# Reviews

## **Kappa Type Fonts for East European Languages**

### FONT AND KEYBOARD LAYOUTS

EAST EUROPEAN LANGUAGES. WINDOWS. KAPPA TYPE INC. \$69.00 TRUETYPE, \$99.00 POSTSCRIPT

#### This product makes it easy to type and output most East European languages in all Windows applications

Appa Types which is known for its keyboard utility MetaKey, has developed a series of Windows fonts for the East European languages. These fonts follow code page 1250 (CP1250). Keyboard layouts for all East European languages that use CP1250 are included. These fonts and keyboard layouts make it easy to type most East European languages in any Windows application and output them to a laser printer or imagesetter.

The typefaces currently available are: Arial, Bembo, Gill Sans Alt-1, Times New Roman, and Typewriter Gothic. All of these are available in both TrueType and Postscript (Type 1) versions. The keyboard layouts provided are Croatian/Slovene, Czech, Hungarian, Romanian, Polish, and Slovak, as well as nine custom layouts. It is also possible to type Albanian, English, and German, although CP1250 is not required for these last three languages. Lithuanian, Latvian, and Estonian are not included, since a few characters used in these languages are not included in CP1250.

These fonts are installed in the usual manner: TrueType fonts are installed by clicking on the "Font" icon in the Windows Control Panel, and Postscript fonts are installed using the Adobe Type Manager Control Panel, or an equivalent application. A dedicated installer is included for the keyboard lavouts. The font becomes available in all Windows applications just like all other Windows fonts, and the keyboard layouts can be selected in the normal way by clicking on the "International" icon in the Windows Control Panel.

The user who is accustomed to a standard East European keyboard layout can simply select that layout in the Control Panel. Users who prefer the US keyboard, the "quertz" or "azerty" keyboards can select one of the custom layouts which are slightly modified to facilitate the typing of accented characters (characters with diacritical marks). The custom keyboard layouts include the popular "Polish Alternative" layout which is frequently used with computers. This alternative layout makes it possible to produce accented characters with a single stroke, and places accented characters on the same key as the unaccented character, which makes it much easier to remember the position of accented letters. All CP1250 languages can be typed using any of the keyboard layouts provided, so it is never necessary to type a sequence of numbers on the numeric keypad to produce



any of the desired accented characters, no matter which keyboard layout is used.

The Postscript versions of Kappa Type's East European fonts have language-specific kerning pairs for the following languages: Albanian, Croatian, Czech, English, German, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian, Slovak, Slovene and Sorbian. Thus, the Postscript versions of these fonts are suitable for high-quality imagesetting in these languages.

There are a few other East European fonts available on the market. One is available for use with ParaWin, which provides

East European and Cyrillic support for Windows. This font follows CP1250; however, keyboard support is not included with the font itself. It is necessary to purchase ParaWin, which incidentally does not use the Windows keyboard driver.

Linguist's Software also offers East European Windows fonts, but they follow a modified version of CP1250. Some seldom-used mathematical symbols have been replaced by the missing characters used in Lithuanian, Latvian, and Estonian. The Linguist's Software fonts offer keyboard support, but like ParaWin's keyboard support, they do not use the resources of the Windows Control Panel.

Another series of fonts is offered by Casady and Greene, but these are currently being revised and were not available as of this writing. Ecological Linguistics offers a Windows font for East European languages, but it

does not follow CP1250, since it is aimed at maintaining compatibility with its Macintosh fonts and lacks keyboard support.

At present, Kappa Type's East European fonts appear to be the best buy for the user who wants to get up and running quickly in an East European language, while adhering to existing Windows standards. Kappa Type is currently working on Macintosh versions of these fonts, and is planning a CP1257 font series, but there is no expected shipping date for these products. (5)

#### -THOMAS HEDDEN