



user manual

version 3.2x for Linux

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CR8 Software Solutions

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The art of Typeface design has been around for centuries, and many of the fonts in use today were first designed hundreds of years ago (Garamond typeface, for example was created in the 1500's by a gentleman by the name of Claude Garamond). Back then fonts were cut into steel - today you have the convenience and ease of modern computer software.

Type light 3.2 is a basic, freeware font editor, that has been designed to make it easy for a beginner to get started in the process of making and editing fonts.

Type 3.2 full version includes a full range of drawing tools, integrates an autotracing feature, vector image import, and advanced options: kerning, automated action scripts, hinting and OpenType features. Type 3.2 full version will be available for Linux around mid 2013.

This manual is intended to be an instruction manual for Type light 3.2 rather than a tutorial or introduction to font design. If you are new to making fonts then it is recommended that you read Appendix II & III of this manual first, and also check out the links below.

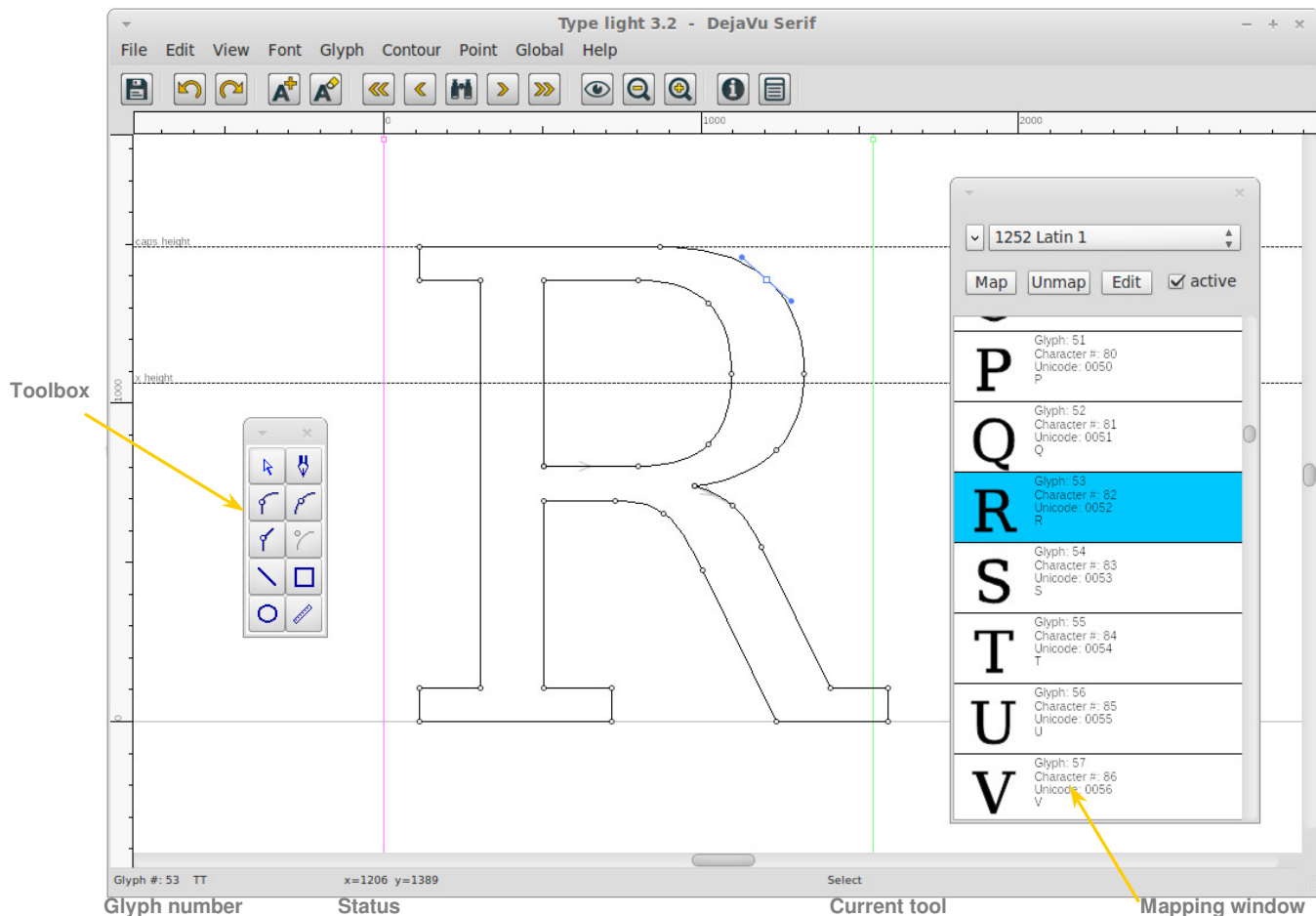
For more information:

Visit **<http://cr8software.net/truetype.html>** for tutorials, articles and links about making fonts (general as well as specialised Type 3.2 articles).

There is a public discussion forum here: **<http://cr8.proboards.com>** where you can post questions or suggestions, or just to see if someone has already asked your question.

For free support post your private query here: **<http://cr8software.net/support.html>** or send an email to: **support@cr8software.net**.

Navigation



Navigate around the edit window (main display area), by using the **scroll bars** or by **right clicking** on a clear area to grab and drag the window.



Zoom in and out, using the **magnify** and **reduce buttons**, the **+** key and **-** key, or the mouse scroll wheel.



The magenta (p1) and green (p2) vertical lines mark the width of the glyph (see Appendix II). Move these by dragging at the top of each line, or select **glyph metrics** from the **glyph menu**.

The dashed horizontal lines are: **ascent**, **descent**, **caps-height** and **x-height**. Anything that is not between the ascent and descent line will be 'clipped'. The values of these parameters can be set using **metrics** from the **font menu** (WinAscent, WinDescent, Caps height and x-height). Do not confuse ascent and descent with typographic ascender and descender mentioned in Appendix II).

Getting Started

Creating a New Font

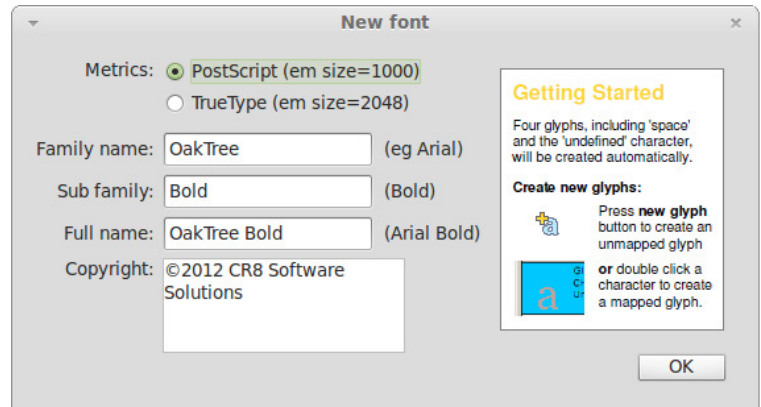
Select **new** from the **file menu**. You will be prompted for the names of your new font. All fields are required. These are:

Family name: Arial for example

Sub family: Regular, Bold, Italic etc.

Full name: Family name + Sub family (eg Arial Bold). For a Regular font, just put the Family name (Arial)

Copyright: Your copyright details.



The first four glyphs will be automatically created and mapped (see Appendix II for more details). The first glyph always represents the **undefined** character – normally an empty box-like symbol. You can edit the symbol, but you cannot map this glyph to anything (mapping to the undefined character is equivalent to unmapping).

The next two glyphs are mapped to certain **control characters**, and the last is mapped to the **space** character. This glyph must be left blank, but you can change its width to match the spacing of your font.

Press the **new glyph button** to start creating a new font.



or

Double click on one of the characters in the **mapping window** and say **yes** to the prompt – a new glyph mapped to that character will be created.

You may now proceed to create glyphs using the range of tools available in the **toolbox**.

Common Issues

The following are a list of tips to help you avoid some common issues that can occur when creating or editing fonts.

- Fonts can be installed (for all users) in Linux by placing them in the **/usr/share/fonts** directory, then enter **sudo fc-cache -f** to update the font cache.
- Fonts can be installed (for the current user only) by placing them in the **~/.fonts** directory, then enter **sudo fc-cache -f** to update the font cache.
- Don't load or save font files directly into or from the above directories using Type light. Copy them to a different location for editing.
- If you are editing a font but do not want to replace it, then you will need to give the new font a different font **family name** and a different **file name** before installing the new font.
- Make frequent backups (always good practice) of your font files during the font development process.
- When a font does not work as expected, it is often a **naming** (conflicting font names) or **encoding** (make sure codepage Latin 1252 is active) issue.
- You should only have up to four different fonts that have the same font **family name** –regular, bold, italic and bold italic.
- If you change the name of a font, make sure that you change the advanced names also. Some programs will use advanced names (eg unique font name) to distinguish fonts, so they need to be unique. It is best to use the **rename font** function to do this automatically.
- If you change the name of a font, make sure that you change the names for Macintosh (Roman) (otherwise the font may not work if installed on an Apple Mac) and for other active languages. (The **rename font** function allows you to do this automatically).
- Avoid creating glyphs with overlapping contours. The glyph will display correctly on a TrueType (.ttf) font (but is not recommended) but will have a white space in the overlapping region on a PostScript (.otf) font.
- When creating glyphs where one contour is enclosed by another (eg. the inner and outer contours of an 'o'), the inner contour must be in the opposite direction (clockwise or anticlockwise) to the outer contour (see appendix II).

Definitions

Glyph – Glyphs are the shapes and symbols that you design. They normally represent characters or components of characters. A font contains a list of glyphs indexed by a glyph ID. They can be in an arbitrary order, but creating them in character set order is normal practice, and has some advantages.

Character – Characters are the basic symbols that are used to represent a language. The letter A is a character in the Latin Alphabet for example.

Mapping – Mapping is the process of connecting glyphs to characters. Glyph ID #36 may be assigned to represent the letter A character in a certain font for example. A single glyph can be mapped to more than one character, and (using OpenType features) several glyphs can also be used to represent the same character.

Unicode characters – Unicode is an international character encoding system that assigns a code to every character for most of the world's language systems. A **Unicode script** is a range containing related characters. For example the Basic Latin script is the unicode range 0000 to 007F.

Character set – A Character set is the group of characters used to represent a particular language. Single byte character sets (**Code pages**) can contain up to 256 characters. The characters can represent different languages depending on the encoding used. Fonts can contain more than one Code page, which can be selected from the font selection menu on most programs. (Western = Latin 1252) .

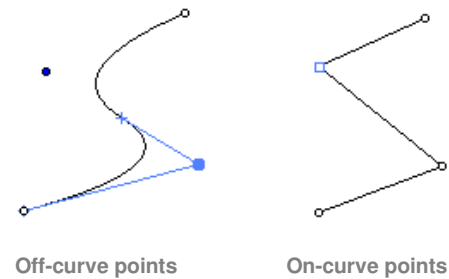
TrueType Points View

Select **TT points** from the **view menu**. This is the native TrueType format and can only be used with TrueType curves (see Appendix III). A TrueType font stores glyphs as a series of contours made of points – either off-curve (dark blue dot/light blue dot when selected) or on-curve (white circle/light blue square when selected).

The gray arrow between point one and point two on each contour indicates the contour direction (see Appendix II regarding correct contour direction).

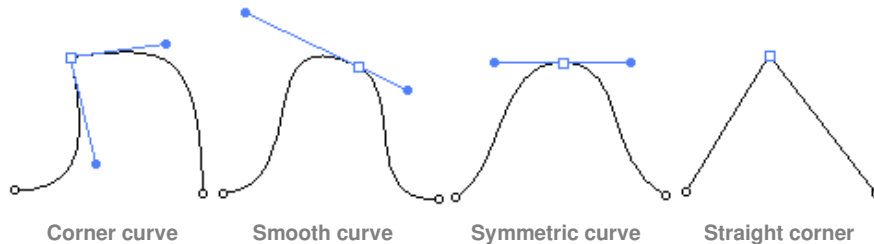
Point one must always be an on-curve point.

Using on-curve and off-curve points is the correct representation of a TrueType glyph, but it is not necessarily the easiest way to design glyphs.



Nodes View

Select **nodes** from the **view menu**. Another way to represent a glyph is by using nodes (white circle/light blue square when selected) which are always on-curve, and control points (light blue dot) which are always off-curve. The light blue line between the control point and the node is at tangent to the curve. Move the position of the control points to change the shape of the curve.*



Corner curves have control points that can be moved independantly (unlinked). Smooth and symmetric curves have linked contol points that are always in line with the node. Straight lines do not have any control points.

Use the point menu (or right click) to change the type of curve.

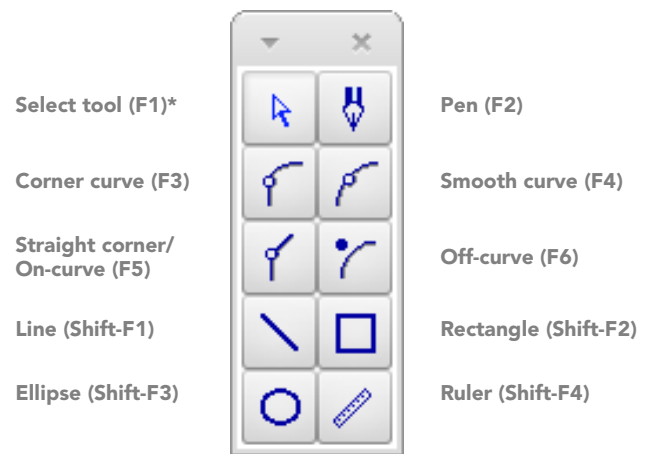
* Other font editors only allow this type of editing with PostScript curves – Type light 3.2 also allows you to edit TrueType curves in this manner, but limits are imposed to restrict the outline to a TrueType curve. **Because of these limits, the controls may not behave as you may expect when editing TrueType curves in this mode - nodes other than the one you are moving, may also move, for example.**

The Toolbox

The **toolbox** contains the tools that you will need for creating and drawing glyphs.

Using different tools, you can move points and contours, draw and manipulate lines and curves, create shapes, and measure distances.

*The keyboard shortcut keys for the Toolbox are the function keys F1-F6.



The Select Tool

You can use the **select tool** to highlight and move points around.

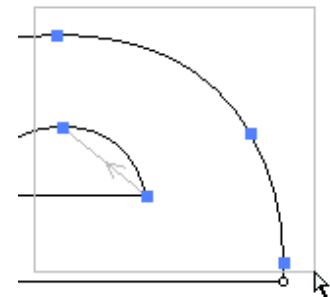
Drag a rectangle over points or nodes to select multiple points. Pressing **shift** at the same time allows you to select more points, either by drawing another rectangle, or by clicking on individual points. Pressing **ctrl** at the same time as selecting points will select the entire contour.

Multiple point selection allows you to move many points (move one of the selected squares to move all of them, or use the cursor keys), perform transformations (see below) and allows other contour operations using the **contour menu**.

Selecting a point by clicking on it allows you to move a single point, and gives you access to the options on the **points menu** – either from the main menu or by clicking the right mouse button.

If you are in **nodes view mode** then when you select a node, the control points belonging to that node will be displayed. The control points (light blue dots) control the curve - click and drag them to alter the shape of the curve. Control points can be removed by dragging them into the node, and then releasing the mouse button (PostScript curves only). Clicking on a node while pressing **shift** allows a new control point to be dragged out of the node (PostScript curves only).

When editing a glyph with TrueType curves, moving a control point may also affect neighboring nodes. PostScript curves do not have this limitation.



The Pen Tool

The **pen tool** will draw smooth curves. Left mouse click to add a node, and drag the mouse before you release the button to extend the control points. The curves will be symmetric about the node. If the **shift** key is pressed then the control points will no longer be linked, and you will be able to form smooth or corner curves.

If you are editing a glyph with TrueType curves, then when you release the button the curve will convert to a TrueType curve (with additional nodes).

The Node and Points Tools

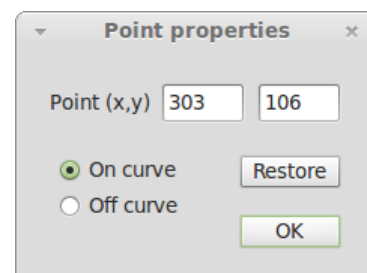
These four tools work as follows:

- If no point or node is currently selected, clicking will start a new contour.
- If the last point or node on a contour is selected, then clicking will add a node or point to the current contour.
- Clicking on the first point or node of a contour will close the contour.
- If the mouse pointer is over a curve or line, then **[line]** will appear in the status bar indicating that clicking will insert a new point or node in the middle of the contour.

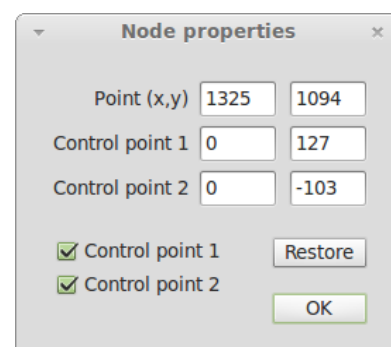
The **corner tool** and **curve tool** allow you to adjust the degree of curve. If you move the mouse before you release the button, you can change the position of the control points.

The **off-curve tool** functions only when editing a glyph with TrueType curves.

Points and nodes can be precisely positioned by using **properties** from the **points menu** (or right click, **properties**).



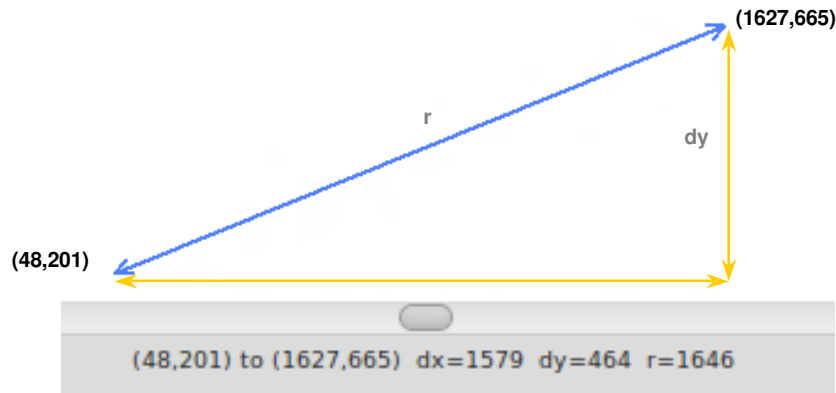
A dialog box titled "Point properties" with a close button (x) in the top right corner. It contains two input fields for "Point (x,y)" with values 303 and 106. Below these are two radio buttons: "On curve" (selected) and "Off curve". To the right of the radio buttons is a "Restore" button. At the bottom right is an "OK" button.



A dialog box titled "Node properties" with a close button (x) in the top right corner. It contains three rows of input fields: "Point (x,y)" with values 1325 and 1094, "Control point 1" with values 0 and 127, and "Control point 2" with values 0 and -103. Below these are two checked checkboxes: "Control point 1" and "Control point 2". To the right of the checkboxes is a "Restore" button. At the bottom right is an "OK" button.

The Ruler

The **ruler tool** can be used to measure distances. Click at the start position (or node) and drag to the end position (or node). Various measurements will appear in the status bar:



The Mapping Window

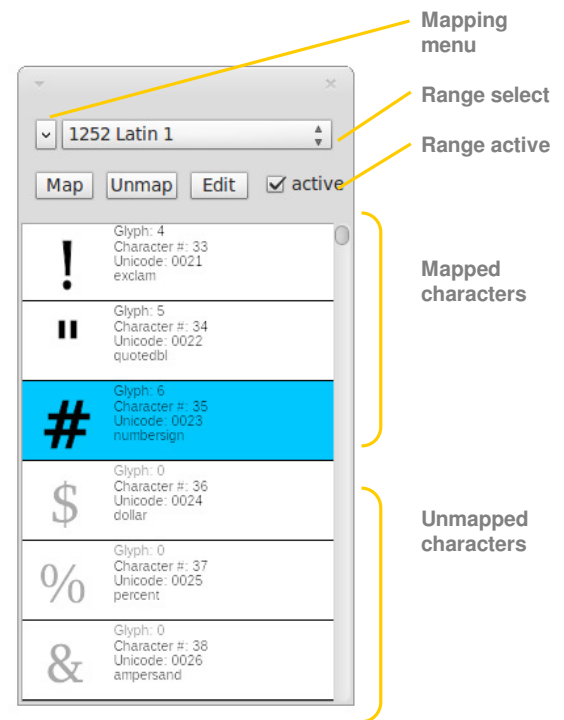
Mapping Window Modes

The **mapping window mode** toolbar button will sequence through the different modes available. You can also change the mapping mode from the **mapping menu**. The modes available are:



- 1 - Code Pages (character sets)
- 2 - Unicode Scripts (a range of unicode values)
- 3 - Glyph List (all mapped and unmapped glyphs)

Use **range select** to select which characters are displayed, and the **range active box** to indicate which ranges are used in your font. To make a Western character set font, for example, select the **1252 Latin 1 page range**, and map glyphs to these characters, then check the **range active box**.



Mapping Glyphs

Modes 1 and 2 allow glyphs to be mapped to unicode characters (uni0000 to uniFFFF). If the **new glyph button** was used to create the glyph, then it will need to be mapped:

To map the current glyph (the glyph in the edit window) to a character, select the character in the mapping window (it will become highlighted blue), then press the **map button**. A single glyph is normally mapped to a single character, but may be mapped to multiple characters.

Multiple glyphs can be mapped to multiple characters in one operation. Select the first character to be mapped, then, while pressing **shift** or **ctrl**, select the last character. The whole range of characters will be highlighted blue. If, for example, glyph #10 is the current glyph, then it will be mapped to the first character, glyph #11 will be mapped to the second character, etc, when the map button is pressed.

Modes 3 (glyph list) allow glyphs to be mapped to all unicode characters, including characters in the supplementary planes (uni10000 to uni10FFFF). Select a glyph or range of glyphs in the mapping window, then press the **map button**. A prompt will appear. Enter the unicode code point (in hexadecimal format) that you want to map the glyph (or first glyph in the range) to.

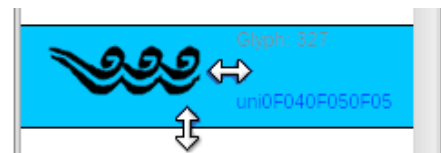
Mapping Menu - Bookmarks

From the **mapping menu** you can add, select or remove **bookmarks**. A bookmark will allow you to return to your current location in a script, codepage or glyph list. To remove a bookmark, select the bookmark from the **mapping menu**, then select **remove bookmark**.

Resizing

Some glyphs (composite glyphs or glyphs of some non latin alphabets) may not fit into the default row size of the mapping window. To resize the rows:

- 1 - Make sure **enable row resizing** is checked in **preferences**.
- 2 - Select a row in the mapping window (highlighted blue).
- 3 - Widen the character space by clicking and dragging where the text margin is located.
- 4 - Increase the height of the character spacing by dragging the base of the highlighted cell.



Symbol Fonts

A **symbol font** is a special type of font normally containing pictorial type glyphs. Symbol font glyphs are mapped to unicode F020 to F0FF (corresponding to ASCII characters 20 to FF). To create a symbol font, map glyphs to the characters in the **Symbol Character Set** Code Page and set to **active**. NOTE: Setting the Symbol Character Set to active will override any other active Code Pages, and only characters F020 - F0FF will be mapped in the output font.

Font Parameters

An OpenType font contains a whole lot of information – names, font descriptions, parameters and metrics specific to your font. Type light 3.2 allows you to set and change most of these.

If you are new to font design, and are creating a basic font, then you can keep the default values and use the automatic settings. See Appendix II for a better understanding of various parameters.

Names

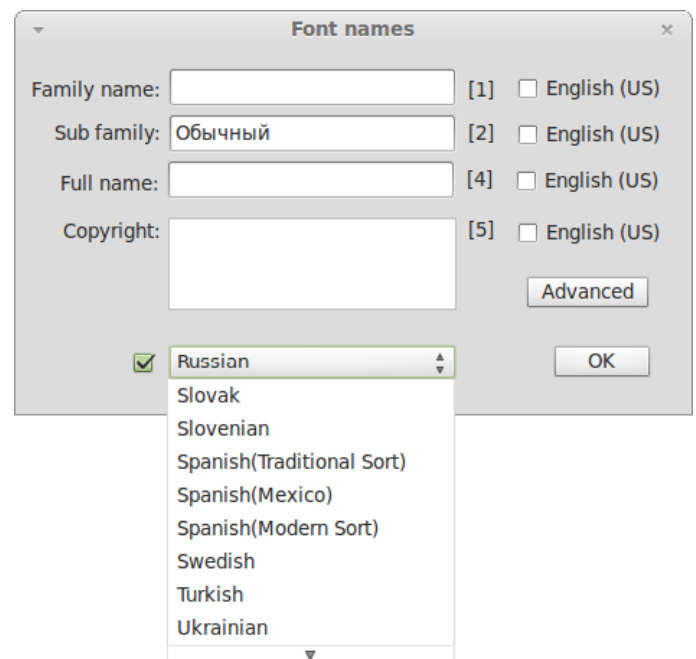
When you create a new font, you are prompted for certain name information. This information is for the default language – English (US). Your font can contain name information for other languages too. Use the **names** from the **font menu** to add more entries to the names table.

Select the language at the bottom of the window and check the box to the left to make the language active. Blank fields will not be listed in the names table . If a English (US) box is checked, then the English (US) string will be duplicated in that names table listing.

The **advanced button** allows you to enter various other names. The most important ones are: **Unique ID [3]** and **PostScript name [6]**. If you change the name of your font then you must change these also – or blank them out. If these fields are invalid or blank, then Type light 3.2 will generate valid names when you save the font.

For an ordinary Latin font, name information would normally only entered for **English (US)** and **Macintosh (Roman)** languages (these two must always be present).*

Name strings support unicode, so you can paste unicode characters into the naming window input boxes.



* Most non Latin fonts actually only have enteries for English (US) and Macintosh (Roman).

Font Metrics

Use **metrics** from the **font menu** to set your font's metrics. These parameters are certain measurements specific to your font. Some of these are self explanatory like **underline thickness** and **italic angle**. The most important ones to understand are:

EM Unit size:	Usually set to 2048 (TrueType or OpenType TT), or 1000 (OpenType PS). This is used to calculate the point size when the font is displayed.
WinAscent:	top (anything above this may be clipped)
WinDescent:	bottom (anything below this may be clipped)
Caps height:	uppercase character height
'x' height:	lowercase character height (height of a lowercase 'x')

If you have checked the option **show horizontal markers** (using **parameters** from the **view menu**) then the last four parameters above will be visible in the main edit window as horizontal lines.

Font Description

Use **description** from the **font menu** to set the parameters that describe the font: weight, width, version number, italic, bold and mono-spaced. If you set the font to **Mono-spaced** then the advance width of all glyphs (except glyph number 1 - which must have an advanced width of zero), will be constant. Advanced description parameters can only be altered using Type 3.2 full version*.

* Type 3.2 full version expected to be available for Linux around mid 2013.

A composite glyph has no contours or points of its own, but is made up of other glyphs. Creating a composite glyph is as simple as copying the component glyphs into a blank glyph. The composite is displayed as a blue outline, and although you can move and transform the components (as if you were manipulating contours) you cannot move individual points unless you first **decompose** the glyph by selecting **decompose** from the **glyph** menu.

Glyphs can be stored as composites in a **TrueType font (.ttf)**, but when saving an **OpenType PostScript font (.otf)** the glyphs will be not stored as composites – when you open the font again, they will be decomposed. (Save a copy as a **.gfs file** if you want to alter the glyphs as composites at a later time).

Copy and Paste Functions

Contours and whole glyphs can be copied and pasted between glyphs:

- Use **copy glyph** from the **edit menu** to copy the current glyph to the clipboard.
- Use right click (or CTRL + left click) and **copy glyph** from the **mapping window** (glyph list mode only) to copy the selected glyph to the clipboard.
- Use **copy** from the **edit menu** to copy only the selected points to the clipboard.
- When the destination glyph is in the Glyph Window, use **paste** from the **edit menu**.
- To create a composite glyph, first make sure that **paste to create composite glyphs** is enabled in **preferences**, then paste to a blank glyph. Paste to an existing composite glyph to add another component glyph.
- The **paste metrics** option from the **edit menu** pastes only the Left Side Bearing and Advance Width from the clipboard.

When a font is displayed at a small point size on a low resolution device (eg a screen), several distortions can occur. This happens because there are not enough pixels to accurately represent the rasterized font. Adjustments (called hints) can improve the appearance of the font at low resolutions.

Hints can either be global (apply to all glyphs within the font) or can apply to individual glyphs.

You can use Type light 3.2 to specify **gasp hinting** only. Type 3.2 full version[†] also supports **global hinting** of **PostScript** fonts, which can be auto hinted using Adobe's free font development kit[#].

Gasp (Grayscale) Hinting

Gasp hinting allows you to specify the rasterization technique for a TrueType font when it is rendered on grayscale-capable devices at different sizes.

A typical Gasp table could be:

Font size [^]	Rasterization technique
ppem<=8	grayscale only *
9<=ppem<=19	gridfit only **
20<=ppem	gridfit and grayscale

Select **gasp hinting** from the **font** menu. Enter 8 in the **max ppem** box, select grayscale in the **smoothing selection**, then press **add**. Enter 19 in the **max ppem** box, select gridfit in the **smoothing selection**, then press **add**. Enter 65535 in the **max ppem** box, select grayscale & gridfit in the **smoothing selection**, then press **add** (always enter 65535 as the max ppem for the last entry).

[†]Type 3.2 full version to be available for Linux around mid 2013.

[#] AFDKO is currently only available for Windows and OS X.

[^] ppem = pixels per em. Em for a 72 point font is 1 inch (1pt = 1/72th inch).

So a 72pt font rendered on a 96 dpi (dots per inch) monitor is 96 ppem.

(So it follows that 8 ppem would be 6pt on a 96 dpi monitor).

* Note for your computer must also have font smoothing activated for grayscale rendering.

** Gridfit means use TrueType hinting instructions (they must be present in the font).

OpenType Tables

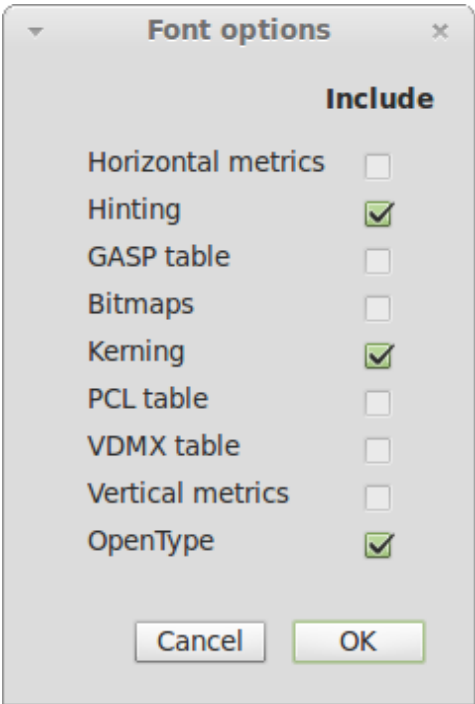
Type light 3.2 creates TrueType and OpenType TT fonts (.ttf) with these tables:

OS/2	cmap	glyf	head
hhea	hmtx	loca	map
name	post		

OpenType PS fonts (.otf) will have the above tables, but the **CFF** table replaces the **glyf** table.

When editing a font, the following tables can be included if present in the original file, or, in the case of the Gasp table, if it has been created by the user:

prep	}	If 'Hinting' retained^.
cvt		
LTSH		
fpgm		
EBDT	}	If 'Bitmaps' retained.
EBLC		
EBSC		
vhea	}	If 'Vertical metrics' retained.
vmtx		
hdmx*	}	Select individually.
kern		
gasp		
PCLT**		
VDMX		
BASE	}	If 'OpenType' retained***.
GDEF		
GPOS		
GSUB		
JSTF		



^ These tables for TT fonts only. For PS fonts the hinting option will control glyph level hinting only.

* If you have edited any glyphs, then the **hdmx** (horizontal metrics) table may no longer be accurate – it is then recommended that you do not retain it.

** If you have changed the font's description, then the **PCLT** table may no longer be accurate - it is then recommended that you do not retain it. The **PCLT** table is strongly discouraged for use with OpenType fonts.

*** Fonts saved as OpenType will also be given an empty **DSIG** table. This is to give the font the OpenType icon on Windows XP. The original digital signature (if any) will not be retained, as it is no longer valid for an edited font.

A Bit of History

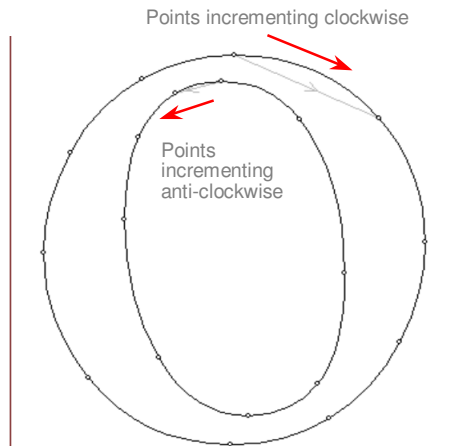
TrueType was originally developed by Apple in the late 80's, after Apple & Microsoft rejected a proposal by Adobe to use Adobe Type 1 (PostScript) fonts for their operating systems. Through a deal with Apple, TrueType was adopted by Microsoft in 1992, for their Windows 3.1 operating system.

Adobe joined forces with Microsoft in 1996 to combine their technologies and produce OpenType, which supports both TrueType and PostScript formats. Adobe finished converting its entire font library to OpenType (PostScript) fonts in 2002 with the intention that Adobe Type 1 fonts (see Appendix III) eventually be phased out.

Glyphs (TrueType)

The outlines of a TrueType glyph are defined by contours. Contours are defined by points.

Points of a contour are either on-curve (defining straight lines) or off-curve (defining a type of curve called a quadratic spline). The first point on a contour (point zero) must always be an on-curve point. See Appendix III for more details.



The filled-in area of a TrueType glyph is always on the right-hand side of the contour. So, for the letter 'o' here, the points forming the outside contour will increment clockwise, and the points forming the inner contour will increment anti-clockwise.

(Note that technically PostScript curves should be in the opposite direction - with the outside contour counterclockwise.)

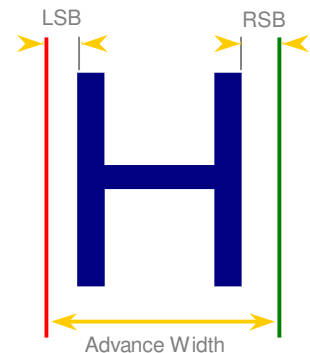
The extremes of a glyph should be defined with on-curve points.

Glyph Metrics

Certain metrics define the horizontal dimensions of a glyph. These can be set using **glyph metrics** from the **glyph menu**, or by dragging the top of the red and green vertical markers.

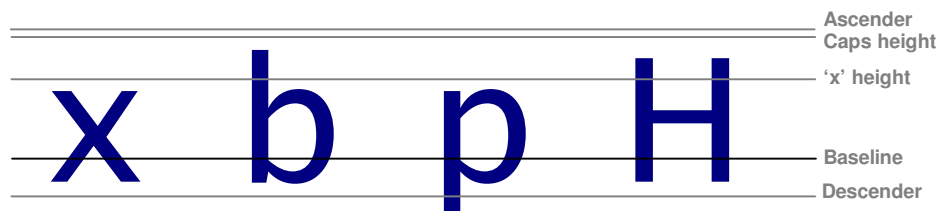
The Advance Width (AW), Left Side Bearing (LSB) and Right Side Bearing (RSB) determine the spacing between characters.

$$AW = LSB + \text{character width} + RSB$$



Font Metrics

Certain metrics define the vertical dimensions of characters in an OpenType font:



- ASCENDER:** Height of ascender (usually height of 'b')
- DESCENDER:** Height of descender (usually depth of 'p')
- CAPS HEIGHT:** Height of uppercase characters (defn: height of 'H')
- 'x' HEIGHT:** Height of lowercase characters (defn: height of 'x')
- BASELINE:** At y=0

Do not confuse the ascender and descender with ascent and descent (called WinAscent and WinDescent in **metrics** from the **font menu**). Ascent and descent define the upper and lower limits of all glyphs – anything outside these limits will be clipped.

The **EM square** determines the size of the font when it is displayed. For example, when the font is displayed at 12 points, the EM square will be 12 points high (1 point = 1/72 inch).

The **EM square** was traditionally (from type-setting days) defined as the size of an uppercase 'M', but typically the **EM square** encompasses the ascenders and descenders with some extra (internal) leading as well.

The size of the **EM square** is usually set at 2048 units for a TrueType or OpenType TT font, and usually set at 1000 units for OpenType PS fonts.

Standard Glyphs

It is standard for a OpenType font to contain mapping to the Macintosh Roman character set, even if the font is only to be used on Linux or Windows. Also, to meet Apple specifications, the first four glyphs of a OpenType Font should be these:

- GLYPH #0** Used for **undefined** characters - normally a box shape
- GLYPH #1** Special glyph with no contours, and zero width
- GLYPH #2** **CR** character - no contours, but with a defined width (mapped to 0009 and 000D)
- GLYPH #3** The **space** character - no contours, but with a defined width (mapped to 0020)

Visit the [typography links here for more information: cr8software.net/links.html](http://cr8software.net/links.html)

Curves and Outlines

Outlines (the curves that form characters) are stored as a series of points, using one of two methods to mathematically describe their shape. We can say that fonts either have **PostScript outlines** or **TrueType outlines**. This appendix briefly describes the difference between the two, and the implications for font creation and editing.

Types of Outline Fonts



TrueType

extension: **.ttf**

TrueType outlines



Type 1 (not supported by Type light 3.2)

extension: **.pfb** & **.pfm**

PostScript outlines.



OpenType (TT)

extension: **.ttf**

TrueType outlines. Actually identical to TrueType fonts, but may contain additional OpenType information.



OpenType (PS)

extension: **.otf**

PostScript outlines. Essentially Type 1 fonts wrapped in a TrueType file structure.

Adobe's intention is that Type 1 fonts be eventually phased out and replaced by OpenType PS fonts. Adobe Type 1 fonts are not supported by Type light 3.2.

TrueType and PostScript Outlines

Outlines in a font are described by a series of points. To describe a straight line, you only need to specify the co-ordinates of the two end points, but to specify a curve, you need some extra points in between. A mathematical equation called a bezier curve is used.

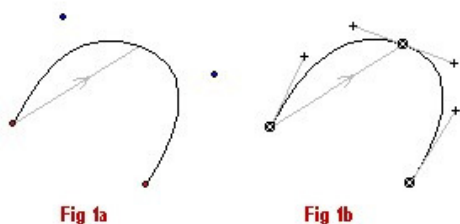


Fig. 1a shows a curve described by two end points and two off-curve points. This is a quadratic bezier, or TrueType outline.

Fig. 1b shows the same curve with three nodes and their control points. This is a cubic bezier, or PostScript outline.

In fact, quadratic beziers are a subset of cubic beziers, so any TrueType curve can be converted exactly to a PostScript one (like in Figure 1). Conversion in the other direction is not so simple, and it may require several quadratic curves to approximate a particular cubic bezier.



Fig. 2a shows a circular curve represented by a PostScript outline.

Fig. 2b, the equivalent TrueType outline, requires many more points and is only a near approximation to the original curve.

So conversion of TrueType fonts to PostScript ones is an exact science (aside from other factors such as scale and hinting), but conversion of PostScript fonts to TrueType is only a close approximation. Most commercial TrueType fonts are designed as PostScript curves, and then converted to TrueType.

Because PostScript curves are a superset of TrueType, a greater range of curves can be drawn with fewer points, making design much easier. So the cubic bezier, with its nodes and control points, is the design industry's drawing standard.

Appendix IV - Keyboard Shortcuts

CTRL + O	Open font file
CTRL + S	Save font file
ARROW KEYS + and -	Move multiple selected points (use shift to move faster) Magnify and reduce glyph in edit window
HOME	First glyph
PAGE-DOWN	Next glyph
PAGE-UP	Previous glyph
END	Last glyph
CTRL + F	Find glyph
CTRL + B	Toggle preview fill
CTRL + T	Toggle view mode
CTRL + Y	Toggle mapping view
CTRL + U	Show-hide grid
CTRL + X	Copy whole glyph
CTRL + C	Copy selected points
CTRL + V	Paste
CTRL + SHIFT + V	Paste metrics only
CTRL + Z	Undo
CTRL + SHIFT + Z	Redo
CTRL + I	Glyph information
CTRL + A	Select all
CTRL + SHIFT + A	Select none
ESC/Enter	Deselect point
CTRL + N	Create a new glyph
CTRL + SHIFT + DEL	Clear current glyph
CTRL + P	Point/node properties
CTRL + D	Select contour
8	Change to unlinked corner curve
9	Change to smooth curve
0	Change to symmetric curve
CTRL + R	Reverse contour
CTRL + DEL	Delete contour
DEL	Delete selected points

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