

Bits and Pieces

by Dorman L. Bullard

What' s it all about Alfie?

When I agreed to do a regular column I had a couple themes in mind which didn't pan out. So, I began wracking my mind to come up with a theme, starting to sweat a bit when deadline time approached. Then it hit me: "We don't need no stinking themes." Hence the column title. A little this, a little that; I'm going to write about so many different things you're bound to like some of them!

Font Finder Application

While I was doing a demonstration at the last meeting, someone in the background asked someone if they knew of something that would give them a printout of fonts in their system. Very good question that. I had been wondering the same thing until recently. I was too busy doing the demonstration to answer the question, or even see who asked it. So, here's an answer now.

The FontDisplay shareware program is overkill. I mean, I'm sure someone wants a whole page showing just one font, but I haven't met anyone like that. How about just a nice list showing every font on one line, and in the form of the font so you can see what it looks like? Well, there are couple possibilities I know of (If anyone know any others please let me know).

Font Finder is a new shareware program written by Peter S. Bryant. At least it is newly available on the AMUG BBS. This is an application which when run will list on the screen all fonts in the current system. You can get a nicely formatted printout as well. Figure 1 is a screen dump.

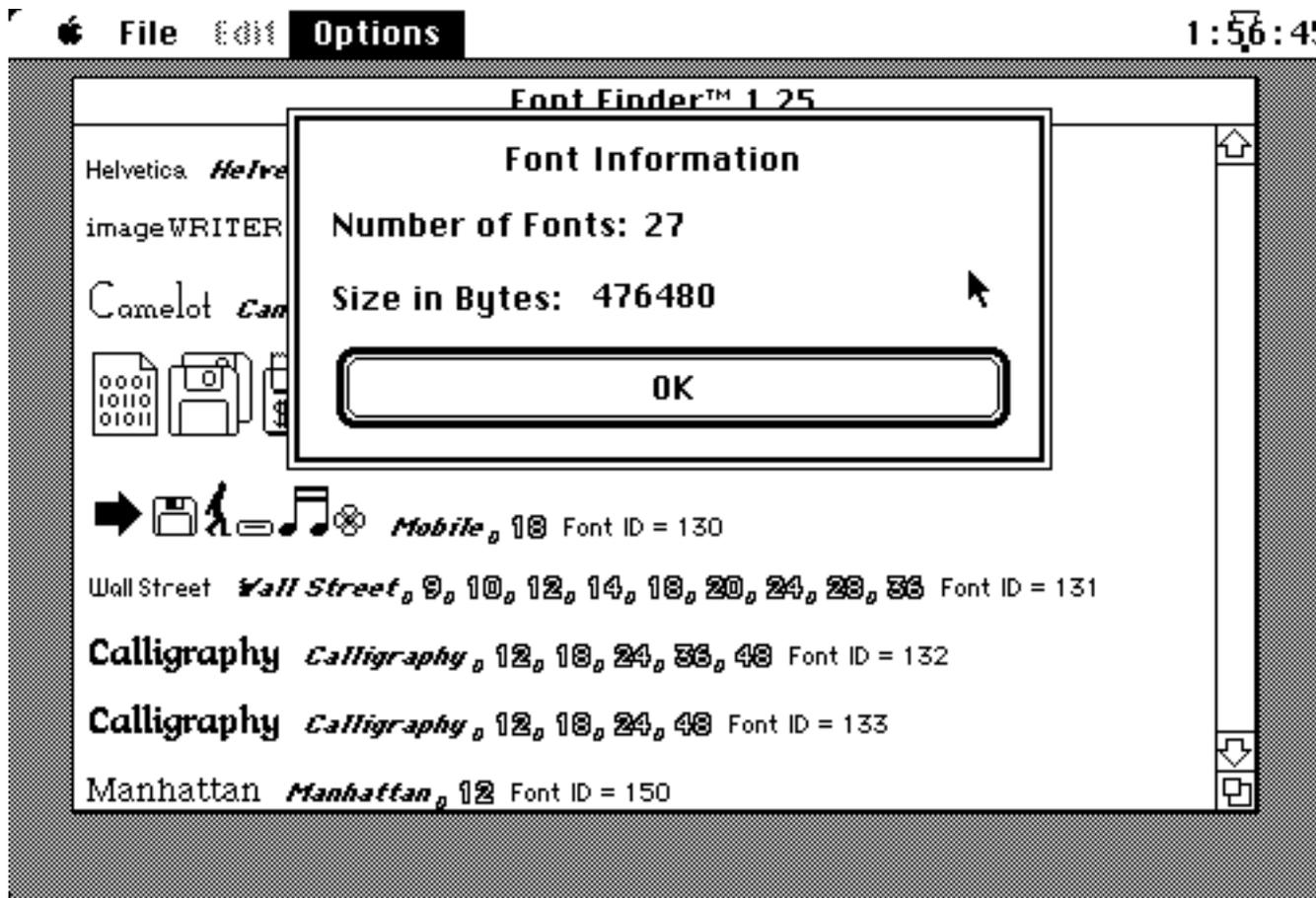


Figure 1

As you can see, it shows the actual font in the smallest size available, then the name of the font in what appears to be bold, italic, in a 12 point size. Then follows a list of all available sizes and the font ID number. Showing the font in its smallest size is a nice touch, since if you keep a printed list handy it will allow you to see how legible a small font size will be without printing a draft. As shown in figure 1, you can get the total number of fonts and the disk space they occupy (maybe having almost 1/2 a MEG of fonts in my system file - including the same font under two ID numbers! - explains its sluggishness of late!!!). The "on-line" documentation says that in addition to examining fonts in the system file, you can do the same for fonts in applications or in documents. However, I can't figure out how to do this.

DAFont Desk Accessory

Another way of checking on fonts in the system is the DAFont desk accessory. This by Ken Winograd, and is "donateware", i.e. you donate what you think it's worth. It has some advantages over Font Finder and one (major) disadvantage. The disadvantage is that there is no built-in way of getting a printout. You can do a window-to-Imagewriter dump. However, since it shows a line for each font size, it

might take several pages of dumps to show all your fonts. Figure 2 is a screen dump.

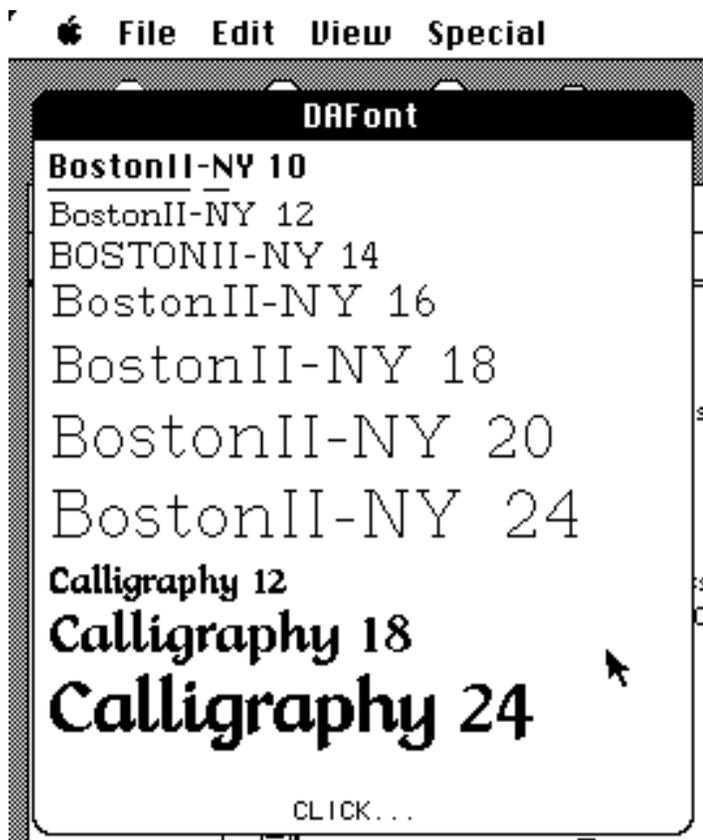


Figure 2- The DAFont Desk Accessory

If you "click" as suggested you will see the rest of your fonts/sizes. In addition to seeing the way each font actually appears, you can get size and font ID number information. One advantage of DAFont is that you get the size for each font point-size as well as the total for all fonts. You can also get a list of all the DAs in the system, their size, ID number, and total disk space size for all of them. This is a neat DA which was in all my system files until I decided I couldn't afford the DA slot.

And Now for Something Completely Different

Do you like descriptive file names? I do, but a problem is that descriptive names tend to be lengthy and to overlap each other so you can't easily see them. Some time ago found out how to use ResEdit to modify the Finder to stagger the icons. That is, with the alternate columns of icons offset vertically so that long names do not overlap. If the way I've described this doesn't sound too thrilling, then take my word for it that you really do want to do this. And now comes the application "Layout" to make it very easy to do. And, you do it the Mac way, by dragging

icons instead of bulling your way through resource files with ResEdit. Figure 3 shows Layout after having dragged the dark gray icon downward to effect the offset.

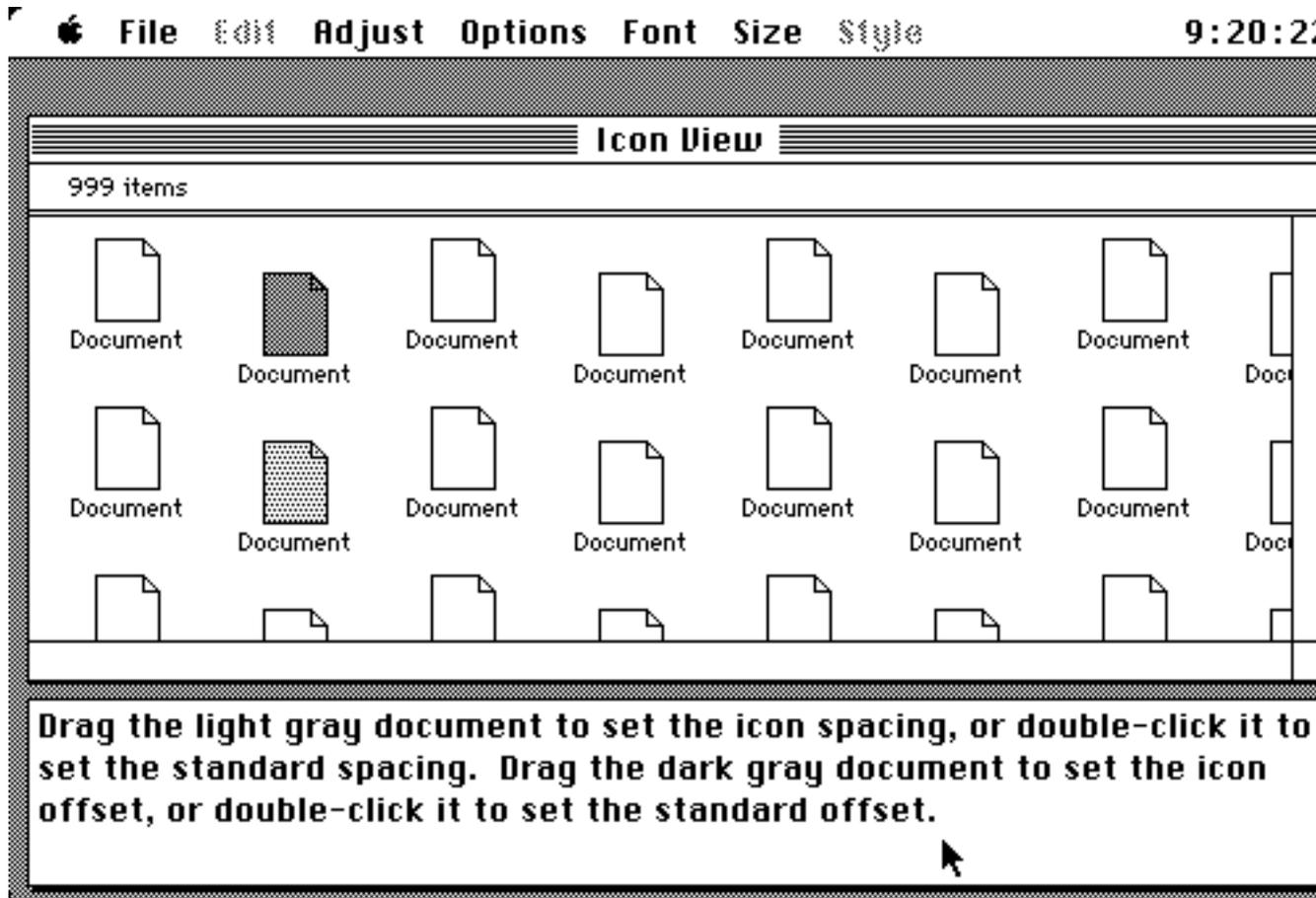


Figure 3

And, staggering icons is just one of many things you can do with this great program. You can change the font and size of the text that appears on the desktop. You can change the icon spacing (vertical as discussed above) and horizontal, and you can modify the spacing for small icons and the layout of the :By Name/Date options. Although I don't recommend it, you can even modify the Finder to avoid the "do you really mean it" when you try to trash applications. You say you want more? Well how about guilt free usage, it's a freebie, not even shareware. It is written by Michael O'connor of Leptronic Systems Design Company.

Well, that's enough bits and pieces 'till next month.....