

This document briefly describes ItemMaster from a lowly apprentice production. As a demonstration version, it is exactly like the production version. However, note that while loaded, any demonstration XTension[®] alters QuarkXPress[®] such that saved documents cannot be opened by normal versions of QuarkXPress, and all printed pages include a QuarkXPress Demo banner.

What is Item Master?

Item Master offers powerful control over the appearance and position of any or all QuarkXPress items and their contents. You can save item dimensions, positions, and other attributes in Item Styles and apply those styles to picture boxes, text boxes, and lines, in much the same manner that QuarkXPress style sheets are applied to text.

The following bullets should give you a better picture of how item styles compare to style sheets. Of course, if you don't have a grip on style sheets, this may not help much.

Similar in manner to standard QuarkXPress text style sheets:

- Changes made to item styles are reflected dynamically in every styled item throughout a document.

- Item styles can be appended between documents to guarantee consistency among the files of a project.

- Item styles can be based on existing item styles. If an existing item style is altered, all item styles based on that style will have their inherited properties altered as well.

- When you copy an item from one document to another, the associated item style will be appended to the document into which you paste it.

Unlike text style sheets:

- Items can be styled by dragging a style swatch from the Item Styles palette over the element to be styled.

- If no item is active, you can create a new item by dragging an item style name from the Item Styles palette.

- You can apply the same item style to different types of items and each will be styled with the appropriate set of properties. For example, an item style applied to a picture box might yield different results

when applied to a line. You can apply an item style to multiple elements simultaneously and the proper property stylings for each type of element selected will be applied automatically.

- Any attributes of an item can be selectively applied or ignored. For example, an item style might specify only the color of an item and not affect any other properties.

- Item Master lets you predefine polygon shapes and add them to a document via a new tool in the QuarkXPress tool palette. Polygon shapes from the list can be incorporated into item styles.

- Using Item Master, the design or look of an entire project can be defined as a set of item styles and appended to new or existing documents. With Item Master, easy editable control of your document's appearance is assured. You'll soon find it to be an indispensable part of your QuarkXPress publishing environment.

Creating and Applying a Basic Item Style

The following steps will guide you through the process of creating and applying an item style. Note that not all controls will be covered in this exercise.

1. To begin creating an item style, choose **Edit > Items**.

2. In the Item Styles dialog box, click **New**.

The Edit Item Style dialog box lets you specify all possible item attributes for the style. For this exercise, the style we are going to create will modify only the color and frame attributes of a QuarkXPress box.

3. In the Name field, enter a name for the style.

4. De-select the following attributes: **Line, Picture Content, Text Content, and Runaround**, as illustrated at left.

By de-selecting these attributes, you are creating a style that does not specify the attributes. You will notice that the display area now contains fewer properties for this style. As illustrated below.

5. To set box properties, click **Box**. De-select all attributes except **Color, Shade and Blend**. (The style will affect no attributes except the ones selected.) Enter the settings shown below.

6. Click OK to close the Box Style dialog box, save these settings, and return to Edit Item Style.

7. To set frame properties, click Frame. Enter the settings shown below.

8. Click OK to save the frame settings and return to Edit Item Style. The display area should now reflect your changes made to Box and Frame properties as illustrated below.

9. Click OK in the Edit Item Style dialog box then click Save in the Item Styles dialog box to save all changes to the style.

Applying the New Style

1. If it is not already displayed, choose View > Show Item Styles to display the Item Styles palette.
2. Create or select a text or picture box in your document.
3. With the Style tab selected in the Item Styles palette (click on it to bring it forward if it isn't already), select the style you created, Red Box-Blue Frame.

The selected box is modified to contain a background color of 100% Red with a 4 point frame colored 100% Blue.

The box is now tagged with the new item style just like a paragraph would be tagged with a style sheet. Subsequent changes you make to the item style will be reflected in the item.

Compatibility

ItemMaster is compatible with QuarkXPress version 3.31 or later. ItemMaster has also been optimized for the Power Macintosh, to take advantage of this enhancement you must also be running the Power Macintosh version of QuarkXPress.

For More Information

To obtain more information about ItemMaster, or to purchase a copy, please contact:

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