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Technical Note TB26

'SICN' Tired of Large Icons in Menus?

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This Technical Note describes a new facility of the Menu Manager which allows you to add reduced icons and small icons to your menus.

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Introduction

Since the release of MultiFinder, you may have noticed the appearance of small icons ('SICN') in the menus of some System Software. At that time, the Menu Manager was modified to allow the capability of showing both 'SICN' resources and 'ICON' resources reduced to 'SICN' size.

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How to Add Less

To add one of the smaller icons to a menu item with Rez or ResEdit, do the following:

Reduced Icon

- Place a value of \$1D into the `cmdChr` field of the `menuItem`.
- Place the resource ID number of the 'ICON' to use, minus 256, into the `itemIcon` field of the `menuItem`.

Small Icon

- Place a value of \$1E into the `cmdChr` field of the `menuItem`.
- Place the resource ID number of the 'SICN' to use, minus 256, into the `itemIcon` field of the `menuItem`.

In the ResEdit 'MENU' template, the `cmdChr` field is called "Key equiv" and the `itemIcon` field is called "Icon#."

For setting or changing the menu from within your program, use the following:

```
SetItemCmd(theMenu,item,$1D)    { mark menu item as having a reduced icon}
```

or

```
SetItemCmd(theMenu,item,$1E)    { mark menu item as having a SICN }
```

Note that the resource ID that you indicate to the Menu Manager is 256 less than the icon's real resource ID. This means that you can only use icons starting with resource ID of 257 (remember that a zero indicates no icon). Figure 1 illustrates a menu with 'SICN' resources in the first three items, a normal 'ICON' in the fourth item, and a reduced version of the normal 'ICON' in the fifth item.



Figure 1. Menu Containing a 'SICN', an 'ICON', and a Reduced 'ICON'

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You Win Some; You Lose Some

Note that this new facility does not come for free. A menu item that contains a 'SICN' or a reduced icon cannot also have a command key equivalent. Because the addition of a smaller icon must be somehow recorded into the existing menu record, the `cmdChr` field of your menu item that used to contain the command key equivalent is now used to indicate both the command key to use or the use of a smaller icon.

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References

Inside Macintosh , Volume I, The Menu Manager

Inside Macintosh Volume V, The Menu Manager

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