

Welcome to Altsys' premiere Windows™ Product, Fontographer 3.5! We have assembled a few notes which will help you learn more about the software. Please read this document before calling Customer Support for assistance.

••User Guide Errata••

•Bitmaps

Some changes were made to Fontographer's use of bitmaps after our users guide went to press. As the Font window image is no longer related to the bitmap sizes which are generated in the "Generate Fonts" dialog, Fontographer will no longer automatically generate a 24-point bitmap. You can select any bitmap sizes you prefer up to the maximum of 255 points. Be forewarned, sizes above 100 may not generate completely. In order to be 'DOS-friendly' we must limit our data structure to 64k. Fonts consisting of hundreds of characters will likely reach that 64k limit on sizes above 96 points. In such cases, you will get an error message stating that an error occurred while generating fonts. Now you know why!

The very first time bitmaps are generated for a font, you need only enter the sizes and all the characters will have fonts generated in those sizes. On subsequent generations, you will need to select the characters you want regenerated before generating fonts and then select the "Selected characters" radio button in addition to checking "Regenerate bitmaps." If you select all the characters in the font, Fontographer will regenerate bitmaps for all the characters in the font and all the sizes, including your hand edited bitmaps. To leave your hand edited bitmaps alone, select the "Changed characters" radio button.

•Read Only Check Box

The Read Only check box which can be seen on the Open, Import, and Save As dialogs in the user guide is not in the program. It is just a screen shot error.

•More about the "More" Button in Font Attributes

WARNING: You now have absolute control over your fonts, and you really don't have much of a safety net. If you incorrectly edit some fields which you don't completely understand, the font may become unusable. We have confidence that the data we set are according to the spec, but we have no way of bullet-proofing all the possible combinations of changes. In fact, there are a fair number of fields that we don't really know the purpose of, but since they exist in the written spec, we gave you access to them. To be safe, save your font before entering this territory and be prepared to experiment and spend a lot of time reading hard to get specs.

Some of the fields in “TrueType extra” are generic; they will affect both Adobe® Type 1 PostScript® and TrueType™ fonts. Some are even unique to PostScript, such as “PCL style”, which is written only to the .INF file.

In general, these fields are for advanced experts. If you don't understand them, don't change them, and Fontographer will select reasonable default values.

••Tips & Techniques••

•Printing to PostScript Printers

“PreferPSPrinting” is a preference in the Fontog35.ini file that is on by default. When this preference is on, Fontographer will enable higher quality output when printing to PostScript printers. You should keep this preference on most of the time. If you don't use PostScript printers then you can ignore this preference.

When using PostScript printers there may be rare times when you will wish to turn off PreferPSPrinting. When it is on you won't be able to print characters whose numbers are higher than 255, and you won't be able to print multiple copies of keymaps. In either of these cases you may wish to turn PreferPSPrinting off. To do so, exit Fontographer, open fontog35.ini (in your Windows directory) in “NotePad”, change the 1 to a 0, and restart Fontographer. Once again, this preference only effects PostScript printers.

Printing samples to non-PostScript printers sometimes causes the Windows Print Manager to create some fairly large temporary files (sometimes larger than 1 megabyte). If by chance your disk runs out of space while these temporary files are being created, printing speed will be drastically reduced. If Fontographer's printing dialog stops showing progress for more than 30 seconds or so it is probably because you are low on disk space. You can either cancel printing and free up some disk space, or wait patiently while the Print Manager prints a few pages and deletes it's temporary files. This problem can also occur with PostScript printers, however, it is less likely because the temporary files created for PostScript printing are much smaller.

•Full Title

Fontographer defaults to showing just the full font name in the font window. If you have a high resolution display, you may also wish to display the filename. Open the fontog35.ini file (in your Windows directory) in “NotePad”, locate the line which reads “FullTitle=0”, change the 0 to a 1, and run Fontographer. When you open a font or select a new font, the full font name will appear in the font window label, followed by the path and filename. This will avoid any confusion as to where your font is saved.

•ScaleToScreenResolution

Fontographer will scale the size of the font window letter boxes, the tool icons, and the metrics window characters if the screen's horizontal resolution is greater than 800 pixels. This is done to make the characters easier to see. If you prefer smaller letter boxes, you may disable this scaling by editing the fontog35.ini file (located in your Windows directory). Locate the line which reads "ScaleToScreenResolution=1" and change the 1 to a 0. If you have a monitor with a resolution of 1024 x 768, for example, this change enables the font and metrics window to display more characters in the same amount of space.

•Generating EPS

If you look at the "Generate Fonts" dialog, you will notice the second option from the top reads "Encapsulated PostScript". This option will generate an Adobe Illustrator® 1.1 format file which can be opened and fully edited in many drawing programs, including Aldus FreeHand® and CorelDRAW!®. If you want just certain characters generated, select the characters in the font window.

•Help Menu

If you need a little help in finding the right tool or command while working in Fontographer, look under the "Help" menu. It works as other Windows application help files work, with one new wrinkle: Topic search. This is a context sensitive help which, once selected, will create a question mark cursor. Press the question mark cursor on any menu item and the help card for that item will appear.

•Magnify Tricks

Fontographer sports a magnify tool in the tool palette. Select it and click in the area you would like magnified. If you would like to zoom back out, hold down the shift key and click the magnify tool on the spot in the window you would like to have centered.

You can also access the magnify tool by holding down the space bar and Control key at the same time. For the de-magnify tool, add the shift key to the combination.

•Escape key

Most long operations display a progress box with a "Cancel" button. For these, and other shorter operations, you can cancel the operation by pressing the Escape key on your keyboard.

We hope you enjoy using Fontographer. If you need further assistance, our customer support lines are available Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to

5:00 PM Central time. Our support phone and fax number is (214) 680-2085 and (214) 680-0537, respectively.