Geometrically rotated text for the Macintosh computer

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Many experiments in the fields of perception, learning, and memory involve the presentation of geometrically rotated text (see, e.g., Kolers & Perkins, 1975, Kolers &

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Roediger, 1984, Millar, 1975, and Navon, 1978). The preparation of stimulus materials for these experiments is generally very time consuming. Moreover, it is difficult to present geometrically rotated text on most microcomputers, since microcomputers typically use hardware character generators to display alphanumeric symbols. However, some computers, such as the Apple Macintosh, treat text as graphics and therefore allow greater flexibility in the design of character sets.

We have constructed character sets for the Macintosh that enable an experimenter to present text in any of the eight fashions discussed by Kolers and Roediger (1984). Examples of these character sets are presented in Figure 1. Although the characters were designed to be

Figure 1. The eight types of text described by Kolers and Roediger (1984). The labels to the left of each type of text correspond to those used in the Kolers and Roediger article.

presented in the sizes shown in Figure 1, they can be re-scaled to any desired size by a single call to the Macintosh ROM. For example, the current text size is 12 point, so the BASIC command "CALL TEXTSIZE(24)" would double the text size.

The character sets can be installed into the system resource file using the font-mover program that is included on the system disk. Once installed, they can be accessed from any program. Thus, a program written in BASIC to control an experiment could present geometrically rotated text on the screen as easily as it could present normal text. In addition, since these character sets are accessible from any word processing program, it is easy to prepare and print stimulus materials that include them.

Availability. A disk containing these character sets can

be obtained for \$5.00 by writing to David M. Lane, Department of Psychology, Rice University, Houston, Texas 77251-1892.

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