

Kalk

Uma calculadora RPN de quatro operações
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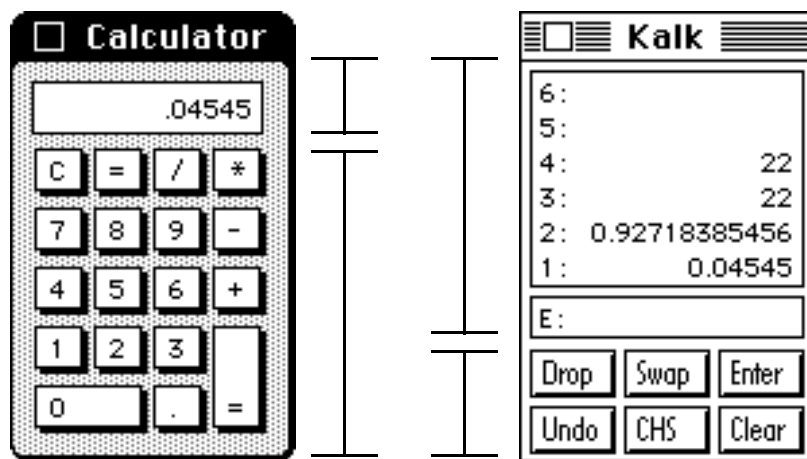
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What is Kalk

Kalk is a simple RPN calculator, with a 20-level stack, that knows the four basic operations plus some trig and log functions.

Design Goals

There are lots of desktop calculators out there. Why one more? I made this one for my own personal use, because I wanted a RPN calculator, but not that huge monsters I've seen around, almost complete implementations of scientific HP machines. Those were great calculators, but they fill almost the whole screen with tens of buttons and switches. At the end of one week I usually was back to the classic Apple calc, because it's small, fast, doesn't create auxiliary files on the disk, and doesn't have big manuals. So, the first goal on Kalk design was to make its window the same size of Apple's. Then remove all digit buttons from the panel, making area for more information (six of the 20 levels of the stack are shown). The only buttons remaining are those used everytime and those that are hard to remember without a label. Digits are entered via keyboard, and the special functions are grouped on the "Kalk" menu.



Apple Calculator versus Kalk

Using Kalk

Using Kalk is very like doing simple math on a 28- or 48-series HP calculator. As for the Apple calc, the numeric keypad of your keyboard (hope you have one) is the best choice. When you type digits, the Edit Line (E:) is turned on. You can use it like any Macintosh text field, using arrows, selecting, deleting, copying, cutting, pasting, etc. When you press Enter the Edit Line is turned off and its contents are pushed into the stack. As with HP calculators, you don't need to press Enter all the times; if you use an operator in edit mode, Enter is pressed automatically for you.

Operation (Keyboard Shortcuts and Hidden Features)

- +, -, /, *: the basic four operators are used directly from the keyboard
- Enter: you can press Return, or Enter on the keyboard
- Swap: you can use the = key
- Drop: you can use Option-= or Delete (Delete only works as Drop if the edit line is empty)
- CHS: you can use Option-<minus>
- Clear: you can use the Clear key, or Esc, or "Clear" on the "Edit" menu
- π : you can enter an approximation of π by pressing p, P, π , or []. This may be useful for trig calculations, since *sin* and *cos* on the Kalk menu are performed with degrees (not rads).

- "Edit First Line" (Command-E) puts the first line of the stack into the edit line.
- If you press Enter with an empty edit line, the current first level is duplicated (Dup).
- Copy and Cut puts the contents of the first level only into the clipboard.
- Paste is quite different. It actually "plays" any text that's in the clipboard through the same general input procedure, just as if it was being typed. You can copy a list of values (separated by "returns") from a text editor or spreadsheet and paste into Kalk: the values will be entered into the edit line, and the "returns" will be interpreted as Enters, filling the stack automatically. Bad digits (not valid numbers) will be filtered out, the same way they are when you type. If there are Kalk special characters in clipboard text (+, -, /, *, π , \neq , =, option-<minus>) they will be interpreted also, making Kalk minimally "programmable" in RPN form.
- Kalk remembers the stack and window position after Quit, unless you lock the application file.

Kalk is free. Please drop a note to say something about it, including bugs and suggestions.

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