



# Font friends

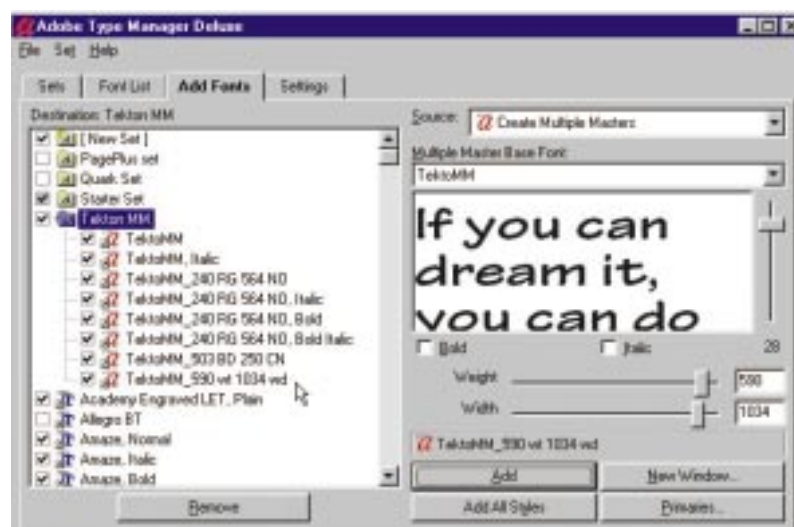
With Multiple Masters fonts you can achieve **typographic control**. Ken McMahon explains.

**E**ver wish you had more weights in a particular font family? Bold too heavy, regular too light, but no semi-bold to be had? Then you need Multiple Masters. They are an extension of Adobe's Type 1 font format. Multiple Masters differ from conventional Type 1 fonts in that they contain a number of font outlines, or master designs, for each character and software that morphs between them.

**Multiple Masters enables you** to vary a font's attributes in one of up to four ways: weight, width, style and optical size [Fig 4]. Imagine the master designs as being at opposite ends of a design axis controlling each of these four attributes. By picking a point anywhere on that axis you can determine the appearance of the font. No more extra light, bold, semi-bold and heavy — just a smooth, incremental increase in weight, width and so on, controlled by means of a slider.

Since Adobe introduced Multiple Masters (MM) in 1996 there has been a slow but steady stream of fonts appearing on the market. At the last count Adobe boasted 33 and other type foundries have produced Multiple Master versions of their fonts. As you'd expect, Adobe's applications provide MM support and you can create Multiple Masters from within PageMaker and Illustrator 7 and 8 as well as using the editor that comes with the MM font itself [Fig 1].

You can also create and edit MM fonts using ATM deluxe 4.0 which comes



▲ **FIG 2** ATM'S PREVIEW WINDOW SHOWS YOU EXACTLY HOW THE NEW INSTANCE WILL LOOK BEFORE YOU ADD IT TO A FONT SET

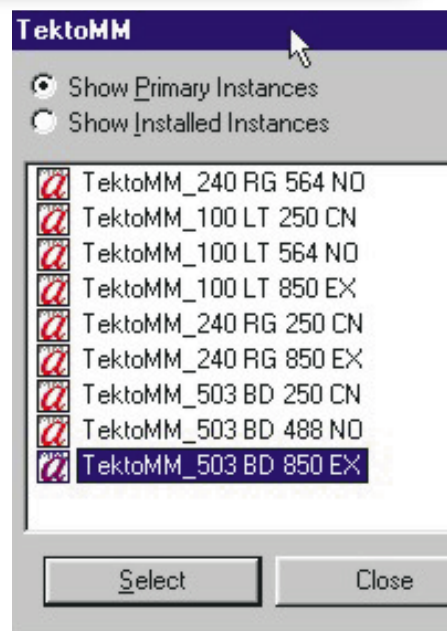
► **FIG 3** ATM LISTS THE ENTIRE FONT DESIGNER'S 'PRIMARY INSTANCES'

with its very own MM font, Tekton MM. As well as the Master designs (those at the extremes of the axes) most MM fonts are supplied with 'primary instances' created by the font designer.

**Primary instances** are versions of the font created by adjusting the design co-ordinates, moving the sliders along the axes until you achieve the desired combination of weight and width. Tekton is a two-axis Multiple Master so you can alter its weight and width.

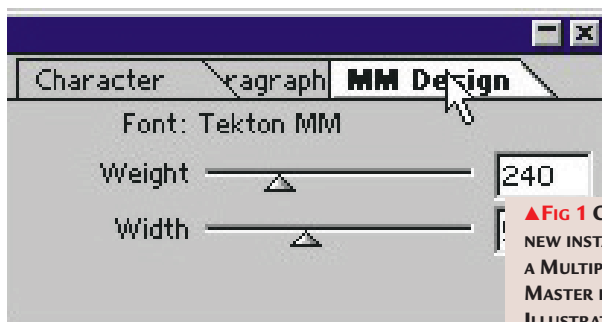
Other Multiple Master fonts also allow you to alter the style from sans to serif, as well as the optical size, optimising a font's appearance for any point size.

To install a primary instance of Tekton MM in



4.0, click the 'Add Fonts' tab and select 'Create Multiple Masters' from the source pull-down menu. Select TektonMM as the Multiple Master Base font — unless you have bought others, this will be the only one — and click the Primaries button.

These [Fig 3] are all the Tekton Primary Instances created by the font designer. In case you're wondering about the weird names, the first part is the font family name, the first group of numbers



▲ **FIG 1** CREATING NEW INSTANCES OF A MULTIPLE MASTER IN ILLUSTRATOR 8 IS SIMPLE

## Questions & answers

**Q** I am looking for an application to simplify the tweaking and enhancement of photos. I don't have Adobe Photoshop (I can't justify the price as a home user) but visited the Extensis web site for more info because I wondered whether there might be a version for PaintShop Pro 5.0 (PSP). There isn't. Can you recommend similar software which might also produce good results — either standalone applications or compatible with PSP? Are there plug-ins for PSP?

ANDY WILLIAMS

**a** Good news. You can use Extensis Intellihance (reviewed in Hands On Graphics & DTP, January) and any other Photoshop-compatible plug-ins with PaintShop Pro 5. You don't need a special version of the plug-in for PSP 5.0, or any other application. Any image editing application which supports the Photoshop plug-in architecture will do the job.

**Q** Why tell Michael Phoenix [PCW, January] to upgrade when it's very easy to do what he asks with CorelDraw3? That is: type the letters, draw a rectangle, combine text with rectangle, place in front of flag available in CD3 Clipart. PCW starts to look like a tool of the computer industry when most advice includes the suggestion to upgrade.

DAVE SPATHAKY

**a** If I still had a copy of CorelDraw 3 I'd give it a go. But if I recollect correctly, having spent the best part of an afternoon installing it I'd most likely spend the rest of the day trying to get it to print without error, which is probably why I binned it.

Printing imported bitmap graphics with vector clipping paths is one of the things most likely to generate a PostScript error or other, more serious, problems — stability was not one of CorelDraw 3's big features. I know that my suggestion works because I've tried it,

without problems. If yours does, too, thanks for the tip and Michael Phoenix can save himself a few quid.

On the general point about upgrading I would agree that upgrades are a waste of money if the application version you are using does everything you need. But there are so many reasons for upgrading from a product that was designed more than five years ago it's hard to know where to begin listing them.

Just some of the things I would find it hard to live without if CorelDraw 3 were my only vector drawing application, would be decent colour support including four-colour process separation and Pantone support as well as colour style sheets. Web

support including HTML export, would be on the list as

would vector to bitmap conversion, png and jpg file support, special effects filters and lenses, transparency, blends, natural pen tools, scripting, style sheets, the object manager... I could go on, but I'd better stop there as

I'm beginning to sound like a tool of the software industry.

If you were dogged by PostScript printing errors then I'd advise you to check out Laurens Leurs' PostScript Panic Page at [bewoner.dma.be/leurs/](http://bewoner.dma.be/leurs/). Here you'll find out what PostScript errors are and how to avoid the abject misery of having to overcome them. If it's too late for prevention, there's a small database of error messages, together with fixes. There's also information on software to help track down and destroy Postscript offenders before they become a threat to your printed words and pictures and there are links to other sites dedicated to the eradication of the scourge of PostScript errors.

Laurens handles customer support for Agfa Imagesetters in Belgium so he should know his stuff. He reckons the time spent on his site varies in proportion to the dire quality of Belgian TV; the worse it gets, the more time he spends compiling his database of PostScript errors. We can only hope that the Belgians are top of the list for British TV exports of anything featuring Cilla Black or Carol Vorderman.

## Are there plug-ins for Paint Shop Pro?

Some of the possible multiple master design axes



You can vary one multiple master typeface in thousands of ways to find the right solution for your documents.

◀**FIG 4** THE APPEARANCE OF MULTIPLE MASTER FONTS IS INFINITELY VARIABLE ACROSS FOUR DESIGN AXES

is the weight and the second the width. The uppercase two-letter labels are Adobe's standard type attribute identifiers — LT is light, EX is extended, and so on. So you already have much more than you would get with a standard Type 1 font. But you can go further. To create your own customised 'instance' just start with one of the primaries then drag the

weight and width sliders until you like what you see in the preview window, then click the add button [Fig 2]. This time there are no Adobe-style symbols, just the two numbers — in this case 590 and 1034 followed by lower-case symbols indicating weight and width.

You can find details of all Adobe's Multiple Master fonts including two recent releases, Verve MM and Reliq MM at [www.adobe.com/type/browser/c/c\\_4e.html](http://www.adobe.com/type/browser/c/c_4e.html).

## PCW CONTACTS

Ken McMahon can be contacted via the PCW editorial office (address, p14) or email [graphics@pcw.co.uk](mailto:graphics@pcw.co.uk)