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About □□:

□□ is a desk accessory which lets you open and use desk accessories in Font/DA Mover files, much like various applications which permit one to "sample" desk accessories. The advantage of □□ is that one can do this from within other applications. (It is also, at about 2.8K, smaller than any of the sampler applications the author has seen.) For a more complete description of □□ see [Features](#) and [Bugs](#) below. But first, a message from your sponsor:

□□ may be freely copied and used for non-commercial purposes. If you like it and wish to show your appreciation, a contribution (equal to whatever you think □□) is worth to:

The Graduate Breakfast Fund
Department of Mathematics and Computer Science
Dartmouth College
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would be much appreciated.

It is a tradition in our department that once a week in the fall quarter, usually Thursday morning, a graduate student or faculty member prepares his or her favourite breakfast (occasionally, lunch) for the rest of the department and its hangers-on. It is also traditional that we run out of money to keep the tradition going in the winter quarter. Should you contribute to the cause and subsequently find yourself in Hanover, ring up the department to see if there's a breakfast in the works and come on over if there is one. The event always take place in the graduate student lounge in the subbasement of Bradley Hall.

Whatever else you do, please note: □□ may not be distributed commercially without permission from the author. If you have any comments or suggestions, or would like a copy of the source code, please write the author at the above address or send a mail message to **dartvax!stefan**.

Caveat:

The author assumes no responsibility for problems resulting from the use of □□ or from errors in this document. I've tried my best, but see [Bugs](#) anyway.

Features:

When □□ is opened, it puts up a dialog box with two messages and two buttons. The first message tells one how to close □□ and the second is a warning that closing □□ closes all open desk accessories. The two buttons are Choose DA file and Cancel. If one clicks on Choose DA file (or hits either of the Return or Enter keys), □□ will put up another dialog box which lets one choose a Font/DA Mover desk accessory file. Clicking the Cancel button on either of these dialog boxes causes □□ to close itself without taking further action and without affecting any other open desk accessories. If one chooses a desk accessory file, □□ will open it and put up a menu (titled □□) with an item called About □□... and a list of the desk accessories in the chosen file.

Choosing About □□... from the □□ menu puts up a dialog box with the copyright notice, the name of the open desk accessory file, a plea for contributions to the Breakfast Fund, and two buttons, OK and Close □□. Clicking on the OK button (or hitting Return or Enter) makes the dialog box go away and otherwise has no effect. Clicking on the Close □□ button closes □□ and every other open desk accessory.

One may also close □□ by choosing it again from the □ menu. This will also close every other open desk accessory, so make sure that you do not choose □□ unintentionally when it is already open.

To open a desk accessory from a file opened by □□, simply choose it from the □□ menu.

□□ also checks to see if there is enough memory to run the desired desk accessory and puts up an alert if there isn't. In this case, "enough memory" means the size of the desk accessory plus 3K, as recommended in **Inside Macintosh** (Promotional Edition). To help prevent certain fatal bugs □□ will not let you open a desk accessory which has the same ID number as □□ itself; the names of such desk accessories will appear as disabled items in the menu.

Bugs: (and how to avoid them)

Serious problems usually arise because of clashing ID numbers between accessories in the system and those in the external files. Using □□ it is possible to try to open two desk accessories with the same ID number (one in the system - i.e. from the □ menu - and one in an external DA file). In this case, at best, the second one opened will wipe the other out. At worst, it's fatal. In between, the desk accessory in the system may try to use the other's owned resources (putting up the other's window or menu, for example). This can lead to fatal problems, too.

Such sharing occurs because of the order resource files are searched for resources. It will often occur even if the desk accessory with clashing ID in the external DA file opened by □□ is not itself open.

In general, you are safe from errors due to clashing ID numbers if you do not run any accessories from the □ menu while □□ has a file open. The exception to this rule is if a desk accessory in a file opened by □□ has the same ID number as □□. As noted in Features, □□ will not let you open such a desk accessory, but it is theoretically possible that some of the resources owned by □□ will be overridden by those of the external desk accessory, perhaps with fatal consequences. This has not happened, to the author's knowledge, with the present version of □□. Yet.

Another, less common, class of problems encountered in testing are due to desk accessories which were never intended to be closed once opened. Most of these are system "trashers" such as Measles and Crabs. In some cases, once they are opened via □□, changing the DA file or closing □□ produces fatal problems (recall that □□ tries to close all open desk accessories in these cases). In others, such as Measles, one can safely close them once, but you will encounter trouble if you try to open them again. So take care with trashers...

Some desk accessories do not work properly when opened with □□ for reasons unknown to the author. For example, the calculator HP12c won't open properly and causes a fatal system error when □□ is closed, and not all of Control Panel's features show up. No doubt other accessories will fail to behave properly. □□ has been tested with a wide variety of desk accessories and with a small number of exceptions (and modulo the problems previously noted) they seemed to function properly. The various desk accessory sampler applications the author has tried are subject to similar problems, but they, and hopefully □□, remain useful.

No doubt there will be other mysterious difficulties. The author would like to apologize in advance for any trouble these may cause.

A final note: □□ was tested on a 512K Macintosh™ with external drive and on a Macintosh Plus™ with external 800K drive. Less extensive testing was carried out on various other configurations, including a 128K Mac and a Lisa™ running MacWorks. □□ does not get along with some hard disks. For example, there are often fatal problems with Quark Systems' QC 20 hard disk. On the basis of limited tests, □□ does seem to get along well with Apple's Hard Disk 20.