

## Font Families and System 7.1

### **The Solution**

When I got my System 7.1 update kit, I was pleased with the idea that I could finally treat fonts like any other files. No Font/DA mover, no opening the System file, no suitcases. Well, I soon discovered that suitcases ARE still a part of Mac font life, but they need not cause too much inconvenience.

### **The Solution's Problem**

Most high quality TrueType fonts come in families, or related typefaces (Roman, italic, bold, bold-italic, *etc.*). Fortunately, you don't need to change the font from "New Century Schlbk" to "New Century Schlbk (italic)" to italicize text.

In System 7.0, if both of the above files were in the System file, the Mac worked as expected. However, under System 7.1, if both files are in the Fonts folder, but not grouped together in a suitcase, chaos will occur. For example, with New Century Schoolbook, italic, bold, and bold-

italic words all appear bold-italic.

## **The Solution's Problem's Solution**

Fortunately, if the font family files are places together in a suitcase and the machine is restarted, order is restored. It is easy enough to copy a suitcase, remove the old fonts from the suitcase, put in the new fonts, rename the suitcase, and restart. For example, the StyleWriter and Personal LaserWriter LS owners who bought the Apple supplemental driver/font offerings some months ago got a suitcase called "TrueType Fonts 1" on one disk. The suitcase contained Avant Garde (2 versions, regular and bold), Bookman (4 versions), N Helvetica Narrow (2 versions), and New Century Schlbk (4 versions). If you want to move these files separately, you need to make new suitcases as described above.

## **Solving Problems You Didn't Know You Had**

Font families are nice—they provide better-looking type and they are more convenient to use. For example, when there is no actual italic version of a font, the machine merely generates

an oblique version. It slants all characters at an angle specified by the font. Of course, this is not true italic text; compare the a's and i's in Times and you will see what I mean.

Some fonts don't start out as families, even though they really are. I have a font called Phaedrus, a rather nice serif text font I downloaded from AOL or some such place. There is also a Phaedrus Italic, which I downloaded separately. Using these as is makes you treat them as two separate fonts, at least under System 7.1. However, it is easy enough to make them *work* like a true family.

All it took to combine Phaedrus and Phaedrus Italic into a family was:

1. Make a new suitcase (or copy an existing one) and put both fonts in it;
2. Remove any other fonts from the suitcase;
3. Open the suitcase with ResEdit;
4. Use ResEdit to open the FOND resources in the suitcase;
5. Use ResEdit to open the "Phaedrus Italic" FOND resource;

6. Move down to where “Phaedrus Italic” has three boxes names Font Size, Font Style, and Res ID;

7. Copy or write down the number in the box next to Res ID;
8. Close “Phaedrus Italic” and open the “Phaedrus” FOND;
9. Go down to the Res ID box in Phaedrus;
10. Under that box there is a line of asterisks—select it;
11. Type Command-K or use the menu to “Insert New Field(s)”;
12. Enter a “0” for Font Size, a “2” for Font Style, and the number from the “Phaedrus Italic,” which you copied earlier, for “Res ID”;
13. Close the “Phaedrus” FOND;
14. Delete the “Phaedrus Italic” FOND;
15. Close the FONDS;
16. Close the suitcase, and when ResEdit asks you, save the changes;
17. Quit ResEdit; and
18. Restart the machine.

This will make Phaedrus and Phaedrus Italic work like one font with a normal and an italic version..

The same process should work for other TrueType fonts. When adding a bold version,

use “1” for Font Style in step 12, and “3” for a bold-italic version.

This process even works for non-related fonts. It is possible, for example, to make BodidlyBold the default bold version of Times, if you want to. I combined Thomas (as regular), Embassy (as italic), BodidlyBold (as bold), and SaintFrancis (as bold-italic) to make PigsOnIcell (don’t ask). It seems to work fine for me.

## **Some Suggestions**

First, not all “italic” fonts are that at all. BlackChanceryItalic and Genoa (italic) *seem* to be simply obliques of the normal fonts; I can’t be positive. When this is the case, I doubt much is to be gained, because I think the machine can make its own obliques just fine, at least as far as my limited experience shows.

Second, fonts that have the style after the name in parentheses and lower case letters, e.g., “Times (italic)”, are probably already set up to work as a family. If you just put them in a suitcase together and restart, they should work.

Third, although it's silly (not to mention impolite) to look a gift horse in the mouth, if those who design the fonts would provide the proper suitcase/font file when uploading second versions (italic, *etc.*), it would avoid a lot of duplicated effort. It's nice to have the fonts anyway, but if you make something you hope others will appreciate, why not go the extra yard for a big increase in functionality? What didn't matter under System 7.0 is important under System 7.1.

## **Finally**

If anyone has any other interesting font tips or techniques, or any comments on this info, please tell me.

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