Macros for Fontless Printing
By Jim Jackson

An article in the February, 1990, edition of WordPerfect Magazine (attached below) inspired the six macros included here. The article showed how it would be possible to create headlines in any desired point size, regular or bold, using the equation editor in WordPerfect 5.1.

Included in the FONTLESS.ZIP file are:

- 12POINT.WPM 	 12 point header macro
- 18POINT.WPM 	 18 point header macro
- 24POINT.WPM 	 24 point header macro
- 36POINT.WPM 	 36 point header macro
- 48POINT.WPM 	 48 point header macro
- 60POINT.WPM 	 60 point header macro
- POINT.WP5 	 Document showing results of the macros

Each macro uses Setup (Shift-F1) to reset the default graphics character size, then goes to the Equation Editor and creates an explanatory header, leaving you in the editor (an ENTER will exit you back to the rest of the macro).

At this point, you may edit the header as you wish, except you cannot use the ENTER key until you are finished. When you exit, the graphic character size is reset to the default and you are put into full document viewing mode to see the header. Press (ENTER) and you will exit from the macro normally, going back to the document editing screen.

The Equation Editor is rather tricky to use, since it was designed for mathematical equations and not for text. For example, you must use the tilde (~) for spaces between words and the pound sign (#) for line separators. Other surprises await you, but I'll let you discover them!

These macros were an evening's quick and dirty work by someone fairly new to WordPerfect. They're free - no copyright, no donation requested! You're probably getting what you're paying for anyway! Have fun fixing them up to suit yourself.

Even without a PostScript printer, there's a way to coax WordPerfect 5.1 into printing scalable fonts – fonts that can be "scaled" to the size you need. Scalable fonts let you print huge headlines or tiny notes without purchasing the fonts normally needed to do the job. All you need is a printer that can print graphics. Figure 1 below shows an example of text printed without fonts. The Equation Editor was used to create the heading.

The Equation Editor

The Equation Editor has a built-in feature that, while designed to print equations, is handy in creating headlines or other text that requires exact control over size. Don't create whole documents with this feature (although it's possible). Stay with short phrases that can be easily formatted.

Text in the Equation Editor requires extra formatting on your part, so use the Equation Keyboard to simplify the process.

Defining an Equation Box

Place the heading inside an equation box. To create the box, position your cursor where you want the text to begin (place the cursor at the left margin even if you want the text centered). Then press Graphics (Alt-F9), (6) Equation and (1) Create to create a new box. The Definition:Equation screen lists options that allow you to alter the size and position of the box. You likely won't need to change any of these settings. To change the position of the heading after it's created, select (9) Edit to edit the contents of the box. The Equation Editor will display the text (see Figure 2 below).

Setting the Font Size

To specify text point size, press Setup (Shift-F1), (2) Graphical Font Size and (2) Set Point Size. A point is 1/72". To make heading characters one inch high, type 72 and press (Enter). To create the heading shown in Figure 1, type 26 and press (Enter). Different heights require some calculation. For a quarter-inch-high heading, type 18 (72/4=18). You can even enter fractions of a point, such as 22.5 points. Press Exit (F7) to return to the Equation Editor.

Modifying the Display Window

The Display Window shows text as it will be printed. It's located in the upper left section of the Equation Editor. The relative size (percentage) of displayed text appears in the lower right corner of the screen (see Figure 2). To give you an idea of how big your final text will be, change the percentage to 125%. Press Switch (Shift-F3), then press (Pg Dn) or (Pg Up) until the percentage reads 125%. Press Switch (Shift-F3) again to return to the Editing Window.

Typing the Text

Type the first few words of your text (e.g., Joe and Janet) . To display the text as it will print, press Screen (Ctrl-F3) or (F9). Notice the Equation Editor doesn't automatically insert spaces into the text; you must specify where spaces should be with a tilde (~). Delete the spaces and insert tildes. The text should look like this: "Janet~and~Joe." Press Screen (Ctrl-F3) again to see the result.

ERROR: Incorrect Format or Unexpected Results

If you accidentally break some formatting rules, the Equation Editor will display an error message and position the cursor where the error occurs. An error message probably means you're using some words that have a special meaning in the Equation Editor. Place a backward slash (\) directly in front of the

word on which the cursor is resting, and try again. The slash indicates that the word should not be treated as a special word. When you press Screen the slash won't appear in the Display Window.

You may find other surprises in the Display Window – for example, "and" replaced by an upside-down "v" (used to symbolize AND in equations). Again, you can instruct the Equation Editor to use the word as typed by placing a slash (\) directly before it.

Entering Several Lines

Complete the line by typing "Famme" and pressing (Enter) to move the cursor to the next line. Then type Celebrate. To view the results, press Screen. You'll see the text in the Display Window on one line because the Equation Editor requires you to specify where line breaks should be.

Specify line breaks with the pound sign (#). Move the cursor to the end of "Famme" and press the pound key (Shift-3). Rewrite the text by pressing Screen. To insert the last line of text, move the cursor to the end of "Celebrate," press (#), then (Enter). Type 50th Wedding Anniversary and check the results with Screen. (Make sure you don't place a # at the end of the last line.)

Formatting Tricks

Just two more small modifications and you're done. It would be nice if 50th in the text appeared with the "th" superscripted. You can do that very easily with a command. Commands tell the Equation Editor to format the text in a certain way. While most of the commands are useful only in equations, a few can be helpful in your text. To superscript the "th," move your cursor to "t."

Press List (F5), press Down Arrow to highlight the Sup or ^ command, and press (Enter) to insert the "SUP" command in your document.

In some cases you might need to specify which characters you wish to have superscripted. This can be done by placing brackets { } around the letters you wish to have superscripted. In this example, the brackets would be placed around the "th" if both are superscripted. Your screen should look like the one in Figure 1.

Other useful commands include: BOLD (bold text), ITAL (italicize), FUNC (print text without italics), and ALIGNL (align text on the left margin--normally, text is centered). The text is automatically italicized. If you want to avoid italics, insert a FUNC command at the beginning of each line and then enclose the entire line (except for #) in braces { }. For example, FUNC {Joe~ \and~ Janet~Famme)#. Aligning this at the left margin would look like ALIGNL {FUNC {Joe~ \and~ Janet~ Famme}}#.

Remember, you can change the point size of your heading at any time. To do so, simply follow the steps as outlined in "Setting the Font Size" above, and enter the new point size. To create very small letters, enter a point size such as 6. Be aware that when you select a larger point size, long lines may run out of printing room.

After you re satisfied with your text, press Exit (F7) twice to return to the normal editing screen. You can always edit the text again by pressing Graphics (Alt-F9), (6) Equations, (2) Edit, entering the equation box number (normally 1), and pressing (9) Edit.

Printing

WordPerfect will print your headline in Courier, Times Roman, or Helvetica, depending on which font most closely matches your Initial Base Font. To change your Initial Base Font, press Format (Shift-F8), (3) Document, and (3) Initial Base Font. If you place an Equation Options code before the box, the font in effect at the code will determine which of the three fonts is used.

Before printing your document, make sure you check the heading by pressing Print (Shift-F7), (6) View Document. Because WordPerfect creates the equation text graphically, you can expect printing to take a while – a small trade-off for the ability to create fonts of any size.

Equation Keyboard

As you've seen, the Equation Editor handles a few characters differently than you're accustomed to. The Keyboard Layout feature can assist you in creating headings without having to press the tilde key (~) to insert spaces. This means, among other things, that we need to remap the space bar so that it inserts a tilde instead of a space. If you've never changed your keyboard mappings, this may open some new avenues for you.

To change your keyboard mapping, press Setup (Shift-F1), and type (5) Keyboard Layout. Select (4) to Create a new keyboard layout and type "Fontless" as the keyboard name. Press (Enter). To edit the newly created keyboard layout, press (7) Edit.

First, change the space bar so that it inserts a tilde. Select (4) to create a new key definition. WordPerfect will prompt you to press the key you want to redefine; press the space bar, and type the description "Insert a tilde." Press (Enter). The next screen, called Key:Action, allows you to redefine what happens when the space bar is pressed. The key and description are listed at the top of the screen, and the key's action (result when the key is pressed) is shown in the box. The standard action for the space bar is a space (spaces are represented as dots on the Key:Action screen). You want the space bar to insert a tilde, so delete the space by pressing (Del). To insert a tilde, press the tilde key. Press Exit (F7) to return to the Keyboard:Edit menu and your new key definition.

To redefine the tilde key so that it inserts a space, press (4) Create, press the tilde key (~), type Insert a space and press (Enter). Press (Del), then the space bar. Press Exit (F7).

Because the Equation Editor does not automatically place line breaks, you must specify them with (#). To redefine the Enter key to insert a pound sign (#), press (4) Create, press (Enter), type insert a pound sign. Press (Enter). Press space, and then press the pound key (#). Press Exit (F7) to return to a screen that should look like the one shown in Figure 3. Press Exit (F7) twice to return to the document.

You've created a keyboard layout, but it won't take effect until you tell WordPerfect to use it. Fortunately, there's an option to have WordPerfect use this keyboard layout only while you're in the Equation Editor, so you won't find tildes throughout your documents whenever you type. The tildes will show up only in the Equation Editor. To specify a keyboard layout for the Equation Editor, press Setup (Shift-F1), (4) Initial Settings, (3) Equations, and (5) Keyboard for Editing. Highlight the keyboard called Fontless, and press (1) to select the keyboard. Press Exit (F7) to return to the document. You're now ready to enter the Equation Editor with your keys redefined.
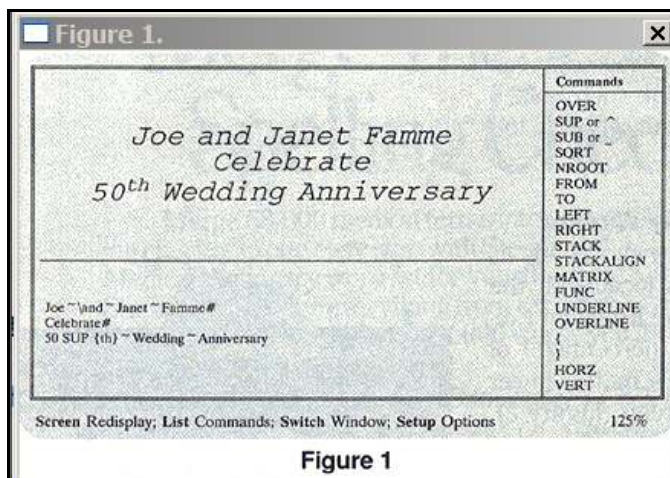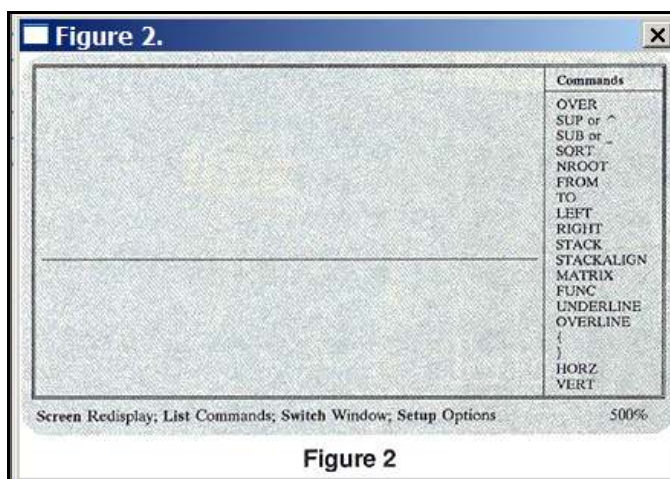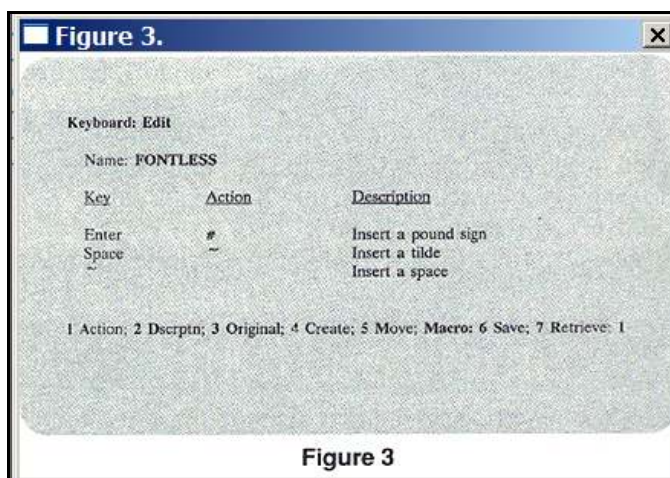
Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3