

## SINGLE-LINE vs SINGLE-STROKE FONTS

From felt tip pen to laser etch, TrueStroke Single-Stroke Fonts unique design dramatically increase performance, accuracy and draw/cutting/burn times by 12 times faster than standard font images while forming a much smoother letter.

Engraving and etching type up to now has been slow, and many times the result is less than perfect. There are primarily two methods of operation, Raster, and Outline. Raster (raster or bitmap images are a dot matrix data structure that represents a grid of pixels) takes a great deal of time, and small letters can become muddled, the other option is to Outline the type - this also takes time, and many letters can become over-cut or over-burned.



The answer seemed to be simple. Single-line fonts, (also referred to as, engraving fonts or plotter fonts) are specifically designed for use when performing engraving or line drawing operations. The purpose of a single-line font is to reduce the actual font displayed to a single line. Though it may appear as if the font is a single line, the machine software may read it differently.

The issue remains that most operating systems that employ the standard font formats, TrueType & OpenType, (more commonly used in laser printers or other high-resolution devices), are limited to only reading fonts with closed paths. These closed paths only perform correctly on letters that are naturally closed like 'O', 'O' & 'D.'

Single-line fonts **WITHOUT** closed paths may not display correctly, add strokes to create closed paths or even expand without crucial lines. In any instance, single-line fonts are limited and unreliable.

TrueStroke Single-Stroke Fonts display and perform just like any other TTF or OTF font, though require conversion/expansion to outline/wireframe creating the single-stroke vector image before sending to your machine.

## TRUESTROKE FONT REQUIREMENTS

A working knowledge of the following:

Operating systems compatibility with OpenType and TrueType fonts.

Graphics editing software capable of converting type to Wireframe, Outline, Expanded Appearance or Convert to Curves and the ability to export .eps or .svg file types.

(Most design software makes it possible to convert type to outline/wireframe. In essence, Converting to Outline/Wireframe means turning the selected text into a vector graphic image. Once the text has been converted to an image all typical font characteristics are no longer available.)

OR

Machine (CNC: Laser, Waterjet, Pen Plotter, Engraver, Mill, Router & Craft Cutter) driving software capable of converting type to Outline/Wireframe, Expanded Appearance or Convert to Curves OR importing .eps or .svg file types.

(Most machine driving applications will automatically sync fonts available in your computer's system and make them available within the driving software.)

## INSTALLING FONTS

Install the TrueStroke Fonts, both Regular & Stroke files (either .otf or .ttf), according to your systems particular installation instructions.



### Windows 10/8

Unzip the folder containing the fonts first. Fonts cannot be installed if they are zipped.

Right click on the font file and select Install.

### Mac - Install using Font Book:

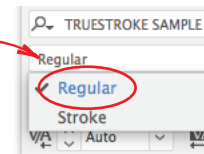
Double click the unzipped font file and Font Book will open a preview of the font.

Click **"Install Font"** at the bottom of the preview.

## TRUESTROKE FONT GUIDE

MADE IN USA | MADE IN USA

Select the 'Regular' font, layout your text, location, point size, kern, and another special modifications.



MADE IN USA

When ready for single-stroke conversion, select/highlight the entire text and select/change the 'Stroke' font option.



MADE IN USA → MADE IN USA

Again select/highlight the entire text and convert to Outline/Wireframe/Expand Appearance. Remove background color and set stroke color to a solid and set stroke to 1pt.

MADE IN USA → MADE IN USA

Super Ascender Points

A diagram showing the text 'MADE IN USA' in a wireframe state. A red oval highlights the top of the letters 'M', 'A', and 'D'. A red arrow points from the text 'Super Ascender Points' to this oval. A blue arrow points from this wireframe version to the final 'MADE IN USA' result.

Using the Direct Selection tool - select/highlight **ONLY** the **Super Ascender Points** directly above the center of each individual letter and press delete. This deletes the unnecessary strokes/vector lines of the font making the image ready to send to the machine.

## TRUESTROKE FONT GUIDE cont.

### 'Outline' Mode Not Supported:

Most cloud-based software applications do not have the same features as system based programs. When this is the case, it will be necessary to prepare the image in an editing software program capable of converting the stroke type to Outline, Expanded Appearance or Convert to Curves.

Once converted, export the image file as a .eps, .svg or other formats compatible with the driver software.

### Connecting Script Text:

Within most graphics editing software there is a feature that joins or welds two endpoints into one path. Joining (or welding) select script letters to appear to flow as one when plotted or engraved.



After the text has been converted to outline (vector), and the **Super Ascender Points** have been removed, join/weld the endpoints into one smooth path. Your machine will read this image as one smooth stroke eliminating any undesirable - start/stop - jitters.