

## Adobe Type Manager goes super

By Tom Poehlmann and Peter Prager

The deadline is approaching. You've just finished compiling all the notes from weeks of meetings into a beautifully formatted document designed to knock their socks off in the front office. Gleefully, you grab the disk and head off to meet your boss, ready to enjoy warm congratulations for a job well done. But when you open the file on your boss's Mac screen and take a look, your beautifully formatted document isn't so beautiful any more. The impressive display type for the headlines has been replaced with Courier. The body text is now in some font wider than the tasteful Garamond Narrow you originally used, causing the document to run two pages longer than it should. Of course, the illustrations no longer line up with the text. You spend your valuable presentation time trying to fix the mess; all the while trying to explain to your boss what happened.

Sound familiar? Document creation used to be simple: one person, one computer, one printer, one set of fonts to worry about—your own. Today, people share documents over networks and modems; they carry disks back and forth between computers in different locations. Unless your taste runs only to Times and Helvetica, the possibility of finding exactly the same fonts you used in a document installed on the other machines you need is next to nil—it's a Murphy's Law corollary!

Dr. Adobe cures all

To deal with this new found mobility in the Information Age, the people at Adobe have come up with SuperATM. Its basic purpose, as stated on page one of the User Guide, "...is to provide placeholders for original typefaces while a work is in progress." In other words, as long as SuperATM is installed on any of the Macs you use, it preserves the basic original look of your document, regardless of what fonts exist in the system of the Mac on which you are currently working.

SuperATM uses Adobe's multiple master typeface technology to accomplish this. When a font needed in a document is missing from the system of the machine you're working on, SuperATM automatically applies the font description information for the missing font to one of the two supplied multiple master typefaces (serif and sans serif). The program then creates a substitute font for your document that preserves the spacing and mimics the look of the original. This means that you can work on or display documents on any Mac with SuperATM installed and maintain the integrity of the layout.

What you need...

Most Macs can run SuperATM. Although the User Guide says you need at least a Mac SE with 4 MB RAM for System 7 (2MB RAM for system 6), it works just fine on a Mac Plus. It runs slower on less powerful machines, but does come with an adjustable font cache at the control panel level to help optimize performance. You will also need at least 4 MB available memory on your hard disk, a floppy disk drive, and Apple System 6.0.5 or higher. If you want to use the Type On Call CD-ROM disk that comes with SuperATM, you will need a CD-ROM drive.

What you get...

The SuperATM package itself comes chock full of goodies. You get an upgraded ATM application (v.3.5 at this writing), ATM drivers for both 68000 and 68020/030 processors, 2

multiple master typefaces: serif and sans serif, a Font Builder application for creating reusable substitute fonts, and a database containing the names and font metrics for over 1300 Adobe Type 1 and TrueType fonts—the information necessary for SuperATM to generate substitute fonts. On top of all this, Adobe throws in: the Type

Reunion utility for organizing your font menu into font families; four bonus fonts, complete with drivers (outline fonts); and the Type On Call CD-ROM disk from which you can download the screen (bitmap) font for any Adobe typeface and generate an accurate SuperATM font substitute at any point size.

### Using SuperATM...

The application itself is very easy to use, since it usually runs automatically in the background while you work. The installation is straightforward, dutifully placing databases, fonts, and utilities where they belong. After that, whenever you open a document that uses fonts not installed on your system, you'll see a spinning letter "a" in place of the cursor, indicating that SuperATM is creating substitute fonts. Once these fonts are created, they're available for all applications, but to save space on your hard disk, the substitute fonts are deleted from memory when you turn off your computer.

The database included with SuperATM has information on over 1300 Adobe Type 1 and TrueType fonts. If you use fonts included in the database, the program automatically creates substitute fonts and your documents display perfectly. Remember, the application does need information for the font substitution process to work. When SuperATM encounters a font not in its database, it replaces it with a default font. To get around this, however, all you have to do is install one screen font in the system for each document font that SuperATM doesn't recognize. The application will then generate substitution fonts in any point size, and the formatting of your document will be preserved. Output from documents displayed in this way may be a little rough, but then that's not the real purpose of this application anyway.

### No hammer needed...

If you need to compose documents using fonts you don't have in the system, you can create screen fonts from the SuperATM font database using the Font Builder utility that comes with the program. Font Builder quickly creates a suitcase with screen fonts in various sizes for all the fonts you select, which can then be dumped into your System file... and you're ready to go. The substitute fonts are noted in an application's font menu by a black diamond. (See Figure 1.) When you place screen fonts, whether from other font packages or from the Font Builder, into the system, they will remain in place until you manually delete them.

### It works!

SuperATM is compatible with most major applications such as Adobe Illustrator, Quark Express, Aldus Freehand and PageMaker, Ready, Set, Go!, Microsoft Word and Excel, and many others. We experimented with several Word documents under various conditions, using both manual and automatic font substitution and the program worked very well, retaining each document's original "look and feel." We put together a complicated Ready, Set, Go! document with multiple columns wrapping around a graphic, and SuperATM preserved all the line spacing, and the vertical column justification flawlessly. (See Figures 2, 3 and 4.)

High-end users will probably continue using original screen fonts, whenever possible, where seeing the "true" screen font representation is critical for their composition. And while you can print documents from systems using substitute fonts instead of the original outline fonts, the type won't look exactly the same as if you printed from a system with the full outline font drivers installed. But again, the real purpose of the application is to permit you to revise and work with documents when you don't have access to the original fonts. SuperATM won't let you get around actually buying font packages, but with this program you can take a document home and you'll

see the same page breaks, line breaks and a representation of the typefaces as you used at work.  
This is a big improvement!

The bottom line

Like the original ATM, SuperATM is one of those wonderful applications that can quickly become indispensable because it makes your work so much easier. Adobe plans to continue supporting both ATM and SuperATM as separate applications, so you'll have a choice depending on your needs. But if you plan to move between multiple computers, SuperATM will definitely ease the hassle of trying to configure different systems with the same fonts... and let you get on with your work!

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