Introduction :

This script was developped using Adobe Extendscript to allow the automatic filling of barcodes while always keeping them conveniently editable. This is particularly handy when used with datasets.
Currently, the supported barcode formats are EAN13 and ITF14.

Package :

The script works paired with the included Illustrator file “CoriusBarcodes.ai”.

Installation :

Same as all Illustrator script, copy/paste the script file into the folder :
C:\Program Files\Adobe\Adobe Illustrator 2024\Presets\en_US\Scripts
(Change the red text according to your Illustrator version and language)

The Illustrator file needs to be in your Illustrator “User Defined” Symbols folder :
C:\Users\[your user name]\AppData\Roaming\Adobe\Adobe Illustrator 28 Settings\en_US\x64\Symbols
(Change the red text according to your Illustrator version and language)

Principles :

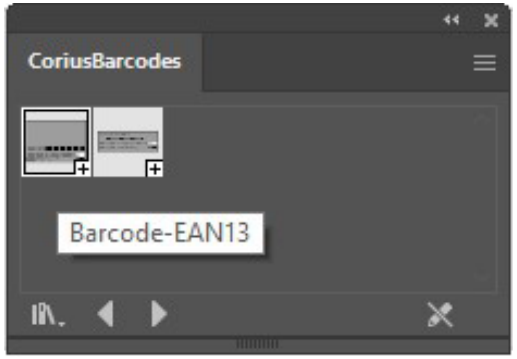
Insert the barcode symbol, place it, resize it, rotate it, adjust its parameters, run the script

Change log :

- Bug fix : barcode resizing method updated so as to keep proper bar and space width ratio
- Functionality added : barcode can now have different names to allow the use of multiple barcode of same type within the same document
- Script tweaking possibility added : the csv file report separation caracter can now be easily changed by editing the script file.

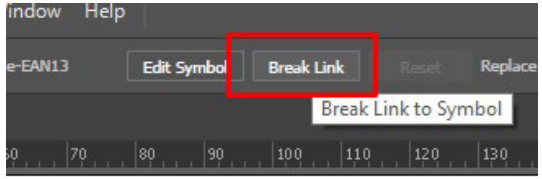
Usage - Placing the barcode in your document :

To place a barcode un your design, open the Symbol panel, search in your “User Defined” to open the CoriusBarcodes library :

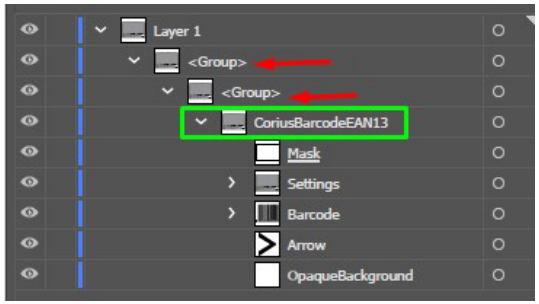


As you can see, there are currently 2 different symbols, one for each supported barcode types.

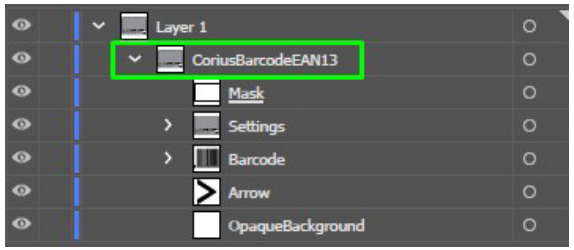
Drag and drop the symbol you need into your document, then break the link between the instance and the symbol :



Breaking the link will make 2 useless groups containing the useful one :



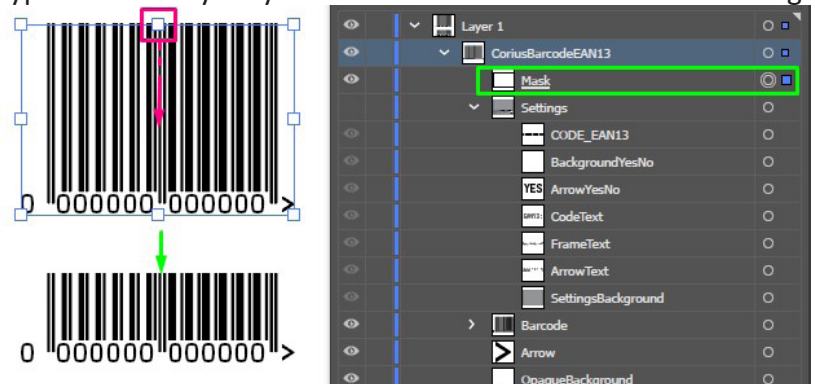
You can leave the grouping as is or you can clean the group architecture a bit by moving the “CoriusBarcode[TYPE]” group out of the useless ones :



Note : DO NOT RENAME the “CoriusBarcode[TYPE]” group, DO NOT RENAME any of its content, DO NOT CHANGE the inner groups.

Usage - Adjusting the size of the barcode :

To resize the barcode you need to have the whole “CoriusBarcode[TYPE]” group selected, then resize it homotetically to the wished width.
Type EAN13 only : If you need to reduce the barcode bars height, you can do so by selecting the “Mask” rectangle and reducing its height.

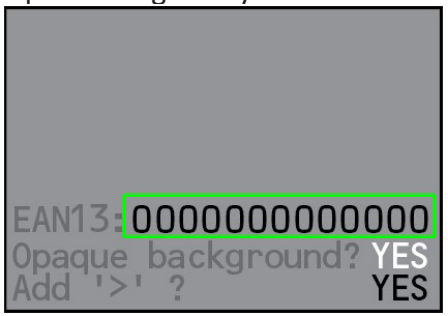


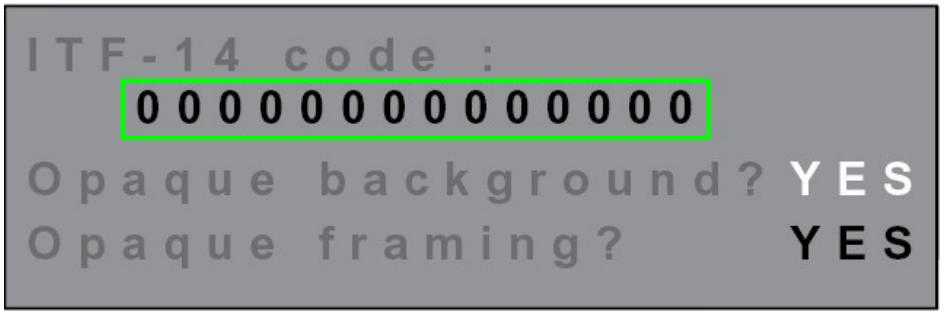
You can then rotate the whole “CoriusBarcode[TYPE]” group if you need.

Usage - Adjusting the settings of the barcode :

DIGITS

Input the digits of your barcode in the relevant textfield :





SUPPORTING CONTENT

- You can chose to have an opaque bakground or a transparent one : type “YES” or “NO” accordingly
- You can chose to have a “>” (EAN13 Quiet Zone mark aid) or opaque/transparent framing (ITF14 bearer bars) : type in “YES” or “NO” accordingly

COLORS

- By changing the text color of the digits textfield you can set the color of the bars + human readable digits + “>” (EAN13) or framing (ITF14)
  (the “YES”/”NO” text color in front of “Add ‘>’ ?” and “Opaque framing” is irrelevant)
- By changing the text color of the “YES”/“NO” text answering the “Opaque background ?” question you can set the color of the barcode opaque background

Remark : if you change the colors, as the script will let you use any color combination, be sure to keep a strong contrast between the bars color and the background color to ensure the scannability of the barcode

Usage - Script :

When you’re all set with all of your barcodes, you can run the script (menu File>Scripts).

The script will run checksum test (like a wrong check digit, or even a missing check digit). If no errors are found, the script makes all the barcodes and you’re done.
In case of error, the script automatically corrects the checksum error in the digits textfield, and store the error report as a .csv file in the same folder as your Illustrator document. Then it creates all the barcodes using the correct check digit, and at the end it will pop-up an alert window to ask you to check the error report.

The test report file is easily imported into Excel so in case you deal with many barcodes at the same time you can easily compare the report listing with your own barcode listing.
The csv will include : ‘Full code submitted;Check digit from code submitted;Corrected check digit;Corrected code’

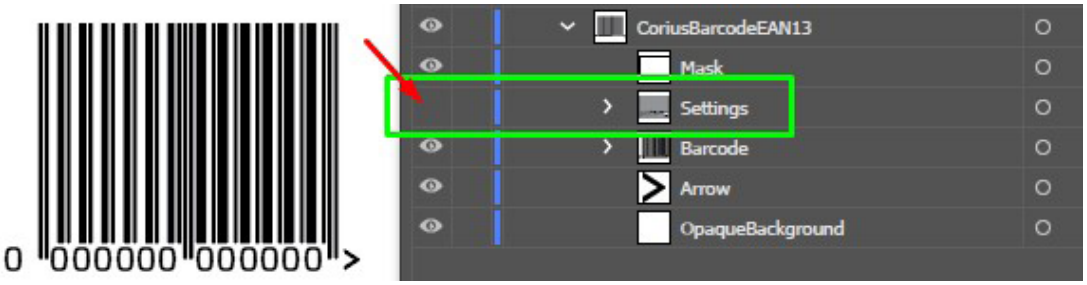
Usage - Script tweaking :

If the script generated .csv report isn’t a properly separated in rows and columns within Excel spreadsheet, it may be because the generated .csv don’t use the separator your excel wants. You can edit the script to change between “,” and “;” separator by changing the script lines 17 and 18 as following to add/delete “//” at the begening of the lines:

The separator caracter will be “;”	The separator caracter will be “,”
16 // CSV Report variables 17 var CSVseparation = ';'; 18 //var CSVseparation = ',':	16 // CSV Report variables 17 //var CSVseparation = ':': 18 var CSVseparation = ',';

Usage - Re-edit a barcode :

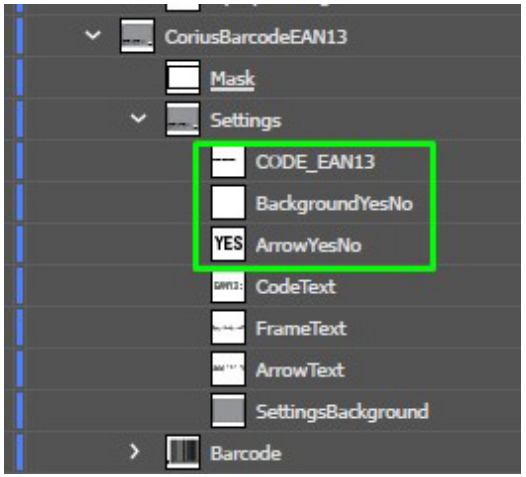
When a barcode has already been created by the script, you can always re-generate it. To do so, just un-hide the group “Settings” and change the settings as you need :

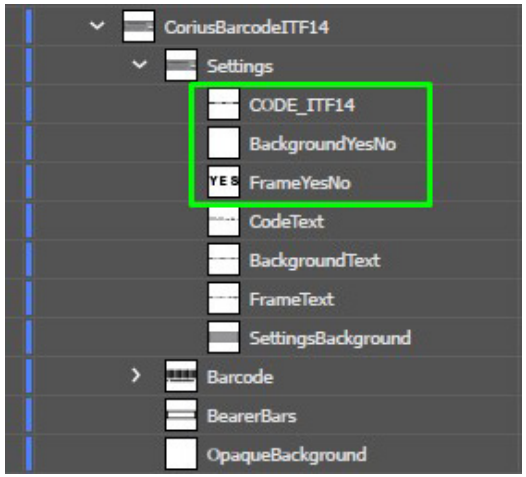


Usage - Barcode with datasets :

To use the script in combination with datasets, all the settings are named textfield, so they can be use as variable names in the dataset panel.

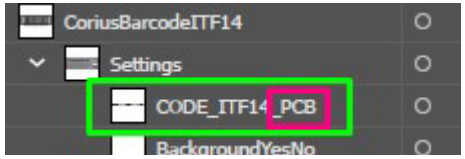
For EAN13 barcodes the textfield names are : - “CODE_EAN13” - “BackgroundYesNo” - “ArrowYesNo”	For ITF14 barcodes the textfield names are : - “CODE_ITF14” - “BackgroundYesNo” - “FrameYesNo”





Usage - Multiple barcodes with datasets :

If you need the same document to use multiple different barcodes of the same type, you can differenciate them for compatible use with dataset variables by adding something to the names of “CODE_EAN13” and/or “CODE_ITF14”, as long as you keep the name starting with “CODE_[TYPE]” the script will run properly.
Be sure to then use the correct variable name in your dataset document.

Renaming example : 

Note : the other textfields of settings can’t be renamed, so all barcodes will use the same variable names and are impacted in the same way. If within a dataset you write “YES” for the variable named “BackgroundYesNo”, then all barcodes (EAN13 and ITF14 alike as they both have this setting) will use an opaque background. The colours still can be different between barcodes as this depends on the color you pick for the related text in Illustrator.

Examples :

The red arrows are pointing the auto-correction of a wrong checksum digit in the resulting barcode.