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Fonts: Different Versions in LaserWriter ROM Change Output

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TOPIC -----

When I print out Courier 12 point text on four different Apple printers (LaserWriter IINT, IIg, IIf, and Pro 630), there are clear differences between the printers, although I use the same TrueType system font. The kerning (space, between letters) isn't consistent. I didn't customize the kerning between letters.

Is there any explanation to account for this?

DISCUSSION -----

What you see is the difference between the various font versions of Courier from Adobe that are in the printer's ROM. The printer ROM has the current font version available at the time that the printers were released. Basically, Adobe controls these PostScript font changes and makes these changes to bring all of their fonts more in line with the actual fonts they license from various font foundries.

The Courier font on the LaserWriter Pro printers looks significantly lighter compared to previous LaserWriters. This is due to the version of the font that was built into the printer's ROM, as well as the fact that 600 dpi printers have more precise dot placement and use smaller dots than 300 dpi printers. With this situation, Apple decided to create a special LaserWriter Pro Font Tune-up Disk which contains a different version of the Courier font, and can be downloaded to the printer's RAM via the LaserWriter Utility. You can find this software on AppleLink following this path:

- Software Sampler
 - Apple SW Updates
 - Macintosh
 - Printing Software

If you require very consistent output, then a possible solution might be to

obtain a specific version of Courier from Adobe and then download that font to RAM, or a hard disk in all of the printers.

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