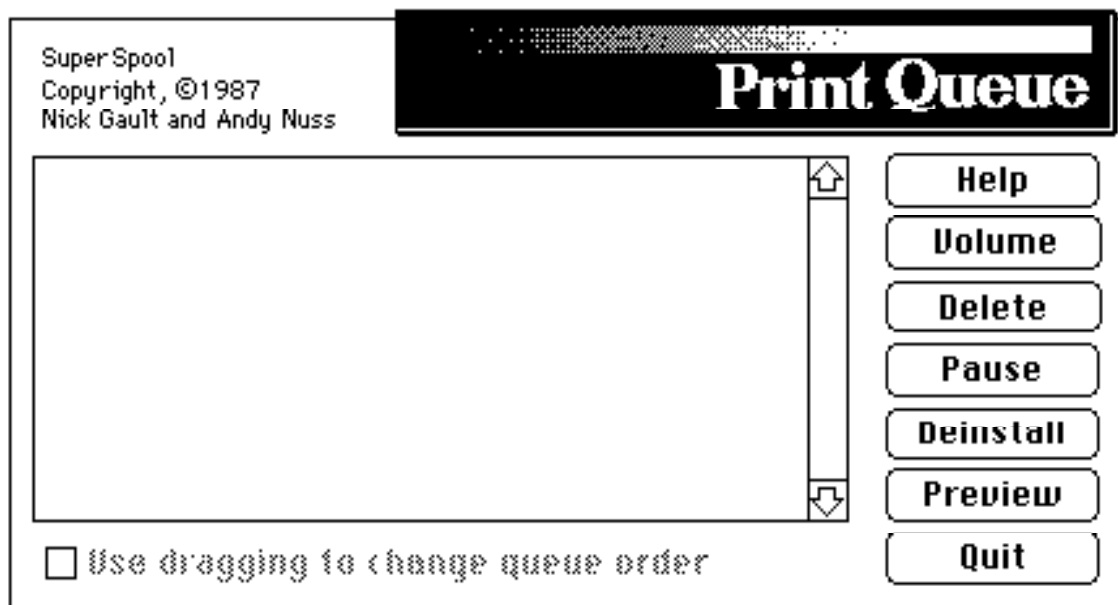
To find out the size of RamDisk you need so that your floppy drives are as free as much as possible, check the size of the largest file you will be printing in the Finder. The RamDisk needs to be at least this size if SuperSpool is to move the corresponding spool file to the RamDisk before printing it.

There is another way to make use of the RamDisk to improve your spooling environment. If you would prefer to spool directly to the RamDisk instead of to a floppy or hard disk, you may do so by using the "Volume" button in the Print Queue desk accessory to set the spool volume to be the RamDisk you have installed. This way, spooling will be much faster than if you spooled to a floppy or hard disk. (Of course, if you are spooling directly to the RamDisk you've installed, the spool file doesn't have to be copied from somewhere else to the RamDisk, so you enjoy an extra savings in time as a result.)

## 2. Chain Application

Finally, SuperSpool 4.0 offers a very useful Launch configuration option called "Chain Application." It allows you to select an application which you wish to have launched immediately after SuperSpool. If you don't configure SuperSpool to do otherwise, SuperSpool will chain to the Finder. But, if you have a second application which you wish to have launched automatically when your Mac boots, you can now do this by following this procedure: First, make SuperSpool the "Startup" application by selecting the SuperSpool icon from within the Finder and choosing "Set startup" from under the Special menu. Second, press the "Chain Application..." button in your SuperSpool configuration screen. This will give you a dialog box with a list of applications from which you can select the application you want to have launched after SuperSpool. This application will now always be launched immediately after SuperSpool until the time you change your configuration using "Chain Application".

There are also enhancements to the Print Queue desk accessory in SuperSpool 4.0:



## 3. Preview

For many users, "Preview" will be the most important new feature of SuperSpool. The preview function will allow SuperSpool users to actually see how a document will look before it is printed. Simply bring up the queue from the Apple menu, select a document in the queue, and click on the Preview button. Each click of the mouse within the previewing window alternates between a reduced image of the entire-page and a "full-sized" or "zoomed" segment selected from the page. SuperSpool provides mini-arrows at the foot of the viewing area of multi-page documents so you can walk your way back and forth through the document.

#### 4. Deinstall

SuperSpool 4.0 makes temporary deinstallation of the spooler possible. Simply bring up the Print Queue desk accessory, and click on the Deinstall button. Deinstallation does not take place until the currently printing document completes. Printing after deinstallation occurs exactly as if the spooler was not installed: you must wait until a print job is completed before you may use your Macintosh again. However, the previous queue of spooled files is maintained so that it can be used as soon as you go back to the Print Queue desk accessory and hit the Reinstall button. Note that the memory consumed by the spooler (and the RamDisk if one is installed) cannot be recovered by deinstalling; the only way to get back this memory is by shutting down and rebooting the system without installing SuperSpool.

#### Questions and Answers

Q:

How much memory does SuperSpool require?

A:

This answer depends on many factors, including whether or not you have a hard-disk, the applications you use, and sometimes even the complexity of your documents. There are three independent components to the memory consumption of SuperSpool: (1) The size of the "spool buffer", which, depending on the complexity of the documents you generally print, will range from 50K to 192K. (2) The size of the RamDisk which you choose to install. Floppy-only users of SuperSpool can install a RamDisk of up to 100K, depending on how much memory they have available after installing the main spool buffer, and, of course, on the size of their spool-files. Hard disk owners will not have any reason to install a RamDisk. (3) The size of the SuperSpool program itself and its work file "SuperSpool Alerts", which together take up about 30K.

Q:

How can I make the most effective use of SuperSpool with floppy disk drives only?

A:

SuperSpool 4.0 gives you the option of installing a small RamDisk. If you choose to do this, then spool-files can be printed efficiently without the need for any disk swapping or even, in some cases, for a second floppy drive! This new feature of SuperSpool should allow a user with only a single internal floppy drive to configure a workable spooling environment.

Q:

Can I use SuperSpool effectively with my 512K Macintosh?

A:

Even if you have a hard-disk with your 512K Mac, you may find that you cannot use some of your applications with SuperSpool, since SuperSpool requires 100K in its minimum configuration, and from 160K-200K to guarantee the printability of documents created by some painting programs (like GraphicWorks).

Q:

Is there any way for me to conserve disk space?

A:

If you wish, you can forego the convenience of having SuperSpool on your system disk and save the 25K taken up by the SuperSpool application. Simply launch SuperSpool from a floppy other than the system floppy and then eject this other floppy. SuperSpool will not require that you reinsert this floppy since it is completely memory-resident.

Q:

Can I use either port (modem or print) to connect to my ImageWriter or other serial printer?

A:

Yes, the spooler supports printing to either port.

Q:

When I print multiple-page documents from my word-processor, I get a spool file for each page. Why aren't the pages simply combined into a single spool file?

A:

This strange event happens with some applications like MacWrite and Word. When using SuperSpool 4.0, you can often avoid this by selecting Draft quality for your mode of printing. The result will be a single spool file which will be printed in "Better", as opposed to "Draft", quality.