Font Pro 5: Fun Fonts

Welcome to Font Pro 5, the third CD of my typefaces published by Wayzata Technology. If you like the typefaces on this CD, please consider purchasing Font Pros 2 and 3.

Organization:
> General Notes
> Font Samples
> Font Descriptions

General Notes

  After I finished Font Pro 3 (FP3), I doubted that I would ever do another CD of typefaces. Designing the 125+ typefaces needed to do a font CD is an exhausting process, and when the process is done, I have no desire to play with typefaces for months. It was not until this spring (early 1995) that the inspiration for this project came, and it came from an unlikely source. A publisher of CDs other than Wayzata contacted me to see if I was interested in designing novelty fonts. He was interested in novelty fonts because he saw a market for them, and he said they could be done quickly. I started playing with several designs, though I was never able to design them as fast as he said he could do them (he claimed three or four hours). After several telephone conversations and some exchange of e-mail, the proposed project fell apart, but by then had I begun considering doing this CD.

  If you have seen Font Pros 2 and 3, you will probably notice that this collection of typefaces is significantly different from those collections. Both of those CDs have lots of typefaces which come in families, and most fall into traditional styles. In contrast, most of the typefaces on this CD are either novelty fonts, or fonts which are derived in some way from typefaces on those earlier CDs. This difference is not necessarily bad, but if you have seen FP2 and 3 and expect this collection to be similar, you might be disappointed. I do not know what the eventual name for this collection of fonts will be, but something like "Whimsical Fonts" might give some indication of what is here.

The fonts on this CD can be grouped into four categories. First, are novelty fonts. These include a variety of fonts in which the letters are made form objects such a pencils, footprints, tools, paper clips, etc. Novelty fonts by their

nature are fonts which one uses only on special occasions. They are nice to have when they are needed, but novelty fonts are not needed much.

  Second are fonts which are based on earlier designs but which have been run through a font distortion program. Examples include striped fonts and fonts with spikes. Almost all of these are display fonts that are appropriate only for special occasions. The font distortion program which I used for most of the typefaces in this group was a program called Font-O-Matic by Altsys (now part of Macromedia). It only appeared in a MS-Windows version, and though a Macintosh version was announced, it never appeared. I found it an intriguing program. Though at first glancethe interface was attractive, I quickly learned to hate it because it did not give me the control I wanted. Overall I found it extremely limited as a stand-alone program. Almost always it was necessary to clean up the output in Fontographer. As a program which can distorted a font in some way, which could then be further refined in Fontographer, it has potential. Incidentally, I have the same reaction to another font distortion program called Incubator. I suspect none of the font distortion programs really work very well as stand-alone programs.

  Third is a group of fonts which were included in bonus folders on Font Pros 2 and 3. Most of these are fonts which were not included in the first printing of the CD, but were included in a later printing. Included in this group are some interesting dingbat fonts.

  Finally, there are a few fonts which do not fit into any of the above categories. (There are also additional fonts included in bonus folders. Perhaps they will form the start of my next CD of typefaces, if there ever is one.)

  These preliminary comments will help you make more sense of the comments on the specific fonts in this package.