

## Chapter IV-5 — User-Defined Menus

This table shows the special characters and their effect if special character interpretation is enabled. See **Special Menu Characters on Windows** on page IV-134 for Windows-specific considerations.

Character	Behavior
/	Creates a keyboard shortcut for the menu item. The character after the slash defines the item's keyboard shortcut. For example, "Low Pass/1" makes the item "Low Pass" with a keyboard shortcut for Command-1 (Macintosh) or Ctrl-1 (Windows). You can also use function keys. To avoid conflicts with Igor, use the numeric keys and the function keys only. See <b>Keyboard Shortcuts</b> on page IV-136 and <b>Function Keys</b> on page IV-136 for further details.
-	Keyboard shortcuts are not supported in the graph marquee and layout marquee menus.
(	Creates a divider between menu items.
If a hyphen (minus sign) is the first character in the item then the item will be a disabled divider. This can be a problem when trying to put negative numbers in a menu. Use a leading space character to prevent this. The string "(-" also disables the corresponding divider.	
(	Disables the menu item.
If the first character of the item text is a left parenthesis then the item will be disabled.	
!	Adds a mark to the menu item.
If an exclamation point appears in the item, any character after the exclamation point adds a checkmark to the left of the menu item. For example:  "Low Pass! *"  makes an item "Low Pass" with an checkmark to the left.	
For compatibility with Igor6, use:  "Low Pass!" + num2char(18)	
;	Separates one menu item from the next.  Example: "Item 1;Item 2"

Whereas it is standard practice to use a semicolon to separate items in a pop-up menu in a control panel, graph or simple input dialog, you should avoid using the semicolon in user-defined main-menu-bar menus. It is clearer if you use one item per line. It is also necessary in some cases (see **Menu Definition Syntax** on page IV-126).

If special character interpretation is disabled, these characters will appear in the menu item instead of having their special effect. The semicolon character is treated as a separator of menu items even if special character interpretation is disabled.

### Special Menu Characters on Windows

On Windows, these characters are treated as special in menu bar menus but not in pop-up menus in graphs, control panels, and simple input dialogs. The following table shows which special characters are supported.

Character	Meaning
/	Defines accelerator
-	Divider
(	Disables item
!	Adds mark to item
;	Separates items