

NEW FEATURES IN LABANWRITER 4.0

presented by

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LabanWriter 2.0, a computer aided design tool for doing Labanotation on the Macintosh, was developed by Scott Sutherland and Lucy Venable and first released in 1990. The last release by that team was 3.2.4 in 1995.

Since the fall of 1995 David Ralley has been the software designer for version 4.0 which we plan to release very soon. It is designed for Macintosh computers using System 7.5 or above. Fonts were designed by Carol Finley and the manual reworked by Valerie Alpert. The programming language used in this version is C++.

Since most people present at the ICKL technology session were familiar with LabanWriter, the presentation demonstrated as many of the new features as time allowed. The list below is somewhat fuller and will be found in the 4.0 manual when 4.0 is released.

General Changes/Improvements

- LabanWriter is now designed to work in modes:

Selection (A) , Staff (S) , Measure (M) , and Floor Plan (F) .

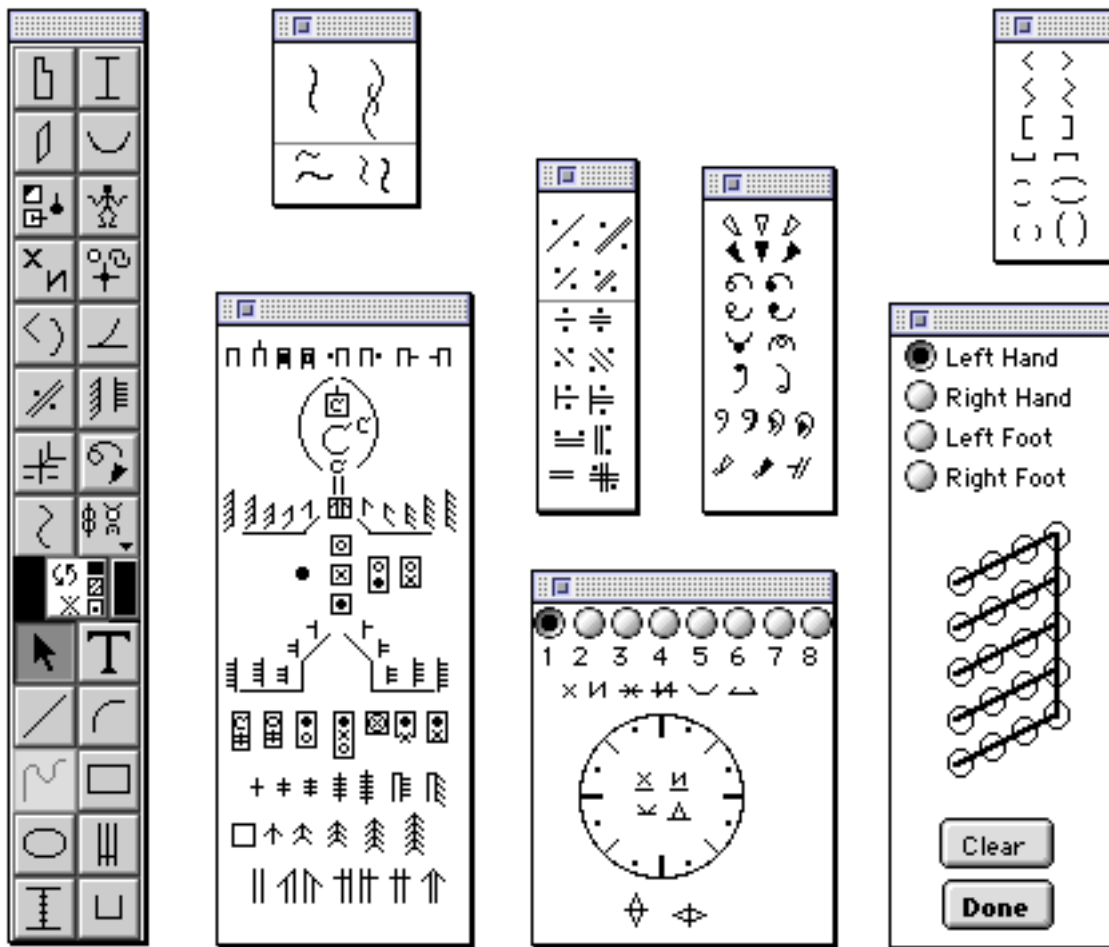
Select one of these tools or hot keys in parenthesis and the menu will activate for them.

- Multiple documents can be open simultaneously.
- Preferences for a document such as click to grid, font, palette and staff options can be set under the Edit menu.
- Staves and floor plans can be moved or copied from one page to another and from one document to another.
- Any symbol and staff or floor plan with its contents can be copied by selecting it, holding down the **Option** key and dragging.
- There is an Undo (Z) command under the Edit menu.
- A LabanWriter 3 document can be opened in LabanWriter 4.

Main Palette

- There has been significant re-organization of where symbols appear in the new version, which we hope will enable users to find the symbol they are looking for more efficiently.
- The **manipulate palette** is an extension of the menus and has been added to allow direct manipulation of symbols, such as rotating a pin on the page, changing the size of pin, changing a line from solid to dotted, adding whitespace, ticks or arrowheads to

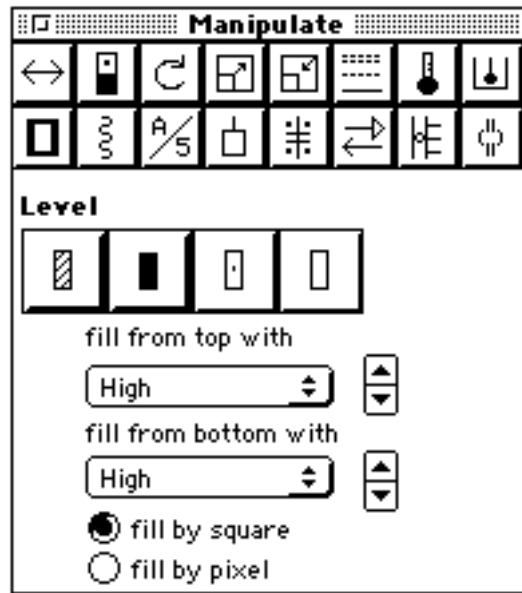
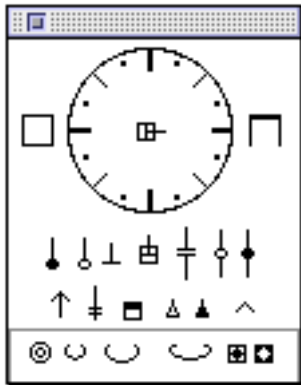
lines. Perhaps most popular will be the ability to add more than one level to directions and turns.



Main Palette

Some of the Smaller Palettes

- Holding the shift key while drawing a line will constrain the line to some multiple of 45 degrees. Holding shift while drawing an oval will constrain the drawing to a circle, and with a rectangle to a square.
- Curves can be flipped horizontally and vertically.
- Rectangles and ovals can now be colored white to obscure items behind them by using "add whitespace". This can be useful in breaking paths in floor plans.
- Music, Motif, and Laban Movement Analysis palettes have been added in a pop up palette (above and to the right of the manipulate palette with a wedge at the bottom) on the Main Palette to reveal the music, Motif, and Laban Movement Analysis menus.
- There is a jump symbol in the Motif Palette which can be changed using the Manipulate Palette to show the five ways of springing into the air.
- Tools for adding and manipulating Staffs, Measures, and Floor Plans have been added, eliminating the "page layout" dialog box.



Pin Palette

- This now has only one clock which is used to rotate any selected pin. Select a pin, then click in the clock to rotate it. To put the pin in a box, select a pin, then hold shift and click on the box to the left of the clock. Symbols that do not rotate appear below the horizontal line.

Body Palette

- Limbs are now created by selecting the corresponding joint, and using the Manipulate Palette to turn the joint into a limb.

Fingers/Toes Palette

- All parts of the toes as well as the fingers are available now.

Repeat Palette

- The first four repeat symbols are stretchable and can be resized, the first two symbols click onto the center line of the staff, the others are font symbols which can be increased and decreased in size.

Effort/Shape Palette

- Now Shape graphs as well as Effort graphs are available.

Menus

- The menus and their items have been re-arranged.
- When activated, Floor Plan, Staff, and Measure tools all bring up additional menus.

- Some menu items will be active only when appropriate symbols are selected. For instance, if there are no symbols currently selected, the manipulate menu will not be active.

Symbols

- Symbols can be sent to the front or to the back when one is on top of the other. Using this when a pin or whitespace seems to have disappeared is useful.
- Hold the control button and click any stretchable symbol to resize it.
- Select color for the symbols under Attributes if the computer and printer are equipped for color.
- Composite symbols can be made by holding down the shift key and selecting the body parts.

Text

- The Text Tool will now do multi-styled text, and there is no longer a 32K limit on the size of the text block.
- Text can be flipped 1/4 to the left.
- Text can be enclosed by a rectangle, diamond or circle. This is useful for different numberings.

Floor Plans

- They can be copied using option drag to make floor plans as you go.
- Arrowheads can be added to the beginning or end of any line by using the Manipulate Palette.
- End points (where the arrow ends) can be designated by white pins whose facing and sex can be changed easily .
- Now any pin placed on a floorplan will show only one nose when rotated by 16ths.

Key Commands

There are many new key commands to be found in Appendix B of the manual. Perhaps the most useful will be 4 which copies all symbols selected on one side of the staff, flips them and places them on the other side of the staff. Wonderful time saver for complicated symmetrical arm movements.

To obtain a copy of LabanWriter 3.2.4 now and 4. 0 when it is released:

Download it by going to www.dance.ohio-state.edu

or

send a disk to LabanWriter, Department of Dance, 1813 N. High St., Columbus, OH 43210, USA

LabanTalk

To subscribe to LabanTalk an electronic mailing list out of the Ohio State University for those interested in Motif Notation and Labanotation discussions and information send a message to:

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Join Motif and Labanotation Discussions led by Charlotte Wile

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