Adobe℠ Customer Services

Special Type Characters

On a Macintosh computer, there are several characters available to the user from the keyboard that are not actually part of a font's coded character set. These characters are actually part of the Symbol font and are "hard-wired" into the operating system so that they will appear on-screen from within any font. These characters, which are accessed by option key combinations, are

$\int, \partial, \Delta, \pi, \Pi, \sqrt{}, \Diamond, \Sigma, \approx, \Omega, \infty, \neq, \leq, \geq$

Although these characters will appear on-screen from any font, in Adobe Illustrator™ they will not print unless the characters have been specifically selected in the Symbol font. If you leave these characters in another font, they will print as a blank space. This is because the screen preview uses the Macintosh operating system's QuickDraw™ routines; printing utilizes PostScript™ routines. Note that the special characters will appear on-screen even if you don't have the Symbol bitmap and outline fonts installed. This is because the special characters are installed as an "invisible" font within a non-user-accessible part of the System file. For ATM™ and Adobe Illustrator to be able to rasterize these characters, you must make sure both the Symbol bitmaps and outline fonts are properly installed.

There are four other glyphs that are routinely substituted by the printer driver. Even though the characters may be in the actual font set, they will be substituted with characters from the Symbol font. These characters are

©, μ, ® ™

Adobe Illustrator and several other applications have software routines that preempt the printer driver and give the correct characters contained in the font. Be aware, however, that many other applications do not prevent the substitution, and stylistic characteristics may be different.