Software Makers

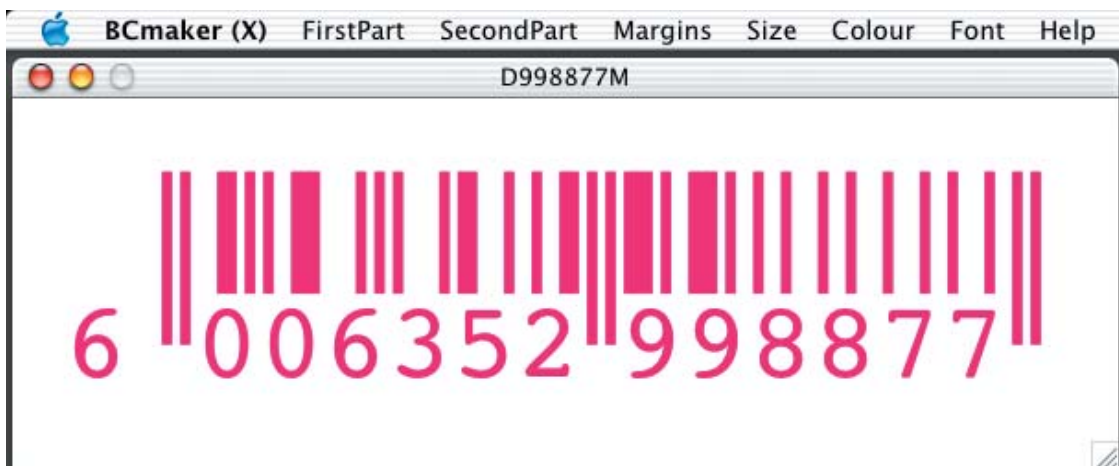## BCmaker (X)^{SM}

"Bar Code Maker"
– Macintosh OS X application.
Creates PDF files with 13-digit bar codes.
The files are suitable for most DTP systems,
including Adobe InDesign, Photoshop, Acrobat, Illustrator.

Introduction

BCmaker (X)^{SM} will create for you bar codes in PDF format, i.e. of highest quality, small in size and imported by most DTP systems. It is easy to operate the application – just imagine – launch it, select first part of a bar code from a pop-up list of producers, and type 6 digits of the second part of the bar code. Obviously, there are more functions of the application.

Software **MAKERS**cc

The textual file **BCmaker.ini** contains information deciding how **BCmaker (X)^{SM}** runs.
(1) List of fonts, and heights of characters.
(2) Current ID of producer database record.
(3) Records of the database of producers and parameters setting.
Each producer must have an unique ID, which should be short and contain letters only. The ID will be used to name files. Additionally, the second part of a bar code and colour code will name files. For example, **SM123456CM.pdf** means that producer ID is "SM", the second part of the bar code is "123456" and the bar code is printed in blue (100% cyan and 100% magenta) colour.

Database of Producers

The first part of bar codes indicates producers. Therefore, instead of typing a number, it is much easier to select a producer. Information about producers is kept in a database. A record of the database consists of the following fields:

```
CompanyID SM
     CompanyName Software Makers
     SingleDigit 6
     FirstPart 001621
     FirstCode 47 47 63 57 23 31
     SizeW 600
     SizeH 200
     MarginL 80
     MarginR 40
     MarginT 40
     MarginB 40
     Colour M
     Font Helvetica 0.72
     SecondPart 123456
```

As you can see, the record describes parameters of the last bar code created for the producer.

To select another producer you must choose the menu option: **FirstPart > Select**. The **First Part** window will appear on screen. The **Database of Producers** pop-up list of options will display all available producers. Select one of the listed producers, and close the window.
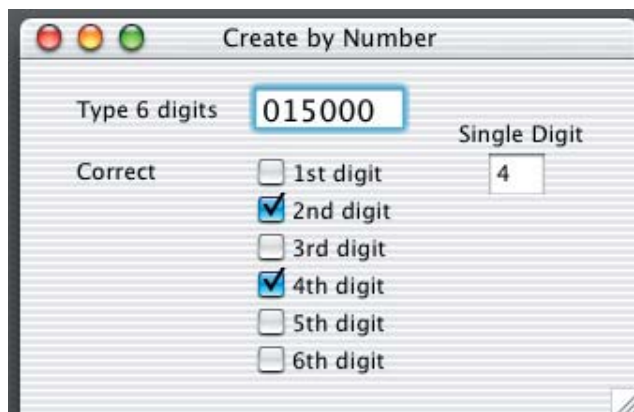
To insert a new record of the producers database, go to the same window as above, by choosing **FirstPart > Select**, and press button **Insert**. Two edit text boxes **Name** and **ID** will become blank. Until you have entered information to the both boxes, the new record will not be inserted to the database. The company **ID** must be unique. If the programme finds a duplicate, you will be informed and asked to change. Use very short IDs, as they are included in PDF-file names.

To delete one of the existing database record, go to the same window as above **FirstPart > Select**, from the pop-up list of producers select one to be deleted, and press button **Delete**. You may check, if the record was removed from the database. To return to the main window, simply close the **First Part** window.

First Part of Bar Codes

The first part of bar codes as well as the separated single digit are specific to the company and they are captured once. There are two options of capturing: by typing numbers and altering some digits or by scanning a sample of bar codes. Both procedures will update the producers database and set up the fields: **SingleDigit**, **FirstPart**, and **FirstCode**. Later on, you will select a record from the producers database, and type the second part of the bar codes, and optionally change font, colour, size, or margins.

The first option of capturing, by typing numbers and altering some digits, can be activated by selecting **FirstPart > Create by Numbers**. Window untitled **Create by Numbers** will appear on screen.

You may type 6-digit number, single digit code, and close the window. Programme will immediately apply data and present a bar code in the main window of **BCmaker (X)ˢᴹ**. Then, in case of any differences, you could come back to the **Create by Number** window and place tick marks where the bar code must be corrected.
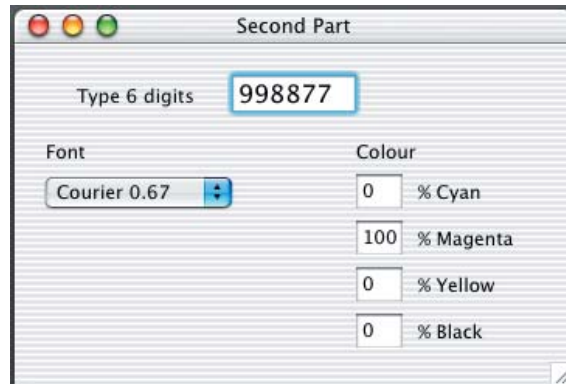
The second option of capturing, by scanning a sample, offers much easier way of entering the first part of bar codes. Firstly, the sample must be scanned. It is very important, that the scanned image has high resolution and good quality. It must be scanned as greyscale image, positioned in the center, with both left and right margins being white.

The programme will look at the picture as a standard bar code scanner, and read the first part of the bar code. In case of any problem, **BCmaker (X)ˢᴹ** will ask you to repeat scanning. The scanning is performed once for a new producers.

Second Part of Bar Codes

Select the **SecondPart > Select** menu function. The **Second Part** window will appear on screen. The same window can be opened by selecting **Colour > Define in CMYK** or **Font > Select** menu functions.
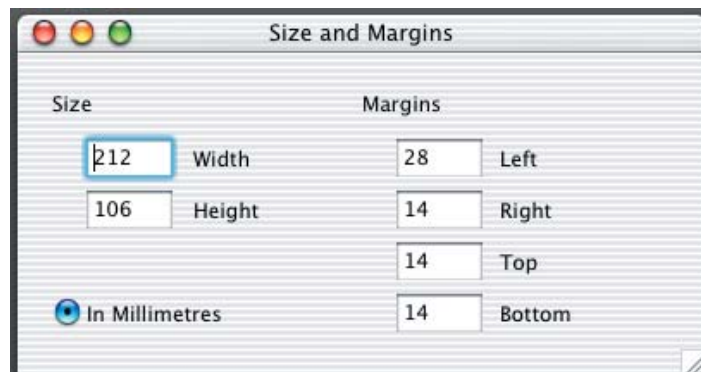
It will allow you to type 6-digit number, which defines the second part of the bar code. Any number longer than 6 will be truncated, and shorter than 6 will be padded with zeros. It will be the operation performed very often, as the rest of parameters will change rarely.

The same window allows you to select a font from the list of available ones. The colour of the bar code is defined in CMYK – you simply enter percentage of each component.

Size and Margins

Select the **Size > Define in Points** or **Size > Define in Millimetres** menu function. The **Size and Margins** window will appear on screen.

It will display the current settings. Change the width or the height of the bar code bounding box, and close the window. The new settings will be reflected immediately.

The same window can be accessed through the **Margins > Define in Points** or **Margins > Define in Millimetres** menu functions. You are able to change left, right, top, and bottom margins. Remember to apply the following rules.

Left Margin + Right Margin < Width

Top Margin + Bottom Margin < Height

Either points or millimeters can be used as unit of measurements.

Placing PDF-Files

The final result of processing, a small PDF-file with the vector graphics of a bar code, will be eventually placed with a DTP system into a document, for example package design. Each DTP system has different methods of importing objects. **Adobe InDesign** allows users to call menu function **File > Place**, to browse disc in search for an object, and show the place of the placement. Then, with usage of **Shift + Command** keys, the object can be resized.

The following bar code was placed just as it was described above.