

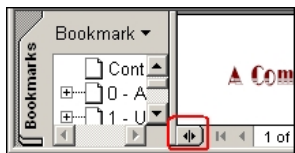
A Common Person's WordPerfect Macro Manual

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RELEASE NOTES

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PREFACE

A better title than "Preface" is, "Limitations of the Skill Level of This Writer." Although my skills are good enough to write a commercially successful macro program for Oklahoma lawyers, *I am by no means a world-class macro writer*. I've had to grope for everything I've learned and I inevitably learn better "macro ways" than I knew before. Mostly, I am a pragmatist who learns on an "as needed" basis. In the process of writing of this manual I've learned lots of better ways. †

So, why do I presume to write this manual? (1) Not a lot of literature is readily available to assist "common persons" like me. (2) I want to give other "common persons" some good news – a common person can write outstandingly useful macros, even if a real macro guru would do it differently. *So, get out your "book" and write this down: You don't need to be a macro guru ... if a macro works, it works.* (3) I know that what I express here "works" since I've successfully done everything that is discussed here works as described and nothing I state here is hypothetical, even if what I say could be done differently or better than I have done in these descriptions.

This manual embraces macro topics in WordPerfect 6.1 through 12.0, but it's probably better for WordPerfect 8.0 and higher since I no longer use WordPerfect 6.1 or 7.0. I understand that macros for WordPerfect 6.0 and 6.1 for Windows were very similar, but I have no personal knowledge of that.

This manual doesn't contain all that *I think* I've learned, and, obviously, it contains nothing about that which I don't yet know. Most importantly, I hope that it contains nothing that will lead you astray because of my own ignorance. Be sure to see Chapter 1, [Additional Resources](#). The [Table of Contents](#) is immediately below.

This manual has two intended audiences: (1) people who already have moderate-to-better skill levels; and (2) people who don't and have not yet dipped their toes into macro waters at all. To all, I wish you a Good Macro Journey!

- **MODERATE-TO-ADVANCED USERS.** For you, or for beginners who want to be "you", you don't need the pep-talk. You just need reference information to help you solve particular kinds of tasks you're working on – these links take you to the [Index](#), [Glossary](#), [Math](#), [Date](#), [Dialog Show and Callback Routines](#), or [Macro Examples](#) Chapters.
- **NON-MACRO USERS.** You cannot begin to know what powerful WordPerfect tools you miss by not using macros routinely, day-to-day. But, many WordPerfect users are intimidated by even the thought of learning to write macros – either that or they just don't see the need. *Well, that's all garbage! You don't have to be a macro guru* to write exceptionally useful WordPerfect macros which make your work faster and more pleasurable. It's not like you have to learn a *whole* foreign language – you don't need to be fluent. You can write a perfectly usable macro today, in just a few minutes. Learn more later when the need or desire exists. I never had a macro writing class – and for any real macro gurus who may read this, I know that it shows! But, being self-taught, I'm here to say that if I can do it, you can do it, too. If you are just beginning, you may want to start with [Understanding What Macros Are...](#) and/or [First Things](#).

† Thanks are given to J. Dan Broadhead, Barry MacDonnell, and Roy Lewis for their assistance in critiquing the initial draft of this manual, to Ken Hobson who has tried to teach me many things that I still don't quite grasp, and to many others for their encouragement! All were very helpful and I am grateful to each of them. My VERY special thanks is given to J. Dan Broadhead whose detailed critiques of this manual's drafts have improved it *very substantially* from what it would have been and, not the least, for his permission to use several of his comments herein (they are almost always "boxed"). That said, all errors in this paper are mine, none are theirs, and none of their respective contributions implies endorsement by any of them of this manual or any of the dumb things I may have said herein!

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Release Notes

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