

Font Formats

As discussed earlier, OpenType fonts are the new industry standard for imaging to any PostScript output device. OpenType fonts are PostScript language-based outlines—object-oriented vector graphics—that can be scaled to any size and still remain sharp and smooth on any platform or output device.

Earlier font formats included Adobe Type 1 fonts, which are made up of two software components: the *screen font* and the *outline font* (these occasionally are called by different names: *bitmap font* and *printer font*). Type 1 fonts are limited to about 250 characters per font, but otherwise they deliver superb quality at any size. They are platform specific.

TrueType fonts are found on all Macintosh and Windows computers. They are usually shipped with the operating system, and they also produce excellent output on PostScript printers and platesetters. Like Type 1 fonts, the TrueType font has a character set of about 250 characters.

You can use OpenType, PostScript Type 1, and TrueType fonts interchangeably in page layouts. The advantages of OpenType are its large library of glyphs and alternate characters. In every other respect, the three font types should produce equal results and should print properly on all modern PostScript RIPs.



Fonts from different foundries may not have the same width and letterspacing characteristics—even if they share the same font name.

40pt
Medium

36pt Helvetica
Medium

24pt Helvetica
Medium

Create close relationships

with knowledgeable and experienced production people, print brokers, and service bureaus. You can benefit from the combined expertise.

—Lori Barra, Sausalito, CA

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