

The Lotus Dialog Editor provides an easy alternative to using the Microsoft Software Development Kit (SDK) to create dialog boxes that can be used in Ami Pro macros. The Ami Pro macro language can access dialog boxes created with either the Dialog Editor or the SDK.

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The Dialog Editor provides onscreen help for all functions.

**To use help**

1. Choose Help/Contents.

The Dialog Editor displays a list of Help topics.

2. Choose the desired Help topic.

**Keyboard:** Press TAB to select the desired Help topic and press ENTER.

The Dialog Editor displays the Help topic.

See also:

[Using SmartIcons](#)

[Creating a Dialog Box](#)

SmartIcons are mouse shortcuts for commands. You can use SmartIcons in the Dialog Editor just as you use them in other Lotus products. You can display descriptions for the SmartIcons and specify the icons you want to display by modifying the SmartIcons.

**To use SmartIcons**

1. Choose Options/SmartIcons.

The Dialog Editor displays the AmiDlgEd set of icons across the top of the window.

2. Click the desired icon to implement the command.

**To modify SmartIcons**

1. Choose Options/Modify SmartIcons.

The Dialog Editor displays the SmartIcons dialog box.

2. Select the desired position for the set of SmartIcons.
3. Modify the set of SmartIcons by adding, moving, removing, or grouping the icons.

See also:

[Creating a Dialog Box](#)  
[Adding Controls](#)



You can create a dialog box to allow the user to provide information while a macro is running, instead of prompting the user with a long list of Query\$ and Decide boxes.

### To create a dialog box

1. Choose File/New.
2. Type the desired name for the dialog box.
3. If you want a title bar in the dialog box, type the desired title name.
4. Select the desired type of dialog box.

#### **Plain**

A dialog box without a title bar.

#### **Title bar**

A dialog box with a title bar. This allows a user to move the box by dragging the title bar to a new location.

#### **Title bar with system menu**

A dialog box with a title bar and a control menu. This allows a user to move or close the box using the keyboard.

5. If you want to display a Help icon in the title bar, select Help Icon.  
Although the Help Icon does not display in the Dialog Editor, it displays when the dialog box is used in a macro.  
You must use a DlgKeyInterrupt function before a DialogBox function to make the Help icon work correctly in a macro.
6. Choose OK.  
The mouse pointer changes to a cross.
7. Click the cross where you want to position the upper left corner of the dialog box.  
The Dialog Editor creates a dialog box.
8. Click the dialog box to select it.  
The dialog box displays with black handles.
9. If you want to move the dialog box to another location in the window, drag the dialog box to the desired position.
10. If you want to size the dialog box, drag a handle until the dialog box is the desired size.

See also:

[Using SmartIcons](#)

[Modifying a Dialog Box](#)

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[Using the Status Box](#)

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[Using a dialog box in a Macro](#)

You can modify a dialog box by changing its name, title, and options. You can also modify the font used for all the text in a dialog box.

### **To modify a dialog box**

1. Double-click any empty area in the dialog box or choose Edit/Styles.
2. Specify the desired name and title.
3. Select the desired type of dialog box.

#### **Plain**

A dialog box without a title bar.

#### **Title bar**

A dialog box with a title bar. This allows a user to move the box by dragging the title bar to a new location.

#### **Title bar with system menu**

A dialog box with a title bar and a control menu box. This allows a user to move or close the box using the keyboard.

4. If you want to display a Help icon in the title bar, select Help Icon.  
Although the Help Icon does not display in the Dialog Editor, it displays when the dialog box is used in a macro.
5. Choose OK.

### **To modify the font**

1. Choose Edit/Font.  
The Dialog Editor displays the Select Font dialog box.
2. Select the desired face name.
3. Select the desired point size.
4. Choose OK.

Although the font does not display in the Dialog Editor, it displays when the dialog box is used in a macro.

See also:

[Using SmartIcons](#)

[Adding Controls](#)

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You can add the following types of controls to a dialog box you created:

- Push Button
- Default Push Button
- Radio Button
- Check Box
- Edit Box
- List Box
- Static Text
- Combo Box
- Group Box
- Bitmap Button
- Static Bitmap

#### **To add a control**

1. Click the desired control icon or choose Control and choose the type of control you want to add to the dialog box.  
The mouse pointer changes to a cross.
2. Click the cross where you want to position the upper left corner of the control.  
The Dialog Editor creates the control and automatically assigns it an ID.
3. Type the desired text for the control.
4. If you want to move the control to another location in the dialog box, drag the control to the desired position.
5. If you want to size the control, drag a handle until the control is the desired size or choose Edit/Size Item and specify the desired dimensions.

You can modify any control by changing its style and size. You can modify a button or static text by placing a picture in it instead of text.

See also:

[Using SmartIcons](#)

[Modifying Controls](#)

[Modifying a Dialog Box](#)

[Saving a Dialog Box](#)

[Using Push Buttons and Default Push Buttons](#)

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[Using Check Boxes](#)

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You can modify any control by changing its ID, style, or size.

### To modify the style of a control

1. Double-click the control or select the control and choose Edit/Styles.
2. Specify the desired options.

For a button, check box, or group box, specify the desired ID, Button Text, and Button Type. If you want to use a picture instead of text, select Bitmap as the Button Type and specify a file name instead of text in the Button Text edit box. If you want to create a shortcut key for the control, type an ampersand (&) immediately before a character in the Button Text edit box. That character appears underlined in the dialog box and acts as a keyboard shortcut for the control.

For an edit box, specify the desired ID and whether you want to implement Multiple lines (the user can press CTRL+ENTER to create multiple lines in the box) and Auto scroll (the edit box automatically scrolls to display additional text).

For a list box, specify the desired ID and whether you want to implement Multiple selection (the user can select more than one item in the list box) and Sort (the items in the list box are arranged in alphanumeric order).

For a combo box, specify the desired ID, Style, and whether you want to implement a Vertical scroll bar and Sort.

For static text or a static bitmap, specify the desired ID, Text, and Style for the text or picture.

3. Choose OK.

### To modify the size of a control

1. Select the control and choose Edit/Size Item.
2. Specify the desired ID.
3. Specify the desired dimensions. The unit of measurement is a dialog unit, which is a factor of pixels.

**X**

The horizontal starting position of the control.

**Y**

The vertical starting position of the control.

**CX**

The width of the control.

**CY**

The height of the control.

4. Choose OK.

See also:

[Using SmartIcons](#)

[Modifying a Dialog Box](#)

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[Using Push Buttons and Default Push Buttons](#)

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You can create push buttons to allow the user to close the dialog box or display another dialog box.

The default push button should always be OK and use ID number 1, and the Cancel push button should always use ID number 2. Since the Dialog Editor automatically numbers the controls, you should create the default push button first, and then create the Cancel push button. Both OK and Cancel buttons close the dialog box and return 1 and zero, respectively, through the [DialogBox](#) function.

Other push buttons that close a dialog box use ID numbers 3 through 19 and return ID values through the [DialogBox](#) function. Push buttons that do not close a dialog box use ID numbers 20 through 99 and return ID values through the [SetDlgCallback](#) function.

You can modify a push button by changing its ID or text, or by using a picture instead of text.

See also:

[Using SmartIcons](#)

[Modifying Controls](#)

[Modifying a Dialog Box](#)

[Using Radio Buttons](#)

[Using Check Boxes](#)

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You can create radio buttons to allow the user to select options that are mutually exclusive. The user can select only one radio button at a time, as on a car radio. When you push one button, the previously selected button is deselected. Only one radio button can be active at a time.

Radio buttons use ID numbers 20 through 99 and return Boolean (TRUE/FALSE) values through the [GetDialogField\\$](#) or [GetDlgItemText](#) function, with only the active button returning a non-FALSE value. The common method of determining how to branch the macro, given the values of the radio buttons, is to use a series of IF-THEN-ELSE or SWITCH-CASE statements, where each variable set for a radio button is evaluated to see if it is true.

You can modify a radio button by changing its ID or text.

See also:

[Using SmartIcons](#)

[Modifying Controls](#)

[Using Push Buttons and Default Push Buttons](#)

[Using Check Boxes](#)

[Using Edit Boxes](#)

[Using List Boxes](#)

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You can create check boxes to allow the user to select options that are not mutually exclusive.

Check boxes use ID numbers 20 through 99 and return Boolean (TRUE/FALSE) values through the [GetDialogField\\$](#) or [GetDlgItemText](#) function.

You can modify a check box by changing its ID or text.

See also:

[Using SmartIcons](#)

[Modifying Controls](#)

[Using Push Buttons and Default Push Buttons](#)

[Using Radio Buttons](#)

[Using Edit Boxes](#)

[Using List Boxes](#)

[Using Static Text](#)

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You can create and size edit boxes to allow the user to enter string data.

Unlike radio buttons and check boxes, edit boxes do not have any text attached to them. You should create static text followed by a colon to label each edit box.

Edit boxes use ID numbers 8000 through 8999. They fill with data through the [FillEdit](#) or [SetDlgItemText](#) function. They return string values through the [GetDlgItemText](#) or [GetDlgItemText](#) function.

You can automatically fill an edit box with selected data from a list box that uses an ID number exactly 1000 greater than the ID number for the edit box.

You can modify an edit box by changing its ID or by selecting options.

See also:

[Using SmartIcons](#)

[Modifying Controls](#)

[Saving a Dialog Box](#)

[Using Push Buttons and Default Push Buttons](#)

[Using Radio Buttons](#)

[Using Check Boxes](#)

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You can use list boxes to create a list of data in a box. The user can then select one or more items in the list box.

List boxes use ID numbers 9000 through 9499. A list box with an ID number of 9001 fills with the contents of the current directory.

Other list boxes fill with data through a series of [FillList](#) or [FillEdit](#) functions, or when passed the name of an array through the [FillEdit](#) function. They return string values for selected items in a list box through the [GetDialogField\\$](#) or [GetDlgItemText](#) functions.

You can use selected data in a list box to automatically fill an edit box that uses an ID number exactly 1000 lower than the ID number for the list box, or through the [FillEdit](#) or [SetDlgItemText](#) function.

You can modify a list box by changing its ID or by selecting options.

See also:

[Using SmartIcons](#)

[Modifying Controls](#)

[Saving a Dialog Box](#)

[Using Push Buttons and Default Push Buttons](#)

[Using Radio Buttons](#)

[Using Check Boxes](#)

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You can use static text to give the user information, such as a prompt for the kind of information that should be typed in an edit box. You can also use static text to give the user instructions or information specific to the macro.

Static text controls use ID numbers 1000 through 7999 and return no value. A static text control with an ID number of 7999 fills with the current path if the dialog box contains a list box with an ID number of 9001. This is useful for providing the current path when the user needs to select a file name in a list box.

You can modify static text by changing its ID or text, or by using a picture instead of text.

See also:

[Using SmartIcons](#)

[Modifying Controls](#)

[Saving a Dialog Box](#)

[Using Push Buttons and Default Push Buttons](#)

[Using Radio Buttons](#)

[Using Check Boxes](#)

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Combo boxes are like list/edit box combinations. You can use combo boxes to allow the user to select an item in a list box and then display that item in the edit box.

Combo boxes use ID numbers 9500 through 9999 and fill with data through a series of [SetDlgItemText](#) or [FillEdit](#) functions, or when passed the name of an array through the [FillEdit](#) function. They return string values for selected items in a list box through the [GetDialogField\\$](#) or [GetDlgItemText](#) functions.

You can modify a combo box by changing its ID or style, or by selecting options. If you do not implement sort for a combo box, the first item in the list box appears in the edit box portion of the combo box as the default and all other items appear in the order in which they were placed in the list box. If you implement sort, the item with the lowest alphanumeric value appears in the edit box portion of the combo box.

See also:

[Using SmartIcons](#)

[Modifying Controls](#)

[Saving a Dialog Box](#)

[Using Push Buttons and Default Push Buttons](#)

[Using Radio Buttons](#)

[Using Check Boxes](#)

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You can use group boxes to separate one section of a dialog box from other sections. This makes the dialog box easier for the user to understand.

The group box has static text attached to it and a static line drawn around it. You can create a group box over controls to visually separate those controls from other controls in the dialog box.

Group boxes use ID numbers 20 through 29 and return no value.

You can modify a check box by changing its ID or text.

See also:

[Using SmartIcons](#)

[Modifying Controls](#)

[Saving a Dialog Box](#)

[Using Push Buttons and Default Push Buttons](#)

[Using Radio Buttons](#)

[Using Check Boxes](#)

[Using Edit Boxes](#)

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You can create and modify groups and tabs to allow the user to move around in a dialog box using the keyboard. When you create a group, the user can press the arrow keys to access any controls in the group. When you create a tab, the user can press TAB to move from one group to another.

Creating groups also allows you to separate mutually exclusive items, such as radio buttons, from those items that are not mutually exclusive, such as check boxes.

Before you create groups, you must specify the order in which you want the controls to be accessed using the keyboard.

### **To create groups**

1. Choose Edit/Order Items.

The Dialog Editor displays the Order Groups dialog box, which lists the controls and their IDs in the order in which you created them.

An asterisk (\*) appears before any control that begins a group. A greater than symbol (>) appears before any control that acts as a tab.

2. If you need to arrange the controls so that they are in the correct order for a group, select a control and move it up or down to the desired position.

This does not change the position of the controls in the dialog box. It only determines the order in which the controls can be accessed using the keyboard.

3. Select the first control you want in a group.

4. Choose Add Group.

The Dialog Editor includes all controls below the one you selected in the group.

5. Repeat steps 3 - 4 to create additional groups.
6. Choose OK.

### **To create tabs**

1. Complete the steps for creating groups.
2. Select the control you want to make accessible by pressing TAB. This is usually the first control in a group.
3. Choose Add Tab.
4. Repeat steps 2 - 3 to create a tab for each group.
5. Choose OK.

### **To modify groups and tabs**

You can modify groups and tabs. The Add Group and Add Tab command buttons change to Delete Group and Delete Tab when you select a control that begins a group or acts as a tab.

1. Choose Edit/Order Items.
2. Select a control you want to modify.
3. Choose the desired command button.

#### **Delete Group**

The control no longer begins a group. The Dialog Editor removes all controls from that group.

#### **Delete Tab**

The control no longer acts as a tab.

4. Choose OK.

See also:

[Using SmartIcons](#)

Modifying Controls

Saving a Dialog Box

Using Radio Buttons

Using Check Boxes

Using Group Boxes

Using the Status Box

Using the Grid

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Following Ami Pro Conventions and Standards

You can use the Status Box to display formatting information for either the dialog box or a selected control. You can move the Status Box window anywhere on the screen.

**To use the status box**

1. Choose Options/Status Box.

The Dialog Editor displays the status box.

2. To close the status box, double-click the control menu box in the status box or choose Options/Status Box.

See also:

[Using SmartIcons](#)

[Using the Grid](#)

[Modifying Controls](#)

[Saving a Dialog Box](#)

[Following Ami Pro Conventions and Standards](#)



You can use the Grid to align controls. When you implement the grid, all controls "snap to" the grid intersections when you create or move them.

### **To use the grid**

1. Choose Options/Grid.

The Dialog Editor displays the Grid Settings dialog box.

2. Specify the desired minimum horizontal and vertical settings. The normal setting is 2.

The unit of measurement is a dialog unit, which is a factor of pixels.

The horizontal and vertical settings determine the distance between the intersections in the grid and allow you to control the alignment precision for the controls.

3. Choose OK.

See also:

[Using SmartIcons](#)

[Modifying Controls](#)

[Saving a Dialog Box](#)

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You can use Default Sizes to set the default sizes for push buttons, edit boxes, list boxes, radio buttons, check boxes, and static text. The Dialog Editor uses the sizes you specify whenever you create these controls.

### **To use default sizes**

1. Choose Options/Default Sizes.

The Dialog Editor displays the Default Sizes dialog box.

2. Specify the desired width and height for each control. The unit of measurement is a dialog unit, which is a factor of pixels.
3. Choose OK.

See also:

[Using SmartIcons](#)

[Modifying a Dialog Box](#)

[Adding Controls](#)

[Modifying Controls](#)

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[Following Ami Pro Conventions and Standards](#)

When you create a control in a dialog box, the Dialog Editor automatically assigns an ID number to the control. When you use the dialog box in a macro, the controls return the following values.

<i>Control</i>	<i>ID</i>	<i>Return Value</i>
Default Push Button	1	1; closes the dialog box
Cancel Push Button	2	0; closes the dialog box
Push Buttons	3 thru 19	ID value; closes the dialog box
Push Buttons	20 thru 99	ID value; through SetDlgCallBack function
Radio Buttons	20 thru 99	Boolean value
Check Boxes	20 thru 99	Boolean value
Group Boxes	20 thru 99	None
Static Text	1000 thru 7999	None
Special Static Text	7999	None; displays current path
Edit Boxes	8000 thru 8999	String value
List Boxes	9000 thru 9499	String value
Special List Box	9001	String value
Combo Boxes	9500 thru 9999	String value

See also:

[Adding Controls](#)

[Modifying Controls](#)

[Saving a dialog box](#)

[Copying and Pasting Dialog Boxes](#)

[Using a dialog box in a Macro](#)

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You can save a dialog box as an ASCII file by choosing File/Save and specifying a file name. The Dialog Editor places all the formatting information for the dialog box into an ASCII file with a .DLG extension.

If you need to edit a dialog box, you can either choose File/Open in the Dialog Editor and specify the name of the file, or open the ASCII file in Ami Pro. You can then modify the dialog box or the controls and save the changes by choosing File/Save.

The ASCII file is formatted in a certain way:

- The first line contains the word DIALOG and the name of the dialog box.
- The next line is the description of the dialog box itself. This line contains six numbers and three strings.
- The first number represents the options that have been set for the dialog box, such as its type (plain, title bar, or title bar with system menu). The second number is an integer which is the total number of controls in the dialog box. The third number is the horizontal starting position of the upper left corner of the box (x). The fourth number is the box's vertical starting position (y). The fifth and sixth numbers are the horizontal (cx) and vertical (cy) widths.
- The first string value is NULL (empty), the second is either NULL (empty) or AmiDialog if you used the Help Icon, and the last item is the title of the dialog box (in quotes).
- If the font is changed, the next line describes the font used in the dialog box. The preferred font (to match the Ami Pro dialog boxes) is Helv 8.
- The remaining lines describe the controls in the dialog box. Each line contains the following information, in this order: the control's horizontal starting position (x), vertical starting position (y), width of control (cx), height of control (cy), the control's ID number, the control's options and attributes, the type of control (in quotes), the description of the control (which the user sees, also in quotes), and a zero.
- The last line of the dialog box description contains only the words END DIALOG.

#### **Example of a dialog box ASCII file**

DIALOG ExampleBox

```
-2134376448 4 106 78 160 42 "" "AmiDialog" "Sample Dialog Box"
```

```
FONT 8 "Helv"
```

```
6 14 34 8 1000 1342308352 "static" "&Filename:" 0
```

```
46 14 56 12 8000 1350631552 "edit" "" 0
```

```
116 4 40 14 1 1342373889 "button" "OK" 0
```

```
116 22 40 14 2 1342373888 "button" "Cancel" 0
```

```
END DIALOG
```

See also:

[Creating a dialog box](#)

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You can copy a dialog box and paste it into an Ami Pro macro (.SMM) file or into a 1-2-3 for Windows worksheet. All the formatting information for the dialog box is then placed into that file. This allows you to access a dialog box from within a macro and to combine dialog boxes into one file.

If you want, you can delete the .DLG file after you place the formatting information into a macro or 1-2-3 file.

You can also copy the formatting information for a dialog box from an ASCII or macro file and paste it into the Dialog Editor. You can then create a new dialog box from an existing one.

#### **To move a dialog box into an Ami Pro macro file or 1-2-3 worksheet**

1. In the Dialog Editor, move the mouse pointer outside the dialog box and either click the mouse or press SPACEBAR to deselect the dialog box.

2. Choose Edit/Copy.

The dialog box formatting information is placed on the Clipboard.

3. In Ami Pro, open the macro file into which you want to paste the dialog box formatting information. In 1-2-3 for Windows, open the desired worksheet.

4. Place the insertion point in the desired location.

In an Ami Pro macro file, place the insertion point above or below any FUNCTION/END FUNCTION statement.

5. Choose Edit/Paste.

The formatting information for the dialog box appears in the file.

#### **To move a dialog box into the dialog editor**

1. In the macro or 1-2-3 file, select all the dialog box formatting information, starting with the DIALOG line and including the END DIALOG line.

2. Choose Edit/Copy.

3. In the Dialog Editor, choose Edit/Paste.

The dialog box appears in the Dialog Editor.

See also:

[Modifying a Dialog Box](#)

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You can use a dialog box in an Ami Pro macro if you paste the formatting information for the dialog box into the macro file.

#### **Example of using a dialog box in a macro**

```
FUNCTION CallBox()
FillEdit(8000, "FILENAME.EXE")
DlgKeyInterrupt ([F1],"HelpMac")
SampleBox = DialogBox(".", "ExampleBox")
IF SampleBox = -1 - 'If we couldn't find the box file,
    EXIT FUNCTION - 'Exit the macro.
ELSEIF SampleBox = 0 - 'Did the user cancel the box?
    EXIT FUNCTION - 'Yes, exit the function
ENDIF
Filename = GetDialogField$(8000)
Message("The Filename is {Filename}")
END FUNCTION
```

```
FUNCTION HelpMac()
Message("No Help")
END FUNCTION
```

```
DIALOG ExampleBox
-2134376448 4 106 78 160 42 "" "AmiDialog" "Sample Dialog Box"
FONT 8 "Helv"
6 14 34 8 1000 1342308352 "static" "&Filename:" 0
46 14 56 12 8000 1350631552 "edit" "" 0
116 4 40 14 1 1342373889 "button" "OK" 0
116 22 40 14 2 1342373888 "button" "Cancel" 0
END DIALOG
```

See also:

[Modifying a Dialog Box](#)

[Modifying Controls](#)

[Copying and Pasting Dialog Boxes](#)

[Understanding the Anatomy of a Dialog Box](#)

[Following Ami Pro Conventions and Standards](#)

[Loading Ami Pro from the Dialog Editor](#)

Although you can be creative when designing dialog boxes, you should follow certain conventions and standards to make the dialog boxes have the look and feel of Ami Pro dialog boxes.

### **Sizing conventions**

Ami Pro adheres to the following sizes:

<i>Control</i>	<i>Height</i>	<i>Width</i>
Static Text	8	*
Combo Boxes	13	*
Check Boxes	12	*
Radio Boxes	12	*
Edit Boxes	12	*
Push Buttons	14	40
Group Boxes	**	**
List Boxes	***	48

\* As wide as the text, without truncating any text.

\*\* Determined by the size of the items it surrounds.

\*\*\* As tall as can fit in the dialog box.

### **General Standards**

- Place push buttons in the upper right corner of the dialog box, beginning with the OK (default) push button and followed immediately by the Cancel push button. Place any additional push buttons below the Cancel push button and vertically aligned with it.
- Position push buttons 2 dialog units apart.
- Make margins consistent in each box.
- Introduce edit, list, and combo boxes with static text followed by a colon.
- Create a group box for two or more check boxes or radio buttons.
- Avoid placing radio buttons and check boxes within the same list.
- Position radio buttons and check boxes vertically.
- Use Helv 8 point for all text in the dialog box.
- Capitalize the first letter of each word in push buttons and group boxes. For all other controls, capitalize only the first letter of the first word.
- Create shortcut keys (underlined letters) for all buttons, check boxes, and group boxes. Double-click the control and type an ampersand (&) immediately before the desired character in the Button Text edit box.  
  
For example, if you use the letter O in an Options push button as a shortcut key, the user can access that push button by holding ALT and pressing O (ALT+O).
- Do not create shortcut keys for the OK and Cancel push buttons, as the keyboard shortcuts for these

two push buttons are enter and esc, respectively.

See also:

[Creating a dialog box](#)

[Adding Controls](#)

[Modifying Controls](#)

[Modifying a Dialog Box](#)

[Saving a Dialog Box](#)

[Using the Status Box](#)

[Using the Grid](#)

[Using Default Sizes](#)



You can load Ami Pro or 1-2-3 for Windows from the Dialog Editor, or switch to the application if it already running. This enables you to copy and paste dialog boxes.

**To load or switch to Ami Pro**

Choose Options/AmiPro.

The Dialog Editor loads Ami Pro. You can create or open a macro (.SMM) file.

**To load or switch to 1-2-3**

Choose Options/123.

The Dialog Editor loads 1-2-3 for Windows. You can paste the dialog box into a worksheet.

See also:

[Using SmartIcons](#)

[Saving a Dialog Box](#)

[Copying and Pasting Dialog Boxes](#)

[Using a Dialog Box in a Macro](#)

