Gothic Writing
A lesson on the use of the Gothic charset and lineset;

At the suggestion of Bruce Parrello
written by Douglas Jones -jones of vcl-
the charset is in lesson charsets;
they are both also in lesson gothic;

press -next-

Index

1 - what is Gothic?

2 - oddities of these chars‡

3 - Charset versus Lineset‡

4 - warnings and disclaimers

5 - using the Charset

6 - using the Lineset‡

7 - Illumination

press the number of your choice
 -back- to exit
 -next- to see part 1

Contact -jones- of -vcl- for problems‡
Lesson gothic is open for inspection‡

As books became more popular during the later days of the dark ages, a form of handwriting was developed that was well suited to the copying of books by relatively illiterate copyists.

For many, this new writing style was not a pleasing invention. to the eye accustomed to the elegance of the roman style or the smooth grace of the carolingian, the barbaric angularity of the new style soon earned it the name Gothic.

Eventually the gothic book hand became a standard over much of europe, with the variants now called Old English and German Fraktur or black hand being the best known today.

A set of standard punctuation marks was not developed until well after the Gothic lettering style; previous to this, dots and pen flourishes were used at the discretion of the copyist, with the number of dots sometimes related to the length of the appropriate pause between words when reading the text.

Though spelling was not standardized at the time, it is today; the most well known funny spellings y^e and ye were in the first case a fast way to write the and in the second pronoounced y^x or ya -informal today as then for you- use the spellings people today can read.

Frequently, a more experienced artist was hired to do the capital and illuminated letters; as a result these frequently differed in style from the body of the text. Because the better artists cost more, even the best books had few capitals per page;

Choosing the one to use:

1 - the lineset can show almost 40 chars in
    the time it takes the charset to be loaded:
    if you need less, use the lineset:

2 - the charset chars plot at 180 a second:
    the lineset ones at 3 a second:
    never use the lineset for bulk text displays:

3 - the charset characters don*t always fit well
    in the 8×16 slots the terminal supports:
    the lineset chars vary in width
    so lineset characters are better for
    photocopying or photographing -christmas cards?

4 - the charset has a more limited variety of
    capitals than the lineset:

5 - though the size of lineset characters can
    be changed, not all sizes work well*
    size .8 is readable

    size .7 is not as good

Before proceding, remember:

students don't like having to wait: fancy
displays are nice, but don't force them on
people: if you must have time consuming
displays put them at lesson end points:
at least these can be aborted by -stop1-

also, don't use this kind of character
set on students who have barely learned
to read the conventional one:

-notice-

the lineset is now about finished,
all future changes will be compatable:

the charset in lesson charsets needs changes,
but these will not effect existing uses:

this lesson will contain notice of
all changes, and of the new locations
of the various char and linesets:

-back- for index
-next- for part 5

For the charset gothics

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz are the regular letters

0123456789   are the numbers

+-×÷< <±/ *? *±   punctuation
+-×÷< ,./ "? ;;   the keyset positions;

_'*()=   the letters to make flourishes
           and the resulting flourish;

%
$ And the capital letters;
]
[**A** ASD   **K** FGH   **C** ERT   **J** JK
      ZXC   VBN   YUI   LM
>
only -a- -k- -e- are in charsets

The small capitals;
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNO
are made with for example ▫a▫A for A;
these are not in charsets; ▫ is access key;
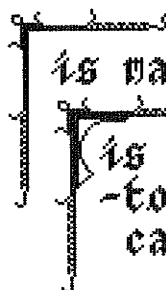
Lineset characters:

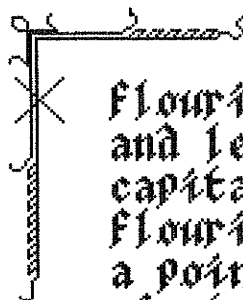The digits, letters, and punctuation are the same for lineset and charset.

The big differences are in the upper case letters and the decorations.

is made with %

is made with %_
-to be used only with the rounded access ▫ capitals ℂ 𝔼 𝔾 and ◯

Flourishes start at the marked point and leave the panel location unchanged. capital letters will always fit under a flourish, and set the final location to a point 4×size dots lower, and moved over about 3 character positions.

the small capitals are just shifted letters for instance 𝔸 is A, the large ones are made with access (▫) shifted letters

-next- for a listing of the letters
-back- for index

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

0123456789.,‡/#?※§※≈—+

ABCDEFGHIJKLM
NOPQRSTUVWXYZ

ABCDEFG
HIJKLMNO

-next- or -back- for index‡

Illumination