

# LaserLabel by Jeffrey Y. Sue

LaserLabel Version 1.0

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LaserLabel prints 3 column labels on a laser printer. You can either print directly upon sheets of 3 column labels, or you can print a “master” which you can later photocopy onto 3 column label sheets. LaserLabel allows you to select different “fields” of a record to print in different positions on the label. You may also choose which records to print, by specifying a search field.

LaserLabel reads lines of text (ASCII) from a TEXT file, where each line consists of fields separated by tabs. It expects a return character at the end of each line. TEXT files in this format can be created by many word processors, spreadsheets and data base programs.

For example, suppose you have a name and address file with the following fields:

Field 1	Field 2	Field 3	Field 4	Field 5	Field 6
Last Name	First Name	Address	City	State	Zipcode
Smith	John	123 Main	Smallville	CA	12345

Using the Select Fields menu option (in the File Menu), you would specify which fields to put on which line:

Line 1:	2	1	
Line 2:	3		
Line 3:	4	5	6

This would produce a label which looks like:

John Smith  
123 Main  
Smallville CA 12345

Note that a space is automatically placed between fields.

You can also include punctuation and other text (up to 15 characters). Using Select Fields, specify the fields as:

Line 1:	2	1
---------	---	---

Line 2: 3  
 Line 3: 4 , 5 6

This creates labels which look like:

John Smith  
 123 Main  
 Smallville, CA 12345

LaserLabel does not automatically place a space before punctuation fields. If you want a space, just make it part of the punctuation field. For example:

Line 1: 2 1  
 Line 2: 3  
 Line 3: 4 = = 5 6

will create:

John Smith  
 123 Main  
 Smallville == CA 12345

with space, equal sign, space, equal sign, followed by the space which is automatically added before the next non-punctuation field.

The punctuation field is limited to 15 characters, although the field size in the dialog box makes it difficult to type more than 4 or 5. It is possible to type text such as “Expiration Date”.

What happens if there is an empty field in a record? For example, suppose we have:

Field 1	Field 2	Field 3	Field 4	Field 5	Field 6
Name	Company	Address	City	State	Zipcode
John Smith		123 Main	Smallville	CA	12345

and we have selected fields:

Line 1: 1  
 Line 2: 2  
 Line 3: 3  
 Line 4: 4 , 5 6

This would create the label:

John Smith  
 123 Main  
 Smallville, CA 12345

If a field is empty, that is, if there are two consecutive tabs, LaserLabel ignores it. LaserLabel does not insert a space, nor a blank line if it is the only field on a line.

You can use simple selection methods to specify which records to print. Suppose your text file looks like:

Field 1	Field 2	Field 3	Field 4	Field 5	Field 6
Name	Company	Address	City	State	Zipcode
John Smith		123 Main	Smallville	CA	12345
Mike Jones	Apple	456 First St.	New York	NY	54321
Peter Rabbit	Eggs & I	135 Oak	Los Angeles	CA	22222
S. Claus		1 N. Pole	Denver	CO	33333

In Select Fields, there are items “Contains text:” and “In field #”. Suppose we set:

Contains text:	C
In field #	5

The following labels would print:

John Smith  
123 Main  
Smallville, CA 12345

Peter Rabbit  
Eggs & I  
135 Oak  
Los Angeles, CA 22222

S. Claus  
1 N. Pole  
Denver, CO 33333

because the state field, field #5, contains “C”. If we had typed “CA” instead of “C”, then only the California addresses would have printed. This makes it easy to specify subgroups in the main mailing list. You could have a field with subgroups, such as

Field 7  
ab,cd,ma,ad  
cd,np,ad  
ab,np  
ma,np

where the individual subgroups might stand for committee assignments, interest groups, which products the customer has registered or is interested in, etc. Thus you could print the entire mailing list or print only subgroups for a particular mailing. The subgroup field does **not** need to be printed; it’s up to you.

Note that LaserLabel does a very simple search, and is case sensitive. If the field contains the specified text, such as the “C” in the above example, it matches.

## Larger Print Option of Page Setup

With the current release of the LaserWriter printer driver (the file LaserWriter in your System folder), there is an option under Page Setup called “**Larger Print Area**”. Select Page Setup, click on the Options button, then click on the box for “Larger Print Area”. Since labels are relatively small, it is **very important** to use this option, to get as much space as possible on each label.

## Label Types

There are two general types of labels, the conventional labels used in copy machines, and a new type of label from Avery, for laser printers. Laser printers do not print all the way to the edges of a sheet of paper, making it slightly more difficult to print on the copy machine type of labels which do start at the edges. Avery has a series of label sheets with a half label at the top and at the bottom, so that the printable labels start lower on the sheet. Use the “**Set Label Type**” option in the File menu to select the type of labels you are printing. If you are making many copies, it may be easier to print a “master list” on regular paper and copy onto label sheets using a photocopier and copier type label sheets. Be sure to select the “**Larger Print Area**” option in Page Setup in any case.

One warning: the Avery labels have one fewer row of printable labels, so be sure to **change the number of rows** in the “Set Label Type” dialog. You can change the number of rows and columns to other values. Zero is not allowed.

## Other Options

You can specify the font and fontsize, under the Font menu. The fontsizes available are limited, because labels are small. The number of lines that will fit on a label depend upon font and fontsize. The selected font, as well as which fields you have selected, are stored in a LaserLabel configuration file. (You can have multiple configuration files.)

LaserLabel does not work with all third-party fonts (The problem may be that the program cannot get accurate font height information from some fonts with fancy ascenders and descenders, so that the lines overlap). It works with the LaserWriter and LaserWriter Plus fonts and has been tested with some of the excellent fonts from Cassidy.

Select Fields allows you to specify how many of each label to print. This can be useful to print your own return address labels.

The “First Label” menu item, in the File menu, is useful if you print directly upon label sheets. It allows you to skip the already used portions of a sheet and start printing on the first unused label, to make use of partially printed sheets and avoid waste. This is valuable if you have lots of small lists to print, which don’t take up an entire sheet. This is automatically reset back to the first column, first row each time you print.

If Background Printing is enabled under MultiFinder, LaserLabel is able to “spool” output in the Background (you can switch to another application). When Background Printing is not enabled, the standard LaserWriter driver displays a status information dialog during printing and it is not possible to switch to another application (this is true for all applications under MultiFinder during printing with the standard LaserWriter driver if Background Printing is not enabled).

I hope you find LaserLabel as useful as I have. It makes it easy to keep your mailing list on a variety of programs, even spreadsheets, but still print 3 column labels. LaserLabel has been tested with text files created (exported) by MacWrite, and by Microsoft File, Works and Excel.

If you like LaserLabel and find it useful, please send \$5.00 shareware registration fee to:

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