QDCat Help Index

About
> [The input file format](#)
> [Main Data Entry fields](#)
> [Image File Options](#)
> [Using Templates](#)
> [Including Options for each item](#)
> [Supplied Files](#)
> [Creating a Custom Order Form](#)
> [Putting multiple items on a page](#)
> [Transferring your catalogue to a web server](#)
> [QDCat](#)

Commands
> [File menu](#)
> [Options menu](#)
> [Advanced menu](#)
> [Help menu](#)

Troubleshooting
> [F.A.Q.](#)

Copyright
QDCat and the associated image and midi files are copyright Powerlaunch Computers Limited.

The trial version is for personal evaluation purposes only.

File menu commands

The File menu offers the following commands:

<u>Create</u>   Create the html catalogue.
<u>Exit</u>   Exits QDCat

Options menu commands

Appearance	Specify image and template files
Colours	Select the colours for the various parts of the catalogue
Delivery	Allows the setting of delivery cost parameters for calculation of the delivery cost with a quote
Tax	Set tax rate and type for calculation of tax
Background music	Select a midi file to be used as background music for your catalogue
Order Form	Address details and general text which appear on the Order Form
Order Email	Set up details for emailing the order form

Advanced menu commands

Image Files	Specify image and template files
Colours	Select the colours for the various parts of the catalogue
Frames	Specify the size of the frames

Help menu commands

The Help menu offers the following commands, which provide you assistance with this application:

Index	Offers you an index to topics on which you can get help.
Using Help	Provides general instructions on using help.
About	Displays the version number of this application.

Image Options dialogue box (Advanced menu)

Item Image
Click on the position you wish to place the image shown for each item. It can be placed on the left, centred, or on the right. If placed in the centre, the text etc. appears underneath the image, otherwise it wraps around the image.

Background
Enter the name of the image file to use as the background of your catalogue pages. You can specify which frames actually use this by setting or otherwise the check boxes in the **use for** section immediately below.

Use for
Specifies which frames will use the background image. (Not using an image means the frame background will be the colour specified for the frame in the colours dialogue box.)

Item Bullet
Enter the name of the image file to use as the *bullet* for item pages.

Index Bullet
Enter the name of the image file to use as the *bullet* for sub indexes.

Use Bullets
Check to use the *bullet* image files above.

Item Template
You can base your item pages on your own template. Enter the name of the file to use as the template. This will be used for all items.

Base pages on template
Check this if you want to base your pages on the template.

Prev/Next position
Specifies where to place the links to the previous and next pages of the current category.

prev (image file)
Enter the name of the image file to use as the previous *button.*

next (image file)
Enter the name of the image file to use as the next *button.*

Use prev/next image files
If checked, the files specified above will be used, otherwise the prev & next *buttons* will be text.

Note : All these details are saved when you update an appearance set item.

Colour Selection dialogue box (Advanced menu)

In this dialogue box, the text and background colours for each of the three areas of the html catalogue can be specified. A standard colour may be selected from the drop down list boxes, or you can specify a 6 hexadecimal digit string, or alternately any value which the browser recognises.

Note : These details are saved when you update an appearance set item.

Frames dialogue box (Advanced menu)

In this dialogue box, you can specify the width of the index, and the height of the order frame. They may be specified as the number of pixels (e.g. 100) or as a percentage (e.g. 30%).

2 or 3 frames
The QDCat produced catalogue can be in a two frame format, in which case the *Shopping Basket* is hidden until required. The indexes will have an additional link (Shopping Basket) which when clicked brings up the Shopping Basket in the items frame.

The 3 frame option has the Shopping Basket (order details) visable at all times in a third frame.

index width
Specify the width of the index frame. The value may be the number of pixels (e.g. 100) or as a percentage (e.g. 30%). Leave this blank to use the default value.

order height
Specify the height of the order frame. The value may be the number of pixels (e.g. 100) or as a percentage (e.g. 30%). Leave this blank to use the default value.

item width
The width in pixels that text and images are allocated in the item frame. The complete frame width is used if this is left blank. If not blank, the value must be a number.

include resize
Include the resize bars between frames if checked

Note : These details are saved when you update an appearance set item.

Delivery Schedules (Options menu)

The html catalogue produced by QDCat can automatically calculate delivery costs, based on data entered for specific *delivery schedules*.   The delivery cost is added to the cost of items to give the complete order cost.

In this dialogue box, you can create a new delivery schedule, or edit or delete an existing one.   If the *include delivery cost with order form* checkbox is checked, all of the schedules will be available on the quote frame.

Up to twenty delivery schedules may be included.

Note : there are initially three example schedules. These can be deleted anytime (using the delete button after selecting a schedule) .

Tax (Options menu)

The html catalogue produced by QDCat can automatically calculate tax payable on the products included in the quote/order.

In this dialogue box, you can set the tax rates and a description of the tax (which is shown as part of the quote). In the U.K. you might set these to 17.5 and VAT respectively.

Tax Type
> The tax types that are to be included in the catalogue. The details of the highlighted tax type are shown in the edit fields to the right.

Tax Rate
> The tax rate as a percentage used by the catalogue. This can be altered, and subsequently produced catalogues will use the new rate.

New
> Adds a new tax rate. You should amend the tax rate and description edit fields to the required values.This description is used in the catalogue.

Delete
> Removes a tax type.

Include tax on quote/order
> If checked, the tax details are included in the catalogue.

Cancel
> Exit the dialogue and ignore any changes made.

OK
> Exit the dialogue and save the changes made.

Delivery Cost calculation parameters

In this dialogue box, you enter the details specifying how to calculate the delivery cost for a particular schedule.

Schedule
   This names or describes the particular schedule, and appears on the quote form of the catalogue as an option.

Basis
   The cost can be based on either (i) the number of items ordered, (ii) the total cost of the items ordered, or (iii) the total of the values assigned to each item.

Method
   The cost can be calculated according to a formula, in which case the initial value and factor entry fields will be shown, or the cost can be assigned according to a series of ranges.

   The appropriate data entry fields will displayed according to which method you choose.

If method is formula . . .

initial value
   This is the start value for calculating the delivery cost. Even if no items are included in the quote, this amount will be shown.

factor
   This is the amount to be multiplied by either the number of items, or the order cost (depending on which basis above has been selected). This calculation when added to the initial value, gives the delivery cost.

round up to nearest
   This will round the calculated amount up to the next multiple of this amount, unless the amount calculated is an exact multiple of this round up amount e.g. if the calculated figure is 12.60 and the round up amount is 5.00, the amount shown will be 15.00.

   There will be no rounding if this field is zero or blank.

If method is range . . .

Up to ten ranges may be specified.   The range start fields (the left column) must be in ascending order.

range start
   This is the start value for calculating the delivery cost. The actual range will be displayed between this range start and the cost for that range.

range cost
   Enter the cost for the corresponding range, shown immediately on the left.

Background music (Options menu)

In the Background music dialogue box, you can select a midi file to be used as background music for your catalogue. The midi player will appear in a separate window.

The options available are (1) automatically start playing the midi file when the catalogue is loaded (2) play the midi file continuously (i.e. keep repeating) and (3) include background music in your catalogue.

Order Form (Options menu)

In this dialogue box, you enter details that will appear on the order form produced by your html catalogue. The first seven lines are for your address, phone etc details. The extra text appears in a smaller font at the bottom of your form. This does not apply if you use a custom order form (see below).

Custom Order Form Details
In this dialog box you can also specify an alternative form to be used in place of the one created by QDCat. You can specify an html file to be used, either to be copied into the *output* directory, or you can specify a full url, which may be useful, for instance, if you are placing your order form on a secure server.

If you use a custom order form, the address and text details in this dialog box are not used, nor are the details entered in the CGI dialog box. These details must be part of the order form code.

custom order form
   Specify the order form to use. This is used in two ways

   (1) If a file is specified, the file is copied into the default output directory, and the catalogue expects to find the form in the same directory as the rest of the QDCat generated html files. e.g. c:\qdcat\example\ordf02.htm & ordf05.htm.

   (2) If an actual URL is specified, the catalogue will open this URL when the order button is clicked.
   e.g. http://www.myserve.co.uk/order.htm
   You must ensure the URL exists.

use custom form
   Check this so the program does not use the automatically generated form

Send data via URL
   If the custom form is not on the same server as the rest of the catalogue (e.g. it's a form located on a secure server) then the order data must be passed across using this method. The order form must be able to accept data passed in via this method. The example form ordf04.htm demonstrates what is required (mainly javascript) to do this. (See note (3) below)

Separate window
   If passing data via the URL, to a custom form, then leaving this unchecked will result in the catalogue displaying the order form in the same window as the catalogue when the Order button is clicked. Normally the order form is displayed in a separate window. If you want the order to be displayed in the same window, you must use a custom order form with the *Send data via URL* checkbox clicked.

Note : 1.   Custom order forms normally require javascript to include the order details, which can be a bit tricky. There is an example *custom* order form in the examples directory. Powerlaunch Computers can create an order form for you when you purchase QDCat.

   2.   If you have specified a URL as the custom order form, you will need to be able to access the that URL to test your catalogue and order form.

3. If sending data via URL, Internet Explorer (some versions at least) will not pass the data with the URL unless the files are on a server i.e. specifying local files won't work. The way to test this out is to run a local server on your PC or put the pages on an actual web site. Netscape Navigator doesn't seem to discriminate between files located on a PC, and those accessed via the internet, which makes testing easier.

Order Email (Options menu)

In this dialogue box, you enter the details that will enable the catalogue created by QDCat to send you orders by email, if you are using the standard QDCat produced order form*. This is normally done using a cgi script provided by your internet service provider, and you will need to find out some details about using the supplied script before filling in the items in this dialogue. You will also need to know about some of the html tags (namely FORM and INPUT) to complete this section. The values supplied in the email are detailed in The Emailed Order details

FORM values

QDCat generates the <FORM> tag, but to send email, a parameter of ACTION=????? will be required. The ????? will be the full path name of the cgi script the catalogue will run to send the order by email.

For example, your ISP's example html shows

<FORM ACTION=http://www.isp.com/cgi-bin/formmail.pl>

then in this (FORM values) field you would type

ACTION=http://www.isp.com/cgi-bin/formmail.pl

Some scripts have all relevant information passed in via the ACTION parameter; the following is an example of what you would put in the FORM values field.

ACTION="http://www3.isp.co.uk/cgi-bin/mailto.cgi?name@isp.co.uk"

Hidden Fields

Some scripts require additional information supplied by *hidden* input fields on the form. For example, the destination email address may need to specified this way. QDCat will put in the <INPUT> tag, but you must supply the implementation details. For the destination address example

NAME=recipient VALUE="qdcat@pcl.ndirect.co.uk"

could be used. Other commonly used values are subject, sort, and redirect.

name entry field NAME =

Some scripts may use a different word than *name* for the name of the sender field. If so put the required value here. (This goes in the INPUT tag). If left blank, the field name defaults to *name*.

email entry field NAME =

Some scripts may use a different word than *email* for the name of the email field. If so put the required value here. (This goes in the INPUT tag.) If left blank, the field name defaults to *email*.

Submit button text

This appears on the submit form button.

insist email address supplied
> If checked, the catalogue will insist the email address on the form (the customer's) is entered.

insist name supplied
> If checked, the catalogue will insist the name field on the form (the customer's) is filled in.

include CGI mail
> Check this if you want the email order facility available on your QDCat generated catalogue.

The emailed order details

The emails you receive will contain the information from the order form generated by QDCat. The actual presentation of these details will depend on the cgi program used to send them.

The details of the actual order are supplied together with the fields on the form (customer details) that are actually filled. The fields pertaining to the items on the order are

ITEM<n>	details of an item on the order	There will be one of these for each item on the order
ITEMSTOTAL	The order total including tax (if tax applicable to catalogue)	
GRANDTOTAL	The items total plus delivery cost (if used)	

The fields from the form (the the customer fills in) are named as appears on the form with the exception of the credit card number, which will appear as four separate fields - CN1, CN2, CN3, and CN4.

*Note: if you are using a custom order form, the values in this dialog box are not used.

Appearance (Options menu)

In this dialogue box, you can select from a choice of appearances, or update the entries in this list. Each item in the list holds the details of image files, colours, cutsom order forms, and various other options which dictate how your catalogue will look.

Appearance Group
   This displays the options which are available.

Use
   Clicking this will instruct QDCat to use the image files, colours, and other preferences affecting the look of your catalog that are specified in the selected Appearance Group. Double clicking the mouse on an item in the Appearance Group list box has the same effect.

Update
   The current details of image files, colours, templates, positioning etc. are stored in the selected item. The name of the appearance group can be changed also, in the pop-up dialog box which appears on clicking this button, and allows you to continue with the update or cancel.

The input file format

The input file consists of four fields, each field separated by a comma. The commas must be present even if there is no entry for any of the fields.

```
<title>,[<price>],[<image file>],[<text>]
```

The first field (**title**) is what appears in the index, and as the heading of the item page. It must be present. If it is the only field present, then it appears in the index as text only, i.e. it is not a link to an item page. The exception to this is if the words END INDEX appear here, then it marks the end of an embedded index (see below) and will not appear anywhere.

The **price** is displayed underneath the title. It is used by the quote facility option. If this value is not a number (i.e. starts with an alphabetic character), it will be displayed as a sub heading and the quote fields for the item omitted (if the quote option is set).

The **image file** can be specified by its full path, or if it is in the default input directory, just the filename. It will be copied into the output directory (if found). The image will appear on the item page.   You can put in a second image (viewed by clicking on the first) by putting in a pipe character | followed by a file name (same rules as the first file name). The main reason to do this is to have a larger image available (see Note below).

If this field contains the word INDEX, a new (sub) index is create, containing all subsequent items until the two words END INDEX appear in this field or in field 1 (title). You can nest indexes (i.e. have sub indexes within sub indexes).

The final field is the **text** appearing on your item page. If short enough, just have it following the image file field, or if longer use the continuation character (a forward slash '/') as the last character on the line. There is no limit to the number of continuation lines. For new paragraphs in your text, use the html <P> tag. (In fact any html can be used here, as the text is copied to the item page).

Alternatively, text can be read from a separate file. This will be done if the text consists only of a filename with the extension .txt. If a full path is not specified, the file will be picked from the Default Input Directory.

Special formats

The standard format of the input file can be changed to incorporate selections for each item, such as a choice of colours or sizes. Up to 4 different types of selections can be included. If including selections, the first line of the input file must have the following format

#!SELECT1=<name>;[SELECT2=<name>;[SELECT3=<name>;[SELECT4=<name>;]]]

i.e. the first two characters must be a hash and exclamation mark symbols, followed by the names of the selects. In the examples directory, the file selects.txt is an example of including two selections.

e.g. to include two types of selections for a catalogue, the following line would be used

#!SELECT1=Colour;SELECT2=Size;

The actual values for each item (e.g. the colours or sizes) are specified as part of the item line. They must follow the image file field, so for two selections, the format of the input line

would be

`<title>,[<price>],[<image file>],[selections 1],[selections 2],[<text>]`

The two extra fields are now part of the files input format, and even if not used for a particular item, must be present as indicated by commas.

Format of selection fields

The choices of a selection for a particular item are entered using the pipe (|) character to separate them. A maximum of 30 choices can be specified for a particular item, and the total length of these (including the separator character) is 255 characters.

e.g. for colours - green|blue|red|yellow

The example file **selects.txt** shows this in detail. If you don't want any (or all) of the selections for a particular item, then leave the selections for that item as blank i.e. follow the previous comma with another comma indicating the next field, but remember that the line must have the (4 + number of selections) comma delimited fields.

Other optional input fields

You can specify a **unit** to be used in delivery cost calculations. This is done by including the line

#!UNIT1=Weight;

It should be the first line of the file, or the line immediately following the selection details.

This extra field is now part of the file's input format, and even if not used for a particular item, must be present as indicated by commas.

`<title>,[<price>],[unit amount],[<image file>],[<text>]`

You can also assign a **product code** to an item. This appears in the order details. This is done by including the line

#!CODE=<code name>;
e.g.
#!CODE=Item #;

This extra field is now part of the file's input format, and even if not used for a particular item, must be present as indicated by commas.

`<title>,[code],[<price>],[<image file>],[<text>]`

Other Options

A *directive* line can also have the following

1.
FIRSTITEM=<html file>;
or

FIRSTITEM=FIRST;
or
FIRSTITEM=NONE;

If an html file is specified, this will be shown in the items frame when the catalogue is initially displayed. If FIRST is used, the first item of your catalogue is automatically shown on startup.

2.
FOOTNOTE=   text &/or html goes here   ;
The specified footnote will appear at the bottom of each item page. This can be redefined through the file. It is the only directive which doesn't have to appear at the beginning of the file.

See   the input field layout .
Note :
When using two image fields for an item, clicking on the second to return to the original item page does not work on IE3.02 (and possibly others) when the catalogue is run from files on disc. This works fine if the files are being accessed via a web server.

Input File Fields

Data		Tag
title	mandatory	
code	optional	CODE=<code name>;
price	mandatory	
unit	optional	UNIT1=<unit name>;
image file	mandatory	
select 1	optional	SELECT1=<select 1 name>;
select 2	optional	SELECT1=<select 1 name>;
select 3	optional	SELECT1=<select 1 name>;
select 4	optional	SELECT1=<select 1 name>;
description	mandatory	

Custom order forms

A custom order form must be able to accept the order details from the catalogue, and also pass them via hidden fields in the FORM on the page to the CGI script. The most versatile method is to use the Send Data via URL method available in the Order Form dialogue box.

You can firstly create your form using any html or text editor, or use a form supplied by an on-line credit card card verification company. Once you have your basic form, you'll need to add the following to it using a text editor.

Note : to copy when the code segment is shown, click on the right mouse button, then select copy from the menu. A left button click will return you to this page. Then go to your text editor (where you're editing the order form) and paste in the appropriate spot.

1. There are a number of javascript functions required at the top of the page. These are a here - copy these and paste into your form within the <HEAD></HEAD> tags.

2. Next you'll need to insert the html and javascript which displays the order details. Somewhere in your <BODY> section, probably near the top, insert this code

3. The order details are passed to the CGI script residing on the server using HIDDEN fields. Copy   this code between the <FORM> and </FORM> tags.

4. Save your file, then in the Order Form dialogue, specify the custom order form you have edited, and check the use custom form and Send Data via URL checkboxes.

Testing : At least some versions of Internet Explorer will not pass data via the URL when html files are being read from file, only when the files are read via a web server. To test on your PC using Internet Explorer, you'll have to run a web server. Alternatively, copy the catalogue to a web server to test.

Netscape Navigator doesn't discriminate so for this aspect does make testing easier.

```
<! stuff passed in from QDCat via the URL ->

<SCRIPT LANGUAGE='JAVASCRIPT'>

var InData,bUseP=false,S2=new Array,iNoSelects=0, sln=new Array(), k;
var iNextProd=0,fOrderTotal=0.00,fIncTax=0.00,fTotalCost=0.00,Sch,DelivCost=0.00,outstring="";

function fa(nVal)
{
  if (isNaN(nVal))
      return "0.00";

  nVal=Math.round(parseFloat(nVal)*100)/100;sVal=""+nVal;
  if(sVal.indexOf(".")==0)nVal="0"+sVal;
  if(sVal.indexOf(".")==-1)sVal=sVal+".";
  while ((sVal.indexOf(".")+1)>(sVal.length-2))sVal=sVal+"0";
  return sVal;
}

function passData()
{
  var formData, p1=0, i=0;
  urlData = new String(document.location.href);
  if (urlData.indexOf("=") < 0)urlData = document.location;
  if ((formData = urlData.substring((urlData.lastIndexOf("=") +1),urlData.length))!=null)
    bUseP=true;
  else
    return false;

  InData=unescape(formData);

  while(InData.length > 0)
  {
    p1=InData.indexOf("\\");
    if(p1<0)break;
    S2[i++]=InData.substring(0,p1);
    InData=InData.substring(p1+1);
  }
  return true;
}
if (passData()==true)
{
  fOrderTotal=parseFloat(S2[0]);
  fIncTax=parseFloat(S2[1]);
  DelivCost=S2[2];
  iNextProd=parseInt(S2[3]);
  Sch=S2[4];
  fTRate=S2[5];
  iNoSelects=parseInt(S2[6]);
  for(j=0;j<iNoSelects;sln[j]=S2[j+7],j++);
}

function cF(e1,n1){var rs=1,ad1=e1.value,nm1=n1.value,p1,p2;if(nm1==""){alert("please enter your name");n1.focus
if (ad1.indexOf(" ")!=-1)rs=0;p1=ad1.indexOf("@");if(p1==-1)rs=0;else if(p1==0)rs=0;else if(p1==(ad1.length-1))rs
if((p2<=0)||(p2==(ad1.length-1)))rs=0;if(rs=0){alert("please enter a valid email address");e1.focus();e1.select
</SCRIPT>


<! QDCat stuff - display the ordered items details ->

<P><TABLE WIDTH=600 CELLSPACING=0 CELLPADDING=0 BORDER=1 BGCOLOR=WHITE><TH><TR BGCOLOR=AADDFF ALIGN=CENTER ALIGN=
<SCRIPT LANGUAGE='JAVASCRIPT'>

outstring ="";

for (i=0;i<iNoSelects;outstring+="<TD><B>"+sln[i],i++);
outstring+="<TD><B> Unit Price <TD><B> Quantity <TD><B>Cost (&#163)";
if(fIncTax)outstring+="<TD><B>+"+fTRate+"%</THEAD><TBODY>";
```

```
iLast = 7+iNoSelects+iNextProd*(5+iNoSelects);
for(var n=7+iNoSelects;n<iLast;)
{    outstring=outstring+"<TR><TD> "+S2[n++];
     for(k=0;k<iNoSelects;k++){outstring+="<TD> "+ S2[n++];}
     outstring+="<TD ALIGN=RIGHT>"+S2[n++]+"  <TD ALIGN=RIGHT>"+S2[n++]+" <TD ALIGN=RIGHT>"+S2[n++]+" &n
     if (S2[n]>0.0)outstring+="<TD ALIGN=RIGHT>"+S2[n] +"  ";n++;
}

outstring=outstring+"</TD><TR BGCOLOR=WHITE><TD COLSPAN="+(iNoSelects+parseInt(fIncTax?"4":"3"))+"> <TD ALIG
          +fa(fTotalCost=fIncTax?fIncTax:fOrderTotal)+"  ";
if (Sch==null || Sch=="");else
    outstring+="<TR><TD COLSPAN="+(iNoSelects+parseInt(fIncTax>0.0?"4":"3"))+" ALIGN=CENTER>including delivery co
             Sch+") "+DelivCost + "<TD ALIGN=RIGHT>"+fa(fTotalCost=(parseFloat(fIncTax>0.0?fIncTax:fOrderT
outstring+="</TABLE><BR>"+"<pre> </pre>";
document.write(outstring);
</SCRIPT>


<! QDCat stuff - hidden fields with the order details for passing via CGI ->

<SCRIPT LANGUAGE='JAVASCRIPT'>
var i=1;
outstring="";

for(var n=7+iNoSelects;n<iLast;)
{
  if (parseInt(S2[n+iNoSelects+1])>0)
  {    outstring+="<INPUT TYPE=HIDDEN NAME=ITEM"+i+" VALUE=\""+S2[n++]+"" | ";
       for(k=0;k<iNoSelects;k++){outstring+=S2[n++]+"| "}
       outstring+= S2[n+1] +" @ "+S2[(n+=2)-2]+" = "+S2[n++]+(S2[n]!=null&&S2[n]>0.0?" with tax added : "+S2[n]:"
  }
  else
       n+=(5+iNoSelects);
}

outstring+="<INPUT TYPE=HIDDEN NAME=ITEMSTOTAL VALUE=\"total of items "+ fa(fOrderTotal) +"\">";
if (fIncTax!=null && fIncTax!=0)
    outstring+="<INPUT TYPE=HIDDEN NAME=TOTALWITHTAX VALUE=\"with tax added is "+fa(fIncTax)+"\">";
if (Sch!=null && Sch!="")
outstring+="<INPUT TYPE=HIDDEN NAME=GRANDTOTAL VALUE=\"including delivery ("+Sch+") of "+DelivCost + " is "+fa(fT
document.write(outstring);

</SCRIPT>
```

Create

This will create the html files for your catalogue. If successful, you will then be asked if you wish to view it using your system's default html viewer. The start frame is qd000000.htm.

All files (except those included in templates) are copied to the output directory. You just need to copy these to your website directory. All files created by QDCat must be in the one directory.

Note : if you are using Windows 3.1, you may have to end your browser session before creating the catalogue for this option to work, as only one instance of the browser may be allowed. Alternatively, choose no when asked to view and then refresh your browser (second and subsequent views). If you are using NT, this may not work and you will have to point your browser to qd000000.htm in the output directory.

using templates

You can base the item pages on your own templates, allowing the inclusion of such things as a logo, background, tables, font colour and type etc.

You must include **<! QDCAT START HERE>** at the point in your template html file where you want your data inserted. QDCat will insert the title, price, image, and text at that point.

Note : the QDCAT START HERE must be upper case exactly as shown here.

When you use templates, you must move any image files used in the template to the output directory.

Exit command (File menu)

Use this command to end your QDCat session.   You can also use the Close command on the application Control menu. QDCat always saves your options.

Shortcuts
    Mouse: Double-click the application's Control menu button.

Keys: ALT+F4

Main Data fields

Title
The title of your catalogue (appears in browser title bar).

Input File
Enter the name of the file (usually a .txt or .csv file) which contains the information used to create your catalogue. (See the <u>input file format</u>) The adjacent button brings up a find file dialogue box. The **Edit** button invokes the default editor for the input file type. When you have made changes don't forget to save the changes before creating your catalogue.

Default Input Directory
The directory from which to retrieve all files used in creating the catalogue that are not specified with a full path. The adjacent button brings up a find directory dialogue box.

Home Link
The url to go to on clicking the 'home' link displayed at the bottom of every index. If your catalogue is in a directory qdcat off your website's main directory, and your home page is index.htm, then you would put **../index.htm** here.

Output Directory
The directory where all files of your catalogue will be written. The image files referred to in your input file, and the files specified in the image and midi options dialogues will also be moved here. This complete set can then be copied to your website.

The adjacent button brings up a find directory dialogue box.

Note : If you are basing your item pages on a template, you must manually copy any files used in the template (e.g. background image, banners) to this directory. All other files as mentioned above are copied as usual.

Create button
Creates the html for your catalogue.

Include Quote Facility checkbox
Check this if you want the quote facility in you catalogue.

Include Order Form checkbox
Check this if you want the order form facility in you catalogue.
Note : this will have no effect if the include Quote Facility checkbox above is not checked.

Output Files Check
Check this when the case of the filename matters (e.g. transferring the files to a Unix server). On completion of the catalogue build, a subsequent process fixes any filenames whose names are not in the intended case. The process must be manually closed when it has finished.

Text Only checkbox
If this is checked, the bullet and background images are not used. This allows quicker initial loading of your catalogue from the web. The images used in the items are still included.

Currency Symbol

Select from the Pound, Dollar, or input an alternative. This will appear in front of amount displayed for each item.

If the **follows amount** checkbox is checked, the currency symbol will follow the amount. If left unchecked, the symbol preceedes the amount.

Index command (Help menu)

Use this command to display the opening screen of Help.   From the opening screen, you can jump to step-by-step instructions for using QDCat and various types of reference information.

Once you open Help, you can click the Contents button whenever you want to return to the opening screen.

Using Help command (Help menu)

Use this command for instructions about using Help.

About command (Help menu)

Use this command to display the copyright notice and version number of your copy of QDCat.

Context Help command

Use the Context Help command to obtain help on some portion of QDCat.   When you choose the Toolbar's Context Help button, the mouse pointer will change to an arrow and question mark.   Then click somewhere in the QDCat window, such as another Toolbar button.   The Help topic will be shown for the item you clicked.

Shortcut
    Keys: SHIFT+F1

No Help Available

No help is available for this area of the window.

No Help Available

No help is available for this message box.

Supplied Files

Some image and midi files are supplied with your copy of QDCat. They are placed in the *standard* directory off the main qdcat directory. Image file names beginning with **bg** are suitable for backgrounds, the bullet images used in the index frames begin with **itmbl** and **indbl** (to point to an item and index respectively). The image files used as previous and next links have names beginning with **prev** and **next**.

Transferring your catalogue to a web server

All files created by QDCat   are placed the *output directory* you specified on the main window of QDCat. Also all image files specified in the input file (that go with your items) are copied here also, if they are found, together with the additional image and midi files specified in the image and midi options dialogues.

If transferring the files to a Unix server, you should check the *output files check* checkbox before running the final catalogue create. This will make sure the case of the filenames of files placed in the output directory is correct.

If the output directory is empty before you create your catalogue, then you just need to copy all the files in this directory to a directory on the web server.

Note : If you are basing your item pages on a template, you must manually copy any files used in the template (e.g. background image, banners) to this directory. All other files as mentioned above are copied as usual.

About QDCat

If you have any questions/comments about QDCat, contact Powerlaunch Computers Limited via email at qdcat@pcl.ndirect.co.uk. You can check for updates at www.pcl.ndirect.co.uk.

The trial version is for evaluation purposes only. Files created by the trial version are not for use on the world wide web except for your personal evaluation. The trial period is 30 days, after this period you should either purchase a copy of QDCat, or remove the program from your PC.

The trial version limits the catalogue to 15 items, allows only 3 options in any select, and will not create a delivery cost option where **Input Units** has been selected as the delivery schedules **basis**.

Select directory or file

Use this dialog box to select a directory or file

Putting more than one item on a page

This is done by placing the word **PAGE** in the field where the price normally goes. If you want   the price included, place the word page in the field where the image file name usually goes. (The first item cannot have both a price and picture.) Items following this item are placed on the same page. A page is finished by including a line with just the words **END PAGE**.

The example input file, example.txt, shows how this is done (see the item Thing).

Including Options for each item

The steps to include options such as colour for each item are . . .

1. Put a directive in the input file which states how many option types there are and what they are called. This must be the first line of the input file.

The format of this line is

#!SELECT1=<name>;[SELECT2=<name>;[SELECT3=<name>;[SELECT4=<name>;]]]

The #! characters must be the first two characters of the first line. Then up to four select types may be specified.

e.g. for three select types with names for model, colour, style

#!SELECT1=Model;SELECT2=Colour;SELECT3=Style;

This line indicates that there are three select types.

2. The item lines in the input file must then follow the following format

```
<title>,[<price>],[<image file>],[selections 1],[selections 2],[selections 3],
[<text>]
```

There are now three more comma delimited fields than in the standard input file. The selections always go between the image file spot and the text. If a particular item doesn't need a particular selection type, just put in a comma after the preceeding field. All nominated selection types can be left blank if an item does not require any (don't forget the commas though).

3. The format of the actual selections is

value1|value2|value3 . . .

i.e. each value must be separated by a pipe | character

e.g. for colours

blue|green|red

4. Have a look at the example file selects.txt which has two selection types defined.

see also the input file format

Note :
The catalogue will behave slightly differently if selection types are included. Normally the catalogue will show the quantity ordered if an item that has been included in the quote is selected again. If selections are used, this only happens if the item is reselected via the Shopping Basket. This is so the same item can be ordered with different options.

F.A.Q.

Q. When I transfer my files to the Unix server, the catalogue can't find the appropriate files because the names aren't in the right case.

A. Before running the create for the final time before transferring the files, make sure the **output files check** checkbox is checked (it's just above the create button). This runs a procedure to make sure the case of the filenames is correct.

Q. How can I include commas in the items title?

A. Enclose the whole title in double quotes, e.g.

"Thing, small",<price>, . . .

Q. Where can I get files that handle the order form?

A. There are some good scripts at Matt's Script archive at http://www.worldwidemart.com/scripts/   including the ubiquitous FormMail.pl. If you want a perl script that saves orders to files on the server, Powerlaunch Computers can supply one on request (at no charge).

Q. How can I put a logo graphic in the index?

A. After the row in your input file where the index is started, insert the html for the logo, probably something like
<CENTER><IMG SRC=??? WIDTH=??? HEIGHT=???></CENTER>

You'll have to do it for each index. The image file will not be automatically moved into the output directory, so remember to move it.

Q. How do I use a secure server for the order form?

A. You must use an order form like the supplied form ordf04.htm, which accepts the order details via a decorated URL. See Creating a Custom Order Form for creating your own. You must place the form on the server, and in the custom order form entry field (Order Form Dialogue), put the complete URL, something like https://www.secureserver.com/ordf04.htm .

Q. How can I make sure the item quantity and cost input fields are below the item's image?

A. Immediately following the description for the item, put in the HTML tag <BR CLEAR=ALL>

Q. How can I include META tags in the catalogue.

A. Meta tags will be copied to the main file of the catalogue (qd000000.htm) if they are included in the input file as a directive i.e. the 2 characters #! followed by the meta tag you wish to include.   This line must only be preceeded by other directive lines, or be the first line of the input file. You may include multiple meta tag lines.