

# MakeAutoTyper

Version 3.2

## Part of the FileTyper 3.2 Package

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### Introduction

MakeAutoTyper is a companion utility for FileTyper and is distributed along with it. It provides a way to create custom "AutoTypers," small drag-and-drop applications that automatically make a certain change to files or folders.

This document is a supplemental document for the FileTyper docs explaining how to use MakeAutoTyper.

### System Requirements

System 7.x or later required. MakeAutoTyper is 32-bit clean and should work with the 68040 cache.

### Registration and Distribution

MakeAutoTyper is distributed as part of the FileTyper Package. When you register your copy of FileTyper, you're also automatically registered for MakeAutoTyper and entitled to use it freely. See the file "FileTyper docs" for information on how to register your FileTyper package.

Any AutoTypers that you create can be distributed freely, but may not be sold or bundled with anything that is sold without written permission.

If you want to distribute FileTyper or any AutoTypers with a shareware or commercial package of your own, please contact me at the address at the end of this document.

### About AutoTypers

AutoTypers, introduced in version 3.0 of the FileTyper package, are small applications that automatically perform a specific change to all files dropped onto them that meet specific criteria. For example, an AutoTyper can take all the files dropped onto it, find the files of type "TEXT", and change the creator of those files to "MSWD". AutoTypers will work only under System 7 or later. Included in the FileTyper 3.2 package is a folder called "Sample AutoTypers," which contains four AutoTypers that you can use to get started. They are: "TEXTtoMSWD", which changes the creator of text files to Microsoft Word; "GroupLock," which locks all files dropped onto it; "GroupUnlock," which unlocks all files dropped onto it; and "Vanish!", which sets the "invisible" flag of all files and folders dropped onto it.

AutoTypers that you create can be distributed freely, but may not be sold or bundled with anything that is sold without permission.

You can create and modify AutoTypers using the utility MakeAutoTyper. Simply open MakeAutoTyper and choose "New AutoTyper..." to create an AutoTyper, or choose "Open AutoTyper..." to edit an existing one. You can also drag an AutoTyper you wish to edit right onto the MakeAutoTyper icon. MakeAutoTyper will work only under System 7 or later.

## Using MakeAutoTyper

This section shows how to create and edit your own custom AutoTypers using MakeAutoTyper.

This information has not changed since version 3.1.

To create a new AutoTyper, choose “New AutoTyper...” Then you will be given the opportunity to customize your new AutoTyper. See the following paragraphs for information on how to customize an AutoTyper. Once you are done, click “Create” to create your AutoTyper, or “Cancel” to abort.

To customize an existing AutoTyper, choose “Open AutoTyper...” You will be presented with a dialog box. A slight change was made in the structure of an AutoTyper with version 3.1. MakeAutoTyper 3.1 and 3.2 will convert version 3.0 AutoTypers to the new structure before opening them. The structure was altered purely for compatibility with version 3.1 of FileTyper and did not drastically affect the way AutoTypers behave. For more info, see the new description of the “Folder dropping opens...” controls below. MakeAutoTyper 3.2 still uses the same structure as 3.1. Be aware though, that MakeAutoTyper 3.0 *will not* open AutoTypers that have been converted to 3.1 or 3.2.

Here is a list of each of the controls and what they do:

**Balloon Help:** Presents a dialog that lets you edit the balloon help string for the AutoTyper’s Finder icon.

**OK, Cancel:** Save or discard your changes.

**Edit Files, Edit Folders:** Checking these boxes will enable the AutoTyper to affect files or folders, respectively. Unchecking these boxes will cause the AutoTyper to ignore files or folders, respectively. Whenever one of these boxes is checked, two configuration buttons will be available under it. They are:

**Original Conditions...:** This opens a dialog box, very similar to FileTyper’s own dialog boxes, letting you set the original conditions for the file or folder. Only files or folders that meet these conditions will be affected by your AutoTyper. Active conditions are displayed normally, while inactive conditions are grayed out. You can make a condition active or inactive by option-clicking or by clicking “Enable All” or “Disable All” just as in FileTyper’s dialog box.

For example, if you want your AutoTyper to affect only locked files of type “ttr” and ignore the rest, disable everything except the “locked” attribute and the “type” field, set the “locked” flag, and set the “type” field to “ttr”. Disabling all the flags and fields means that there are no conditions, and so all files will be affected. To ignore all files or folders, clear the “Edit Files” or “Edit Folders” check box in the main dialog.

Do not confuse disabled flags with cleared flags. Disabled flags are grayed out and are ignored by your AutoTyper when it checks to see if it should open a particular file. Cleared flags are unchecked and tell your AutoTyper to open only those files whose flag is cleared.

**Change to...:** This button brings up another dialog box very similar to FileTyper’s dialog box. Use this dialog to define what you want the files specified in “Original Conditions” changed to. Remember, to disable or re-enable a flag or field, option-click or click “Enable All” or “Disable All.” For example, to change the file type to “TEXT” and unlock the files, disable everything except for the “type” field and the “locked” flag, set the type field to “TEXT”, and clear the “locked” flag. Disabling all the flags and fields means that no changes will be made.

Again, don’t confuse a disabled flag with a cleared flag.

**Folder dropping opens...:** This controls how an AutoTyper responds to a folder drop from the Finder. You can set it to open just the folder itself, the folder and its immediate contents (those visible just inside the folder), or the folder and its full contents (all files and folders contained within the folder, even those within subfolders). The setting of this box doesn’t affect the “Open...” dialog. If you open a folder using the “Open...” menu command, just the folder is edited, regardless of the setting of this preference.

Note that the way this is handled is slightly different from 3.0, in that, when you open folder

contents, the parent folder is still opened, and, when you perform a full content search, folders as well as files are opened. To turn the folders back off, you can just disable folder editing.

For more examples on how to configure AutoTypers, you can take a look at the sample AutoTypers provided.

## Memory considerations

AutoTypers are pre-configured to use 60 kilobytes of RAM. This is enough to reliably open as many as 100 files and folders simultaneously. However, if you want to drag more than 100 files onto an AutoTyper, you should allocate more memory to FileTyper by using the Finder's "Get Info..." command.

There is an absolute upper limit on the number of items that can be opened, which I believe is 468 files and 468 folders. This has to do with the maximum size of a Pascal array. I may include a workaround in a later version.

Be careful when you have "Folder dropping opens..." set to "Folder and immediate contents" or "Folder and complete contents." Each item within each folder counts as one item, so the number of items can pile up very quickly.

## If You're Having Problems...

**AutoDoubler users:** An incompatibility with some early (buggy) versions of AutoDoubler, can prevent AutoTypers from changing types and creators. A beta tester reported this problem with AutoDoubler version 1.0.5i, and it may occur with other versions as well. Because AutoDoubler also seems to prevent ResEdit's type and creator function from working, I believe this is a bug in AutoDoubler. If this gives you problems, you'll have to expand the file before using FileTyper on it.

**Super Boomerang users:** Super Boomerang 3.0 appears to have problems with MakeAutoTyper. One user reported that version 3.0.2 causes the Save New AutoTyper As... dialog to behave strangely. Boomerang's menu doesn't show up and typing capital letters becomes difficult. This is probably a problem with Super Boomerang, not with MakeAutoTyper. Unfortunately, I haven't been able to determine a workaround yet. Hopefully, a Boomerang update will fix it.

**If drag-and-drop won't work:** Desktop files have been a problem with Apple's System software since who-knows-when. Under System 7, screwed-up desktop files can prevent MakeAutoTyper's and AutoTypers' (as well as other programs') drag-and-drop from functioning. I've found that this happens often with newly created AutoTypers.

If MakeAutoTyper your AutoTypers fail to accept drag-and-drops, try rebuilding the desktop. You can do this restarting and holding down the command and option keys until the dialog box appears. If you're an experienced mac user and you know how to force-quit the Finder, you can do so and hold down command and option while the Finder is restarting itself.

Note that because floppy disks don't use the new System 7 desktop files, drag-and-drop will not work at all if an AutoTyper (or any "drop-box" application) is on a floppy.

## Warning

MakeAutoTyper and FileTyper are "power user's" tools. They are very powerful if used wisely, but can damage your files if misused. Make changes to Finder information only if you're absolutely sure you know what you're doing. The programmer takes no responsibility for any damages caused by misuse of these utility.

## Version 3.2 Release Notes

Version 3.2 is a bug fix upgrade from version 3.1. Here is a list of changes:

- I think I've been able to fix the nasty problem that often caused drag and drop to fail on newly created AutoTypers, usually making it necessary to rebuild the desktop.

## Version History

3.0	–	3/28/92:	This was the first version of MakeAutoTyper released.
3.1	–	4/10/92:	Changed the configure dialog slightly to match changes in FileTyper 3.1's Preferences dialog; altered handling of folder contents slightly to match similar changes to FileTyper 3.1; fixed "GroupUnlock."
3.2	–	5/16/92:	Fixed bug that often caused drag and drop to fail on newly created AutoTyper, usually making it necessary to rebuild the desktop.

## Any Questions?

If you have any questions, comments, or (aaargh!) bug reports, feel free to contact me at

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Unfortunately, I have no E-mail address, so you'll have to use plain old snail mail. (Sorry)

One more thing: PLEASE do not call me at home unless you have a problem that absolutely ABSOLUTELY cannot wait.