

# **METRIC CONVERTER**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Metric Converter, Metcnvrt, handles fourteen popular conversions between customary and metric (SI) systems. Metcnvrt also converts customary to customary and metric to metric.

## **USING METRIC CONVERTER**

Metcnvrt simplifies conversions by offering the user both a set of "From" units menus and a set of "To" units menus implemented as radio buttons. The user enters a value in Metcnvrt's "From" window using either the keyboard or the clipboard. To convert the value, the user simply selects one radio button from either of the "From" boxes and one radio button from either of the "To" boxes. The "From" window value can be entered in either floating point or scientific notation. Metcnvrt figures out the format from the value entered.

The user triggers a conversion by any of the following:

- 1) typing the Enter key after typing the "From" value,
- 2) clicking on the Convert button,
- 3) selecting any radio button, or
- 4) typing a 'c', 'C', or '^C'.

## **QUANTITIES MENU**

Metcnvrt's Quantities menu lists fourteen different quantities. By selecting a quantity, the user causes Metcnvrt to display radio button menus for both the customary and metric units of that quantity.

## **OPTIONS MENU**

The Options menu allows the user to display the output conversion in any of three formats: floating point, scientific notation, or general. General format implies that the program will select the format which is more compact for the number of digits and precision.

The Options menu also allows the user to select the "To" and "From" system(s) for the conversion. When a system is checked, that system's group of radio buttons is displayed on the main window.

The "Save" menu entry under the "Options" menu writes to the WIN.INI file:

- 1) the quantity selected,
- 2) the system(s) selected,
- 3) the format type selected.

## **CALCULATOR MENU ITEM**

The Calculator menu item spawns a windows calculator. The user may specify the calculator program by creating a [metcnvrt] section within the WIN.INI file and adding a string similar to CALC=CALC.EXE. The default calculator is, of course, CALC.EXE.

## **ACCURACY**

When either Scientific or General format is selected, Metcnvrt displays converted values to nine significant digits. When Floating Point format is selected, Metcnvrt displays converted values to nine decimal places.

Internally, most Metcnvrt conversion table factors are accurate to ten significant digits. Some notable exceptions are listed below.

## **SPECIAL DEFINITIONS AND FACTORS**

Metcnvrt uses the following special conversion factors:

petrol barrel = 42 U.S. gallons (not the std. barrel)  
year = 365.25 days (averaged to five places)

## **KEYBOARD OPERATION**

The tab key may be used to skip among the "From" window, the units buttons area, and the Convert button. Once in the units buttons area, the arrow keys can be used to move among the buttons.

## **CLIPBOARD**

The "Copy To Value" menu item copies the contents of the "To" window to the clipboard. The "Paste From Value" menu item copies the clipboard contents to the "From Window." The "Clear From Value" clears both the "From" window and the "To" window.

When pasting a number in scientific notation, be sure that the calculator (or other destination) is in a mode which accepts scientific notation.

## **WINDOWS RELEASES SUPPORTED**

Metric Converter runs under Windows 2.03, 2.1X, and 3.0 in real, standard, and 386 enhanced modes.

## **LEGAL**

The author has taken pains to verify that Metcnvrt agrees with values shown in standard conversion tables. However, the author accepts no liability for lost profits, etc. due to use of Metcnvrt. Metcnvrt's users take all responsibility for its use.

## **TRADEMARKS**

386 -- Intel Corp.  
Windows -- Microsoft Corp.

## **DISTRIBUTION**

Please don't hesitate to distribute Metcnvrt to anyone who can use it.

**THE PITCH**

If you find Metcnvrt useful, please send a contribution of \$7.00 to:

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157 Chartwell Rd.  
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