CaseLinr is a Windows program which prints case liners (a.k.a. J-Cards) for audio cassettes. The image displayed on the CRT screen approximates what will actually be printed. The printed result is extremely accurate and can be cut, folded, and then inserted into an empty (preferably clear plastic) audio cassette box.

Operation of the program follows the Windows style guide and all of the terminology should (hopefully) be apparent except, perhaps, for the term "feature". I use feature to refer to Source, Date/Time, Noise Reduction, and Mode. A "Feature Name" is the constant literal text (e.g. Source), whereas "Feature" is the variable text entered by the user (e.g. Disc, FM 97.9 WLUP, etc.). The actual feature text can be entered through predefined buttons, editbox text, or a combination of both. A value of either 0 or blank for a feature order will cause that feature to be omitted. Feature orders are relative, in that the sequence "1 3 4" is treated identical to the (more normal) sequence "1 2 3".

The New, Open..., Save, and Save As... menu options follow the normal windows file handling protocol (the default file extension is ".CAS"). The Title area in the Open... dialog box is a multi-line editbox with scroll bars. You cannot modify the titles from this box. Rather, its purpose is to allow you to determine the contents of a case liner. When you "click" on a valid CaseLinr file, the titles contained within the file will be displayed. Needless to say, if you click/open a file which was not created by CaseLinr (e.g. an EXE file) you will probably notice some pretty erratic behavior on your machine!

The Save button in the Global Layout and Font dialog boxes saves the data entered, in the corresponding dialog box, to the file WIN.INI. These saved values are then used when CaseLinr is first initiated, when New is requested from the File menu, and when Reset is requested from a dialog box. Reset will only use the values associated with the dialog box in which it is contained, whereas initiation and New will use all saved values. The saved values can be removed, thus returning to the "stock values", by deleting the appropriate lines from WIN.INI with any text editor -- the section will begin with [CaseLinr].

As you can tell from perusing the menus and dialog boxes, you have control over many variables determining the final result. The "stock fonts" look fairly nice on my Epson LQ850, but you can change them to fit your own printer. The font dialog boxes allow access to all variables which are part of a Windows font definition (TWIPS stands for 20th of a point or about 1/1440 of an inch). The Title and Song dialog boxes are multi-line editboxes with horizontal and vertical scrolling, and as such you use the **Ctrl-Enter** key combination to actually enter multiple lines. When entering songs, just enter each song on a separate line and let the program perform word-breaks and spacing, it's by no means perfect but it tries.

The Invert Image checkbox, within the Global Layout dialog box, flips the entire liner. A flipped liner is oriented like a liner that accompanies a pre-recorded cassette, whereas an un-flipped liner looks like one that comes with a blank cassette. If you can, compare the two, I didn't realize there was a difference until this feature was requested. The Bisect Sides checkbox, within the Global Layout dialog box, draws a vertical line separating the songs on Side A from those on Side B.

All suggestions, comments, criticisms, modification requests, and donations are welcome and will be appreciated (especially the latter). Enjoy!?

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Revision History:

1.0 -- Initial release (fixed various bugs in CLFREE).

1.1 -- Added the Invert menu option.

1.2 -- Added Bisect Side checkbox to global layouts. Changed the Invert menu option to Invert Image checkbox in global layouts so that it could be saved/reset and written to a cassette file.

2.0 -- Insured that the program functioned correctly under Windows 3.0. The **Ctrl-Enter** key combination must now be used, instead of the **Enter** key , for entering multiple lines in Titles and Songs. I have not yet figured out how to trap the Enter key! Added an alternate icon. Added system menus to all of the dialog boxes. Default extensions (*.CAS) are now properly displayed in the Open... dialog box. OK in the global layout box only causes scrolling up or down if inversion was actually selected / deselected.

ADDENDUM

The program has been tested on various dot matrix, letter quality and laser printers. When CaseLinr prints a label, there are no leading spaces or blank lines. However, when a label is displayed on the screen, there are "blank pixels" both horizontally and vertically. I may change this is the next "release". You must make sure that your printer is installed properly via the control panel. The only complaints I have had involved not being able to print certain fonts (but the person never responded to my response) and clipping during printing -- both on postscript printers. Unfortunately, I do not have access to a postscript printer.

The program processes fonts in the following manner -- some of this may not be true for a postscript printer so bear with me. All of the information entered in a font dialog box is used to create a logical font for the printer. There are only a certain number of such fonts that each printer will support (usually less than number of fonts definable via the dialog box) and the logical font created is the one closest to a font actually supported by the printer. From this logical printer font is created a logical screen font that is the font closest to the logical printer font and also supported by the display device. I realize that this is confusing but this is the way Windows works -- or this is the way I learned that Windows works. The fields within the font dialog box can be briefly explained as follows:

Height: Height of the characters (including internal but not external leading) in TWIP's -- 0 will cause Windows to choose a size.

Width: Width of the characters in TWIP's -- 0 will allow Windows to choose a font based on height.

Weight: Currently in Windows, a value of 0-550 is normal whereas a value greater than 550 implies
boldface.

Italic: Specifies italics.

Underline: Specifies underlining.

Strike-Out: Specifies that a horizontal line should be drawn through the characters.

Pitch: Fixed and Variable indicates a specific font pitch, whereas Default allows Windows to choose.

Quality: Draft and Proof indicates a specific font quality, whereas Default allows Windows to choose.

Char Set: Specifies whether the ANSI or OEM character set is to be used.

Family: Chooses the font family.

Face Name: Contains a list of all typefaces supported by (installed for) your printer.

I realize that this is not the most friendly or obvious user interface, but it is very flexible. You just have to remember that changing certain fields will not change the font and that all printer fonts cannot be displayed on the screen. However, I intend to add an alternate font selection method in the next version.