

A Macro for Reversed Text
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Most of the time, you want to use normal black-on-white text. Every once in a while, though, you may want to print in reverse. Reversed text (also called dropout text or reversed type) consists of white characters on a black background. It is effective in headings and titles.

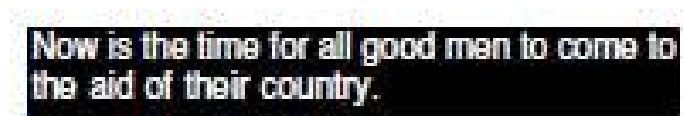
So how do you create reversed text? The trick is to create a WordPerfect graphics box, adjust the box shading to black (100% shading), and change the color of the text within the box to white. Generally, you'll also want to change the border style, adjust the inside and outside border space, and set the anchor type to character. The entire process takes about 60 keystrokes.

But why go through these 60 keystrokes every time you want reversed text? The included REVERSE.WPM macro can do the job quickly and accurately with a tenth of the keystrokes.

Using the Macro

To run the macro, move the cursor to the beginning of the text that you want reversed, press Block (Alt-F4) to turn block on, move the cursor to the end of the text that you want reversed so the text is highlighted, then run the macro by pressing Macro (Alt-F10), typing "reverse," and pressing (Enter). The macro removes the blocked text from your document and inserts the text into a graphics User Box.

After running the macro, the text you blocked disappears from the screen and in its place WordPerfect displays a rectangle to mark the location of the User Box. Even though you can't see the reversed text on the screen, it appears properly when you view or print the document. (See figure below for an example.)



Understanding the Macro

The macro uses the {DISPLAY OFF} macro command so that you don't see distracting changes in the display that slow down the macro.

Lines 2 through 5 check to see if block is on. If block is off, a warning message is displayed and the macro stops. Since the commands in lines 2-5 are handy for use in other macros, I'll explain how they work in detail.

Line 2 uses the command {IF}! {STATE}&128~, which instructs WordPerfect to run the commands from that point to the {END IF} command (lines 3 and 4) only if block is not on. The command {STATE}&128 is true if block is on, but the macro really wants to check if block is off. For this reason, line 2 uses an exclamation point (!), which in macro programming language means "not." Therefore, if {STATE}&128 is false, !{STATE} &128 is true, in other words, not false.

Line 3 uses the macro command {PROMPT}, which displays a message on the left side of the status line. In this case, the message is Block text, then rerun macro. The tilde (~) at the end of the {PROMPT} statement marks the end of the message.

The syntax of the {PROMPT} command is {PROMPT}message~, where message is a line of text. The message may also contain control characters to manage how and where the message appears on the screen. The {PROMPT} message remains on the screen until the user presses a key, until the macro executes another message displaying commands such as {CHAR} or {TEXT}, or until the macro stops running.

Line 4 runs the {BELL} command, which beeps the computer speaker. The {WAIT} command on line 4 delays the macro for two seconds while the prompt is displayed. The number following the {WAIT} command is in tenths of a second.

The {QUIT} command on line 4 immediately stops the macro. The combination of the {PROMPT}, {WAIT}, and {QUIT} commands causes the macro to display a message on the screen for two seconds, then quit.

Line 5 marks the end of the {IF} statement with the {END IF} command.

Lines 6 through 11 make the block of text reversed. Line 6 uses the {Block Move} command to cut the blocked text from the document screen. The text is kept in the clipboard (a buffer region in your computer's memory that temporarily saves the text that you move and copy).

The {Graphics} command in line 6 begins the process of setting the User Box options. The numbers "44" call up the Options: User Box menu.

Line 7 sets the outside border space on all four sides of the User Box to zero (0").

Line 8 sets the inside border space on the left, right and top to 0.02" and the border space on the bottom to 0".

Line 9 sets the gray scale for the User Box to 100%, which is completely black, then the {Exit} command exits the Options: User Box menu.

Line 10 creates the User Box itself, setting the anchor type to character, the vertical position to baseline and the size to automatic in both the horizontal and vertical directions. This usually – but not always — ensures that the box fits around the text that you want reversed. Later I'll explain what you should do in the cases that the text doesn't fit.

Finally, line 11 retrieves the originally blocked text into the User Box and changes the font color to white. The three {Exit} commands at the end of line 11 return the cursor to the normal document screen.

Editing the User Box

Under some circumstances you may have to edit the text within a User Box or manually change the dimensions of the User Box so that the reversed text fits in the box. To edit the User Box, press Graphics (Alt-F9), (4) User Box, (2) Edit, type the box number and press (Enter). The Definition: User Box menu appears on the screen. You can then select (7) Size to set the size of the User Box or select (9) Edit to edit the text within the box.

Limitations

You should be aware of some potential problems with using the macro:

- Reversed text will not work with all printers. If you're not sure whether or not it will work on your printer, run the macro on a test document and print it.
- With some printers, the View Document screen displays a black rectangle for the graphics User Box but doesn't show the white text. Don't worry about this. The reversed text will appear on the printed page.
- If the amount of text or the font size won't fit in the User Box, the black box may print without the white text. If this happens, you should edit the User Box as described above so that the box is larger or the text is smaller.
- If you change your font size or appearance after running the macro, the User Box may no longer be the proper size. For best results, use the Reverse macro after setting your fonts and format codes.
- The macro was designed to work on short text selections. Long text selections wrap differently. If necessary, you can edit the User Box manually as explained above.
- Text doesn't always appear centered vertically in the black box. How centered it looks depends on the font and text you're using.