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ImageWriter II: How Draft Mode Handles Fonts and Layout

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TOPIC -----

Does the ImageWriter II have any built-in fonts? What font is used when the Draft option is selected? I printed in Draft mode from Microsoft Word 4.0, using both Palatino and Garamond, and the printouts were different. That is, the spacing between words was inconsistent.

Can you explain?

DISCUSSION -----

There are fonts built into the ImageWriter II ROMs. They are very simple character fonts with limited quality. Because these fonts are resident in the printer, they can print very quickly compared to the bitmaps sent to the ImageWriter for Faster or Best modes. With a Macintosh, the built-in fonts are used only when printing in Draft mode or when an application bypasses the Macintosh print driver.

Draft mode allows very fast printing of documents, giving a best-guess layout of characters and lines. Because this mode uses the built-in fonts, it cannot duplicate the spacing and effects visible on the Macintosh screen and is, therefore, not intended for anything other than rough drafts.

The best way to improve the print layout with Draft mode is to use a screen font that approximates the ImageWriter fonts used. The ImageWriter fonts are pica or elite in various sizes between 9 and 17 characters per inch. A list of the fonts used is on page 74 of the "ImageWriter II Owner's Manual."

Matching different screen fonts to printer fonts requires experimentation. Because Draft mode was not designed for optimal appearance, use it only for rough-draft output.

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