

Shortline Eliminator

An Extension for QuarkXPress^{fi}

The Shortline Eliminator extension to QuarkXPress automates the task of detecting and correcting paragraphs with a short last line.

The dialog at the right shows the Shortline Eliminator interface. You specify what constitutes a short last line in terms of character count and/or a hyphenated last word.

You control how the tracking of the paragraph may be altered to eliminate the short last line. You specify the tracking steps and the minimum and maximum tracking values to apply, relative to the default tracking you indicate.

You indicate whether you prefer all tight tracking values to be tried first (Tight), all loose tracking values to be tried first (Loose), or alternate loose/tight tracking (Loose Tie) or alternate tight/loose tracking (Tight Tie).

When a paragraph with a short last line is detected the Shortline Eliminator adjusts the paragraph tracking to eliminate it. For example, if you specify alternate tight/loose and a step value of .2 (²... 2000 Em) it will first tighten by .2, then loosen by .2 then tighten by .4 and so forth until the short last line is gone.

The Shortline Eliminator reports the tracking value of all paragraphs modified. It also notes all paragraphs with short last lines which could not be fixed within the given parameters.

The tracking step may be as fine as ¹... 200,000 Em if necessary. This allows you to make subtle changes to the paragraph spacing to achieve the elimination of short last paragraph lines.

System Requirements: QuarkXPress 3.1

Short Line Elimination

A short last paragraph line consists of:

Fewer Characters Than:

Or a

Hyphenated Last Word: Yes No

To eliminate, vary tracking according to:

Default Tracking:	<input type="text" value="-1"/>
Maximum to Tighten:	<input type="text" value="4"/>
Maximum to Loosen:	<input type="text" value="4"/>
Step Tracking By:	<input type="text" value=".2"/>

Tracking Preference:

Tight Tie Tight Loose Tie Loose

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Demonstration Limitations:

The Demo allows you adjust five ranges with up to ten paragraphs in each range. The menu items to track entire chains of text boxes, coalesce and delete error messages are disabled in the demo.

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