



PopChar INIT

Version 1.0, © 1989 by Günther Blaschek

PopChar is a little startup document (also known as an INIT) that enables you to generate every possible character that is available in the current font without having to remember keyboard combinations.

Suppose, you are working with MacWrite (which you probably are when you read this document) and you would like to insert the character "◊" in your document for yome reason. Looking it up with Key Caps can become quite cumbersome, especially when the character you're looking for can only be generated by first pressing option-"n". Another simple way to quickly find the desired character would be to use the Character Map DA (written by myself for exactly this purpose).

Now, there is an even more convenient possibility to do this. Once you have PopChar installed by copying it into your System folder, all you have to do is to move the cursor to the very top left corner of the screen and press the mouse button. Do not press any modifier keys, and do not let the mouse button go too early. Depending on what type of machine you use, it may take up to one second, before anything happens. Anyway, a menu with all characters available in the current font will pop up eventually. The following screen dump shows how this menu will look like when Monaco is the current font:



Simply move the cursor over the character you want and release the mouse button. The character will get inserted in your text as if you had typed the proper key combination on the keyboard.

How does PopChars know about the current font? Well, this is the main trick and also a possible source of incompatibility with certain applications. PopChars first inspects the menu bar by looking for a checked font name. If it finds one, then this is the current font. Otherwise, the current font of the frontmost window is used. If there isn't any window, PopChars will display the Chicago font. This means that PopChar will very likely not work as expected when the application doesn't display the current font in any of its menus.

By the way: It doesn't matter whether the fonts are listed in a "regular" or in a hierarchical menu. PopChar looks through all levels of menus.

When PopChar is installed, it permanently takes up 2790 bytes of memory. To temporarily disable it, hold down the mouse button during restart. To permanently remove it, drag it out of your System folder.

PopChar is free. This means that you may use it without paying for it, and that you may give it to others without charging for it — nothing more and nothing less. If you like PopChar very much, just send me a postcard with some nice words on it. It is this sort of feedback that keeps me publishing utilities like this one for free.

If you have any comments, contact me under the following address:

Günther Blaschek

Petzoldstr. 31

A-4020 Linz

Austria / Europe

or send me a message to

BITNET: <K331671@AEARN>