

File: LetterGothic-EGG_Rel_Notes.txt

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It is suggested that this entire file be printed to "hard-copy" in the LetterGothic-EGG font, for easy evaluation. The MS Word version of this file - LetterGothic-EGG_Rel_Notes.wrd - will fit onto three pages, a compactness that was one of the font's original design goals.

1. Legalese:

The accompanying PostScript Type 1 and TrueType Macintosh versions* of the LetterGothic-EGG(c) font are *freeware*, distributed as is, without any warranties of any kind, either explicit or implied. Use at your own risk. Release of these fonts implies no ongoing support from anybody whatsoever.

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*NeXTStep PostScript and Windows Truetype versions *eventually* may be available at archives specific to those platforms.

2. Background:

This simple, Plain (Roman) version of Letter Gothic is intended to serve one purpose: To print text, such as from online sessions, that originally has been created on fixed-pitch (monospaced), Elite (12 characters per inch) platforms or devices, such as many Unix, IBM or Atari computers; and have the resulting output look more or less as though it had been produced on an IBM Selectric(R) typewriter. Period.

Why on Earth would one want to "have [laser-printed text] look more or less as though it had been produced on an IBM Selectric(R) typewriter"? Well, because to many eyes, this typeface produces copy that is considerably easier to read than either of the two monospaced offerings - Courier and Monaco - commonly available on the Macintosh. The former is built into Apple LaserWriter printers and their PostScript clones, and the latter is included in its TrueType variant with most new Apple computers.

Further, the two standard fonts track at a comparatively wide 10 characters per inch, thus producing many unwanted (short) line-wraps that would not have appeared in the originals. Also, the PostScript Courier font can look somewhat "anemic" and thin when compared to its counterparts on many PC laser printers, or even to Apple's own TrueType version when rasterized to a non-PostScript printer.

By contrast, LetterGothic-EGG's Plain (and only) face is also considerably bolder than the Adobe equivalent, which gives it more "color" - meaning, in part, that it looks "blacker" - on the printed page. (In fact, one commercial version of Letter Gothic [Roman] looks rather pale beside LetterGothic-EGG.)

Thus, LetterGothic-EGG is *not* a direct substitute for Adobe's Letter Gothic, although this may be more of a virtue than a defect. In contrast to the former, 12-point LetterGothic-EGG tracks at almost precisely 12 cpi (Elite), with 66 lines per 11-inch page,

thus mimicking the Selectric fairly well.

Steve Strassmann adds: "...[S]ometimes you just need monospaced fonts for artistic reasons. When you publish a book (either a technical manual or fiction), you need to distinguish narrative

from examples. It has become a popular convention that monospaced fonts indicate a 'computer voice,' meaning stuff that appears in code or typed on a computer terminal.

"In a novel like 'Jurassic Park,' look for someone trying to break into or talk to a computer. A font like Letter Gothic serves to make you feel like you're looking over the character's shoulder as they type. Of course, it doesn't matter that most computers since the mid-80's have switched to proportional-width fonts - it remains an artistic convention, and everyone immediately understands it."

A caveat: Apparently due to an obscure "feature" in Fontographer, characters in this version of Letter Gothic sit some two pixels higher, relative to the baseline (at 300 dpi), than do characters in such Apple standards as Times and Palatino. Thus LetterGothic-EGG does not mix terribly well, on the same line, with other fonts. (If Altsys corrects this behavior in their program, a new version of the font will be uploaded.) For a similar reason (it would seem), the Mac PostScript font prints at a *slightly* heavier weight than does the TrueType incarnation, with the latter's hinting looking a bit inferior compared to the former's.

Also for similar, nebulous reasons, a few composite (mainly European) characters print with excessive weight, relative to the rest of the font, on the LaserWriter IINT. If this behavior is evident on other printers as well, please report it to the undersigned.

3. Changes to the original EG&G font (called EGGFont):

This editor's modifications to the original font consist of correcting some shape and dimensional non-conformities in the character outlines (a much bigger job than anticipated); hand-tuning the provided two bitmaps and adding third and fourth ones (a *horrendously* bigger job than expected, thanks mainly to limitations in the current Fontographer's bitmap editing capabilities); adding some 90 European "composite" characters for compatibility with non-US Selectric typewriters (another major task that was not planned *at all* in the beginning); and adding TrueType and cross-platform versions of the font (there still are likely to be "surprises" lurking in the latter). The character spacing and leading (line-spacing) basically are left alone.

This editor has incorporated some character enhancements (to # * + - =) suggested by Steve Strassmann of Apple Computer, and used bitmap and outline ID's *different* from those of the original font. The latter seems a safer alternative than risking ID conflicts on machines where both the old and the new versions are installed.

This *does* mean, however, that in documents specifying the one font, the other will not automatically be substituted if the original is missing from the machine (but this problem *should* be unique to EG&G Idaho). The font ID's are *not* registered with Apple or Adobe, so they conceivably *could* conflict with an existing or future font. That's the breaks.

4. Font ID numbers:

	Bitmap ID	Outline ID
Adobe Letter Gothic [Roman]	14920	31431
Original EG&G EGGFont [Roman]	1292	4534489
LetterGothic-EGG [Roman] - PostScript	4313*	4184408*

LetterGothic-EGG [Roman] - TrueType

4313*

4313*

*TrueType and cross-platform fonts have the same ID(s), for compatibility.
Bitmaps are included only for MacIntosh versions.

recommendations.

Comments, bug reports and other suggestions are also welcome.

6. Other:

These files were scanned for viruses by SAM 3.5 (12-16-94 Definitions).

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