

Apple II Technical Notes



Developer Technical Support

Apple IIGS #104: Font Manager Fundamentals

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This Technical Note discusses information and philosophy of that typographical toolset, the Font Manager.

FixFontMenu only works once per FMStartUp

You may have noticed that none of the Font Manager calls that translate font family numbers to menu item IDs (or vice-versa) require a menu ID as a parameter. That's because the Font Manager was designed with the idea that an application would only need one font menu, so it keeps one correspondence in private static storage.

This means that once someone has called `FixFontMenu`, any later `FixFontMenu` call during that Font Manager session will destroy the results of the first one, unless all the parameters are identical. The Font Manager doesn't remove the font menu items, but it does not return the correct results from `FamNum2ItemID` or `ItemID2FamNum`.

This means if you're a new desk accessory, the Font Manager can't help you create a font menu—attempting to use `FixFontMenu` will make any application font menu useless. You can use Font Manager routines such as `CountFamilies`, `FindFamily` and `GetFamInfo` to obtain all the information necessary to build your own font menu (or font choosing dialog box, for that matter—but if you create a dialog for an NDA, remember that it has to fit in 320 mode also).

Font styling requires QuickDraw Auxiliary

The Font Manager can't create fonts with outline, shadow or italic styles unless QuickDraw Auxiliary (tool set #18) is present and started. These facts are mentioned in pieces other places,

but not in one place—if you want normal Font Manager operations, you must load and start QuickDraw Auxiliary.

Further Reference

- *Apple IIGS Toolbox Reference*, Volumes 1–3