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 vel-
the charset is in lesson charsets, they are both also in lesson gothic;

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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

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Contact -jones- of -pcl- 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.

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A set of standard punctuation marks was not developed until well after the Gothic lettering styles prevalent 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 ye and ye were in the first case a fast way to write the and in the second pronounced ye 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.

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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 160 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 .2 is readable, size .7 is not as good.

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Before proceeding, 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 -stop-

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

-notice-

the lineset is now about finished; all future changes will be compatible;

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;

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For the charset gothic:

`abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz` are the regular letters

`0123456789` are the numbers

`+-*/< > ? !` punctuation
`+-*+ ,./":. ` the keyset positions;

`'* 0 = ` the letters to make flourishes
`% $` and the resulting flourish;

`{}[]` And the capital letters:

```
A ASD R FGH S ERT J JK
ZXC VBN E YUI  I LM
```

only `a` -`f` -`e` are in charsets

The small capitals:

`ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ`

are made with for example `a=a` for `A`;
these are not in charsets; `*` is access key;

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Linetet characters:
The digits, letters, and punctuation are the same for linetet 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 Ξ Π Π and Ø

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 H is A, the large ones are made with access (०) shifted letters

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