

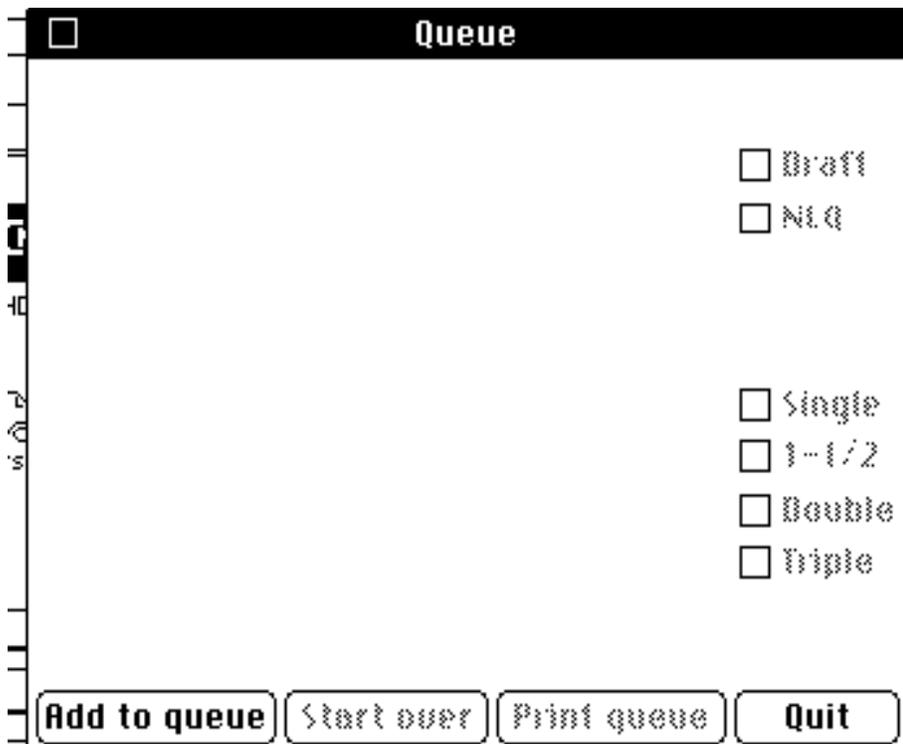
Qspool Notes

Basics

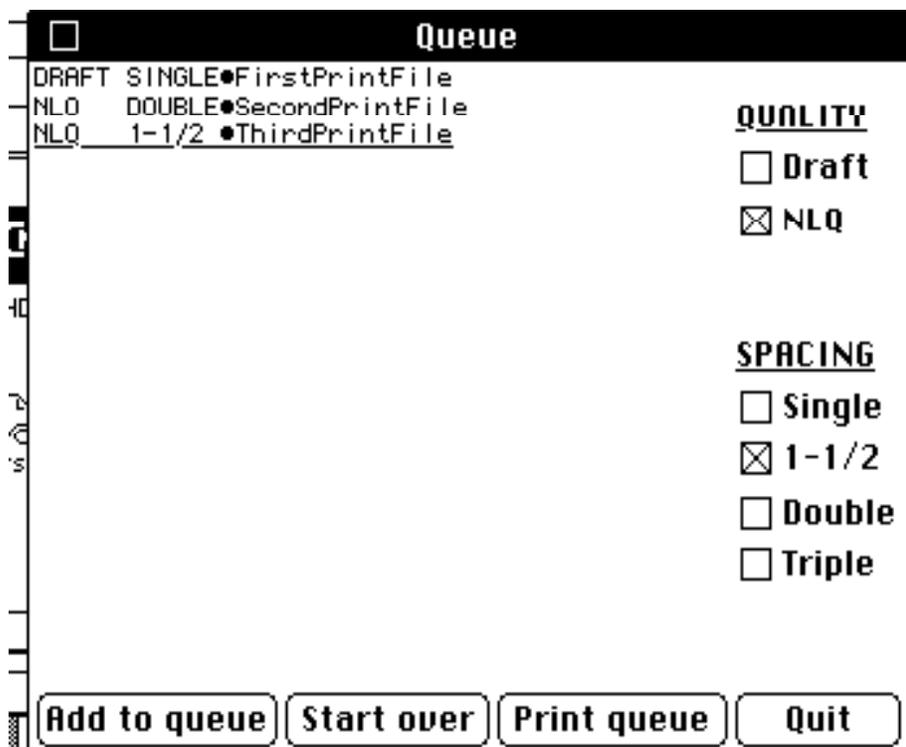
Qspool prints text files to the ImageWriter (or Seikosha SP-1000AP) using the printer's resident pica proportional font. You can spool up to 20 files in the queue. Each file can have its own specifications for print quality and spacing.

When you run Qspool with the Finder alone, it's simply a print utility application that runs faster than the ImageWriter driver because (a) it doesn't have to create graphic images of every page before it prints them, and (b) resident printer fonts are designed to be printed with a single sweep of the print head while many Mac fonts require two or more print head passes. When you run it under MultiFinder, Qspool will print in the background; i.e., you can start printing and then switch into another application. Qspool will go on running in the background, and, because it checks back frequently with MultiFinder, it won't cause your foreground application to slow down all that much. If you're using a Desk Accessory word processor (like miniWRITER) or a DA spreadsheet program, Qspool will run in the background even without MultiFinder.

At the outset, Qspool puts up this window...



To add files to the queue, you click "Add to queue" and get the usual file selection box. You'll see TEXT files only. Each time you open a file, it will be added to the queue. The queue will look something like this...



Each file in the queue is listed with the spacing and print quality you selected. The last file you selected is underlined, and Qspool first assigns single spacing and draft quality. (It defaults to the fastest way to print since it assumes that if you're using Qspool in the first place you're interested in speed.) But while a file is underlined its print specifications can be changed with the buttons on the right side of the window, and the changes will be reflected in the file's queue listing. Once you add another file, though, you can't change the specs of any previous files, but you can click Start Over to re-develop the queue or click Quit in frustration.

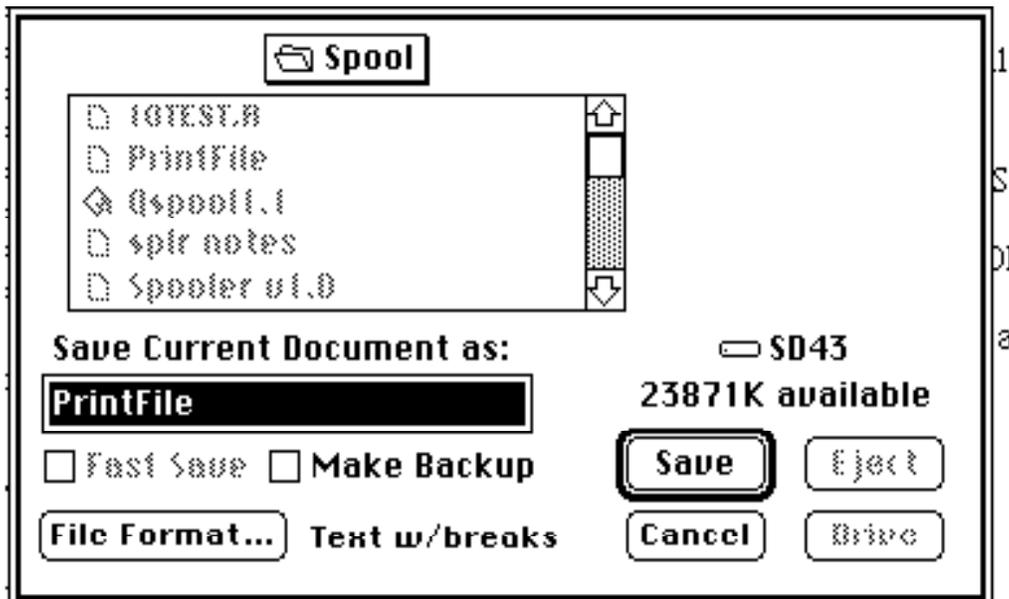
When the queue is satisfactory, click Print queue to start printing. If you're running under MultiFinder, you can then open or go back to another application and work in it while Qspool prints. Qspool displays a window that tells you what file it's currently printing and informs you that you can cancel printing by pressing ⌘-. (Type period with the Command key down). Of course, under MultiFinder ⌘-. will abort printing only when the Qspool window is active on the screen (i.e., when Qspool is the current application).

The current version of Qspool prints a boldface header with file name, date, time and page number on every page and assumes 1" margins at the top, bottom and left of each page. Single spacing gives you 6 lines per inch; you can figure the other spacings from that. Future versions may be more flexible. They may also allow for tab recognition (not implemented now), variable margins and other printer-resident fonts (elite proportional, which is slightly smaller, non-proportional pica and elite, and "extended." If you're willing to play around a little, however, you can get access to those fonts even with the current version of Qspool. You can also print selected files, paragraphs, lines, words or even individual characters underlined, italicized and emboldened. The next section explains how.

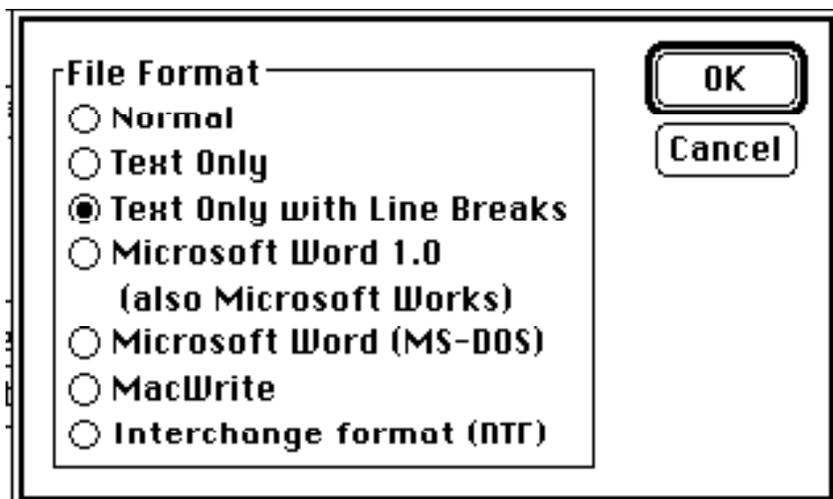
Using Qspool with a Word Processor

Qspool doesn't do automatic wrapping, which means that if any lines in your text file are longer than a print line, they'll be continued on the next line without regard to where words begin and end. However, virtually all word processors will save files in the Text-only with line breaks

mode. In Word 3.1, for example, you get this box when you choose Save As...

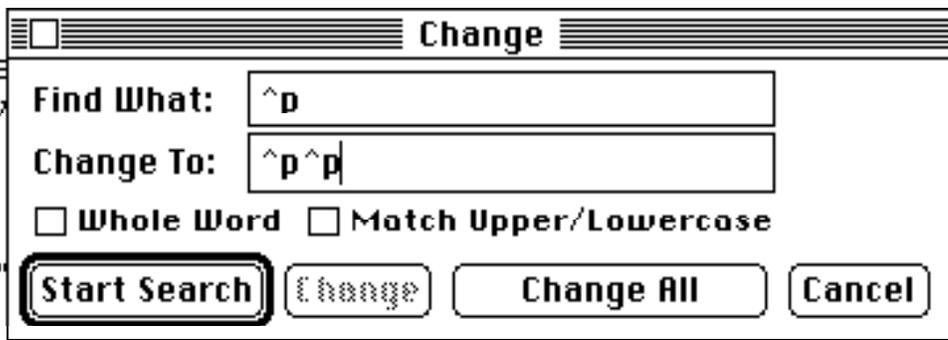


If you then click File Format you get *this* box...



Now you can select Text-only with line breaks, which causes each line on the screen to be furnished with a carriage return before it's saved to disk. As long as you print files whose records you know to be shorter than a print line, or files that you've saved in the the Text-only with line breaks mode (in a font comparable to the one you'll be printing in), the resulting printed text will be appropriately wrapped.

If you want to do a little more text formatting before you print with Qspool, you can get open spaces before every paragraph by converting all carriage returns in your original file to double carriage returns. In Word you do it in the Change box ...



However, remember to do this before you save your text in the Text-only with line breaks mode. Otherwise you'll simply get double spacing (the CR inserted after each line will be converted to two CR's).

If you also want to indent the beginnings of your paragraphs, add some spaces after the second CR (^p) in the Change To: line above.

To print a file in fonts other than pica proportional draft or NLQ you can copy the appropriate print codes from this file and paste them into your own print file before printing with Qspool. Whatever codes you insert into your text will override the ones that Qspool issues, but, since Qspool resets the printer after it prints each file, the codes won't carry over into subsequent files. That means that if you embed a "bold" code somewhere in your second file, you can't expect the third file in the queue to print in boldface.

Here are some codes you can paste into your print files. They're all either 1, 2 or 3 characters long and they're all followed by a long dash to indicate where the code ends. Don't copy the long dash, and remember: **paste** the codes, don't type them. If you type them into your print files, the results could be unpredictable. None of the codes causes printing as such. Once embedded in your print files, all they do is change the look of whatever text comes after them.

n—	"Extended" font
N—	Pica monospace font
E—	Elite monospace font
p—	Pica proportional font
P—	Elite proportional font
!—	Boldface
"—	Stop printing boldface
—	Double width
—	Stop printing double width
H—	High quality
h—	Stop printing high quality
i1—	Italic
i0—	Stop printing italic
X—	Underline
Y—	Stop underlining

If you use Word and also plan to use the codes some, you can store them in a glossary and assign them whatever monickers you like, which would make inserting them considerably

easier.

A final note on wrapping. Before you save your text in the Text-only with line breaks mode, it's a good idea to let your word processor wrap it in a way that's compatible with the printer-resident font you'll be printing in. That is, you want it to be spaced out on the screen pretty much as it will be spaced out on the printed page. I don't know of any available Mac fonts that look exactly like ImageWriter elite, much less ImageWriter "extended," but, at least in terms of spacing, the following fonts ought to do the job...

Courier 14 IS 9 CHAR/INCH, SAME AS EXTENDED
Courier 12 IS VERY CLOSE TO 10 CHAR/INCH, SAME AS PICA
Courier 10 IS 12 CHAR/INCH, SAME AS ELITE
ImageWRITER 10 IS COMPARABLE TO PICA PROPORTIONAL
Times 12 IS ALSO COMPARABLE TO PICA PROPORTIONAL
IMAGEWRITER 9 IS VERY CLOSE TO ELITE PROPORTIONAL
New York 10 IS VERY CLOSE TO ELITE PROPORTIONAL

And a closing question: does anyone out there know what the format of binary Word 3.1 files is? I'd like to be able to capture at least italics, boldface and underlines with Qspool, but I can't figure out how the data is stored. If you know the format and also have access to GENie, please leave an E-mail note for Steve.Taylor. I'd also appreciate bug reports.

As far as I know, Qspool is aseptic — free of viruses, bacteria, fungi and even protozoans. It's also free of charge.