

TCalc

Instruction Manual



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TCalc

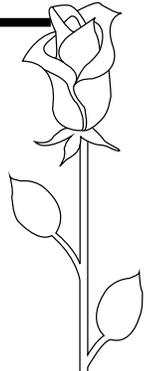


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TCalc

System Requirements

Mac OS v7.0 or later

250K bytes RAM

200K bytes disk space

Any Mac or compatible manufactured after 1987 (MacPlus or later)

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(See last section of this
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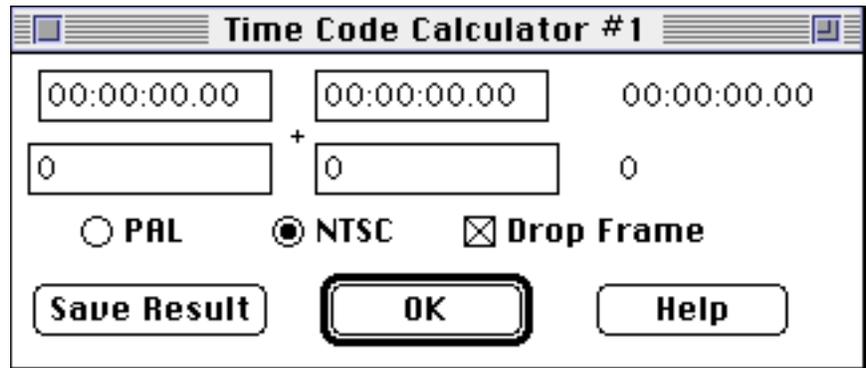
Installing TCalc

TCalc is supplied as a self-extracting Stuffit archive file. Most browsers will extract the files automatically. If not, double click on the archive to extract the files. The archive contains 6 files:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| TCalc | - the Calculator application. |
| Read about TCalc | - a copy of the file you are reading |
| TCalc Documentation.pdf | - the TCalc Instruction manual in Adobe Acrobat™ format. |
| Prepare your Order | - an application that helps you pay for TCalc via EMail or traditional Mail. |
| How To Order | - instructions for ordering including using Prepare your Order. Prepare your Order helps you order TCalc. |
| Your License Key | - Information about the License Key that you need to turn the demo into the commercial version. |

Calculator

A typical calculator window looks like this:



Time Code

Each Calculator Window contains 4 editable fields. The top 2 fields are designated as “Time Code” fields. The bottom 2 are “Frame Number” fields.

Entering Numbers

When a new Calculator Window is opened (you may open as many as you like), the caret cursor (a vertical line) is automatically placed in the top left edit field just to the right of the 8-digit time code value of 00:00:00:00. This field is designed for entering time code values. You will find it very easy to enter and change the contents of the 2 Digit Time Code fields using the keypad keys of your keyboard. Attempting to use the mouse to select and modify the contents of the 2 Digit Time Code fields will be tedious and time-consuming. Thus, you should become familiar with what the keypad keys do and make use of them when entering or changing the contents of Time Code fields. The keypad keys are described in this section under the topic titled “Keyboard Shortcuts”.

Rules for NTSC Time Code values:

- 1) A frame number cannot be larger than 29;
- 2) Seconds cannot be larger than 59;
- 3) Minutes cannot be larger than 59;
- 4) Hours cannot be larger than 39;

If the “Drop Frame” box is checked and the Time Code value you enter is actually a “dropped frame” value, a warning message will appear. Refer to the “Background” section for a description of what frame numbers are “dropped” (and therefore are undefined or not allowed).

Rules for PAL Time Code values:

- 1) A frame number cannot be larger than 24;
- 2) Seconds cannot be larger than 59;
- 3) Minutes cannot be larger than 59;
- 4) Hours cannot be larger than 39;

Frame Numbers

When you want to calculate using Frame Numbers, you should enter numbers into the 2 lower edit fields of the Calculator Window. These

values are pure numbers. Most of the keypad shortcuts are not available when entering Frame Numbers. See the section titled “Keyboard Shortcuts” for a description of keypad keys and what they do when you are entering Frame Numbers or Time Code values.

***Rules for NTSC
Frame number values***

- 1) A frame number cannot be larger than 4,319,999.
- 2) A frame number cannot be smaller than 0.

***Rules for Drop
Frame Values***

- 1) A frame number cannot be larger than 4,319,679.
- 2) A frame number cannot be smaller than 0.

***Rules for PAL frame
number values***

- 1) A frame number cannot be larger than 3,599,999.
- 2) A frame number cannot be smaller than 0.

As you enter values into the edit fields of the Calculator Window, calculations are immediately performed and displayed.

The calculator will indicate an error:

- 1) If the calculated value is less than 0;
- 2) If the calculated value is more than 4,319,999 (NTSC), 4,315,679 (Drop Frame) or 3,599,999 (PAL);

+ or -

The type of calculation performed (addition or subtraction) is determined by what is displayed on the screen. To change the calculation from addition to subtraction, press the keypad “-” key. To change the calculation from subtraction to addition, press the keypad “+” key. Alternatively, you can change the type of calculation being performed by moving the mouse cursor over the top of the addition (or subtraction) sign and clicking the mouse button.

Close box

Click the mouse button when the mouse cursor is inside this part of the window to close the window.

Zoom box

Click the mouse button when the mouse cursor is inside this part of the window to display (or hide) an illustration of what the keypad keys do when you press them. If the illustration is currently visible, clicking this box will hide the illustration.

“OK” Button

Click the mouse button when the mouse cursor is inside this button to close the Calculator window containing the button. Alternatively, you can press the <Return> key to perform the same action. When the window closes, all of it’s contents will be discarded.

“Save Result” Button

Click the mouse button when the mouse cursor is inside this button to copy the current calculated value to the Clipboard. If the caret cursor (a vertical line) is blinking in one of the Time Code Format edit areas, the saved value will be in time code format (HH:MM:SS: FF). If it is blinking in one of the Frame Format edit fields, the saved value will be in frame number format.

“Help” Button

Click the mouse button when the cursor is inside this button to display (or hide) an illustration of what the keypad keys do when you press them. If the illustration is currently visible, clicking this button will hide the illustration.

“PAL”

Selecting this option will cause the values displayed in the window to be based on a frame rate of 25 frames per second.

“NTSC”

Selecting this option will cause the values displayed in the window to be based on a frame rate of 30 frames per second.

“Drop Frame”

Selecting this option will cause the values displayed in the window to be based on a frame rate of 29.97 frames per second. Note that the “Drop Frame” option is not available when you are using the PAL frame rate choice.

TCalc's Menus

File Menu

File	Edit
New Calculator	⌘N
Close	⌘W
Save Result	⌘S
Activate Balloon Help	⌘H
Quit	⌘Q

The items on this menu perform the following functions:

New Calculator

Selecting this item opens a new calculator window. **You may open as many calculator windows as you like.** Each calculator is independent of the others. That is, in one window you can calculate values in PAL and in another, you can use Drop-Frame, for example. The results of the calculation in any window has no effect on the results in any other window.

Close

Selecting this item closes the currently active window. This could be a Calculator window or the Clipboard window. Windows from other applications are not affected by this option.

Save Result

When you choose this item, the calculated result from the Calculator that is currently active will be copied to the Clipboard.

Activate Balloon Help/

This menu item provides you with a shortcut way to turn Balloon Help

Deactivate Balloon Help

on or off. It is primarily designed to give you a keyboard shortcut for controlling Balloons. Note that TCalc comes with complete Balloon Help support.

Quit

To exit from TCalc, select this menu item.

Edit Menu

Edit	
Cut	⌘H
Copy	⌘C
Paste	⌘V
Clear	
Select All	⌘A
Show Clipboard	

Cut

The items on this menu perform the following functions:

Copy

This item causes the contents of the current editable text field to be copied to the Clipboard and then erased from the field.

Paste

This item causes the contents of the current editable text field to be copied to the Clipboard.

Clear

This item causes the contents of the current editable text field to be replaced with the contents of the Clipboard, if the Clipboard contains text.

Select All

This item causes the contents of the current editable text field to be erased. The contents of the Clipboard is not changed.

Show Clipboard

This item causes the contents of the current editable text field to be selected and highlighted.

If you select this item, a window is opened at the bottom of your monitor showing the contents of the Clipboard.

Keyboard Shortcuts

Tab

If the current window is a Calculator Window, pressing this key will move the caret cursor to the other edit field of the same type. That is, if the caret cursor is blinking in a Time Code field, it will be moved to the other Time Code field. The same holds true for Frame Number fields.

Shift tab

Pressing this keystroke combination will move the caret cursor to the edit field of the opposite type. That is, if the caret cursor is blinking in a Time Code field, it will be moved to the corresponding Frame Number field and vice versa.

<i>Clear (on the keypad)</i>	Pressing this key will select (and highlight) the HOURS part of the current Time Code edit field. If the current edit field is a Frame Number field, this key does nothing.
<i>= (on the keypad)</i>	Pressing this key will select (and highlight) the MINUTES part of the current Time Code edit field. If the current edit field is a Frame Number field, this key does nothing.
<i>/ (on the keypad)</i>	Pressing this key will select (and highlight) the SECONDS part of the current Time Code edit field. If the current edit field is a Frame Number field, this key does nothing.
<i>* (on the keypad)</i>	Pressing this key will select (and highlight) the FRAMES part of the current Time Code edit field. If the current edit field is a Frame Number field, this key does nothing.
<i>- (on the keypad)</i>	Pressing this key will tell the calculator to perform a SUBTRACTION operation.
<i>+ (on the keypad)</i>	Pressing this key will tell the calculator to perform a ADDITION operation.
<i>. (on the keypad)</i>	Pressing this key will tell the calculator to replace the current selection with ZEROs.
<i>Enter (on the keypad)</i>	Pressing this key will tell the calculator that you intend to only enter 1 digit of the 2 digits selected. When you select part of a Time Code field, 2 digits are highlighted. After you enter the first digit, the selected value will be replaced with that digit preceded by a zero. If you want to keep the leading zero in the final number, just press Enter. The leading zero will be preserved. If the current edit field is a Frame Number field, this key does nothing.

Command Key Shortcuts

<i>File Menu Shortcuts</i>	
⌘ N	This keystroke combination is the same as selecting the “New Calculator” option of the File menu. It opens a new Calculator Window. You may open as many Calculator Windows as you like. Each one is independent of the others.
⌘ W	This keystroke combination is the same as selecting the “Close” option of the File menu. It closes the current window. If that window is a Calculator Window, all of the window’s contents will be discarded.
⌘ S	This keystroke combination is the same as selecting the “Save Result” option of the File menu. It copies the calculated value displayed in the current Calculator Window. If the current window is not a Calculator Window, this keystroke combination is not available.

⌘ H This keystroke combination activates (or deactivates) Balloon Help. The File menu has an item that performs the same action.

⌘ Q This keystroke combination is the same as selecting the “Quit” option of the File menu. It stops TCalc and returns you to the Finder.

Edit Menu shortcuts

⌘ X This keystroke combination is the same as selecting the “Cut” option of the Edit menu. It deletes the editable characters that are currently highlighted. Behind the scenes, it copies the same characters to the Clipboard.

⌘ C This keystroke combination is the same as selecting the “Copy” option of the Edit menu. It copies the editable characters that are currently highlighted to the Clipboard.

⌘ V This keystroke combination is the same as selecting the “Paste” option of the Edit menu. It inserts the contents of the Clipboard into the current edit field just in front of the caret cursor (vertical line). If the Clipboard contains something besides a number, a warning is displayed.

⌘ A This keystroke combination is the same as selecting the “Select All” option of the Edit menu. It highlights all of the characters in the current edit field.

All other keyboard keys (or combinations) do the same thing as they always did.

Background

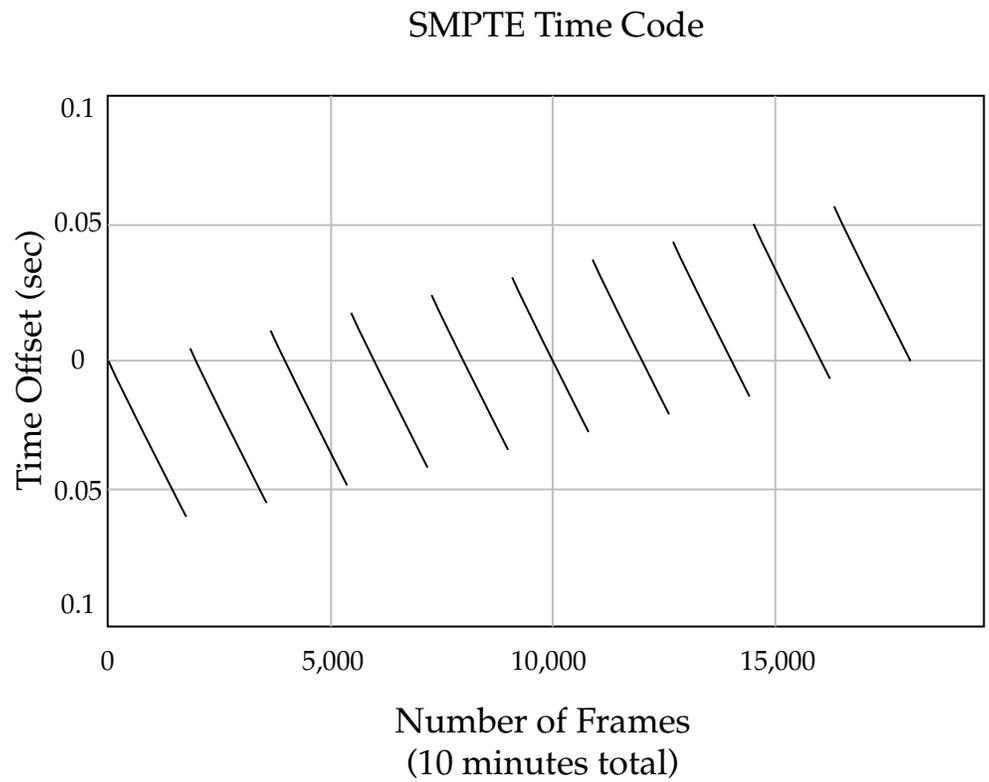
SMPTE time code is a broadcast standard time which is recorded in the HH:MM:SS:FF format where HH represents hours, MM refers to minutes, SS is seconds and FF is a frame number.

In countries adhering to the NTSC standard such as the United States, FF is a number between 00 and 29. This gives the television frame rate of 30 frames per second (well, almost... keep reading). Each frame is made of two interlaced fields, so video data resolution of 1/60 of a second is possible with professional VCR equipment.

Simple enough so far. The problem comes because NTSC actually uses a frame rate of 29.97 frames per second. So a “Drop Frame” counting scheme is used instead.

During the drop-frame cycle, error accumulates at the rate of .001 seconds per frame. When end cycle minute is reached, a .066 second compensation is made by dropping 2 frames. By convention, the frame numbers that are dropped are the 00 and 01 frames at the start of each minute. When the minutes value is an even multiple of 10, no frames are dropped.

Below you can see an image of the saw tooth pattern this creates in time code over a ten minute period.



The plot shows a total of ten minutes worth of frames.

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