

# Fountain

# Contents

<b>Chapter 1. Fountain Intro.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Chapter 2. Basic Syntax.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Chapter 3. Practical Examples.....</b>	<b>5</b>
1. How to create notes.....	6
2. How to write dual dialogue.....	6
3. How to create sections and synopses.....	6

# Chapter 1. Fountain Intro

## What is Fountain?

“Fountain is a simple markup syntax for writing, editing and sharing screenplays in plain, human-readable text.”

## Who made Fountain?

“Fountain comes from several sources. John August and Nima Yousefi developed Scrippets, which used simple markup to embed screenplay-formatted material in websites. Stu Maschwitz drafted a more extensive spec known as Screenplay Markdown or SPMD, designed for full-length screenplays. Stu and John discovered that they were simultaneously working on similar text-based screenplay formats, and merged them into what you see here. Other contributors to the spec include Martin Vilcans, Brett Terpstra, Jonathan Poritsky, Kent Tessman, and Clinton Torres.”

<https://fountain.io/>

---

## Related information

[Basic Syntax \(on page 4\)](#)

## Chapter 2. Basic Syntax

- Scene headings start with the usual variations of INT, EXT or by forcing a unique heading with a full stop e.g.

```
.ROBOT VACUUM POV
```

- Character names are written in FULL CAPS and dialogue directly under them e.g.

```
MARK
```

```
Get on with it, already!
```

- Parentheticals are simply in (parenthesis)
- and transitions end with a TO: but you can also make a line transition with the > symbol.
- Finally, you can combine various emphasis e.g. underline, *italics*, **bold**.
- For the complete Fountain syntax, see: <https://fountain.io/syntax>
- Part of the Fountain concept is that there are **no real prerequisites** - you can write anywhere that supports plain text, without the need for proprietary file formats or software. For a list of applications that support turning Fountain to other formats, e.g. the open source Beat, see: [the Fountain site](#)

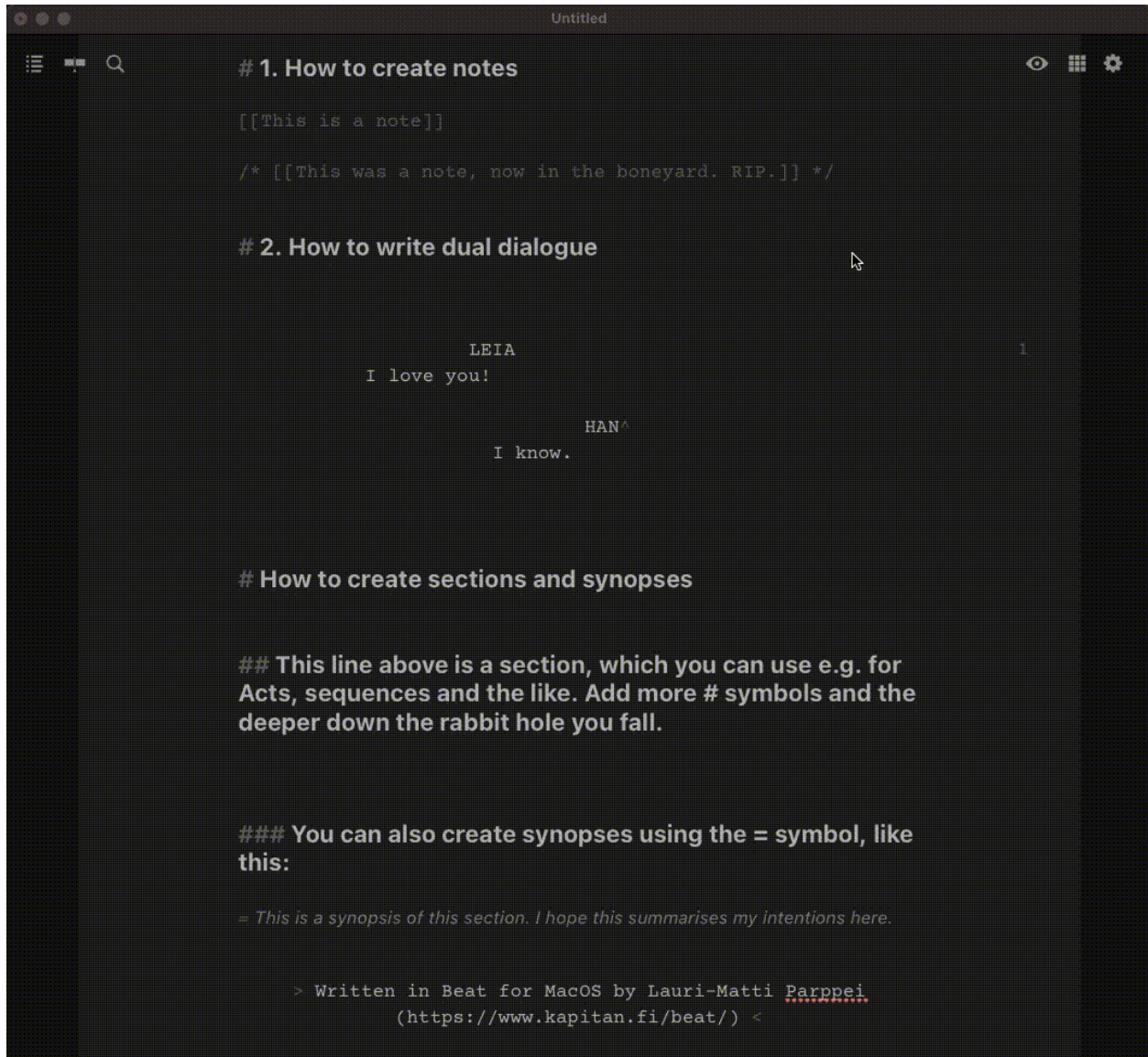
---

### Related information

[Practical Examples \(on page 5\)](#)

# Chapter 3. Practical Examples

Click on the below Gif to see the examples in action



## Related information

- 1. How to create notes (*on page 6*)
- 2. How to write dual dialogue (*on page 6*)
- 3. How to create sections and synopses (*on page 6*)

# 1. How to create notes

Create a note by surrounding text with `[[double brackets]]`. Notes can stand on their own, in between lines, or in the middle of a single line. Carriage returns work, but two spaces must be placed on an empty line to connect the surrounding lines into one note. To hide comments, use the `/*Boneyard syntax*/`.

## Example:

This is a line of dialogue with `[[Oh, wait, maybe this is kind of shallow?]]` a subtle message.

### Related information

- [2. How to write dual dialogue \(on page 6\)](#)
- [3. How to create sections and synopses \(on page 6\)](#)

# 2. How to write dual dialogue

Write dual dialogue by inserting a caret `^` directly after the second character element.

## Example:

```
LEIA
I love you!

HAN ^
I know.
```

### Related information

- [1. How to create notes \(on page 6\)](#)
- [3. How to create sections and synopses \(on page 6\)](#)

# 3. How to create sections and synopses

Following the markdown convention of using a hash/pound symbol (`#`), sections allow you to structure your story into manageable, nested units of story e.g. sequences or acts. By default, they do not print with the script. Use one `#` symbol for larger units of story, and add more `#` symbols for smaller units.

Synopses use the equals symbol (`=`) and are non-printing elements that allow you to describe the unit e.g. a scene and can be used anywhere in your screenplay.

## Example:

# ACT III

INT. MONGOOSE FARM - DAY

= Derek's mongoose farm, stands tall and proud in the middle of Downtown Atlanta, and attracts a strange following of Mongolian tourists.

A brisk wind, reminiscent of the Finnish winters in his youth, sweeps over Derek as he stares at his flat bicycle tyre.  
If only he had some carrots.

---

### Related information

1. [How to create notes \(on page 6\)](#)
2. [How to write dual dialogue \(on page 6\)](#)