

# Font Control with the REPORT Procedure

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## Abstract

This paper shows you how you can incorporate the font control capabilities of the interactive procedure FSREPORT with the REPORT procedure. The FSREPORT procedure is an experimental interactive procedure that enables you to change fonts within the table. It does not yet have all the capabilities of the Report procedure and you can not write code for it.

You can specify fonts with the Report procedure they are just not used. A report template can be created by the Report procedure using features not available FSREPORT and specifying fonts. When this report template is used by FSREPORT you have font control and some important features not normally available to FSREPORT.

## Introduction

The REPORT procedure that comes with base SAS<sup>®</sup> software is my report generator of choice. Unfortunately the company I work for frequently demands that different parts of the report use different fonts, particularly proportional fonts for long bits of text. Previously we did this by using third party software or saving the report into Microsoft<sup>®</sup> Word and manually manipulating it there. I have found two easier methods. The first uses control characters and automatic post processing inside a Microsoft Word. The second method, described here, I use the FSREPORT font control capability within PROC REPORT procedure.

## FSREPORT

The interactive experimental FSREPORT allows you to use different fonts and type sizes. However it is experimental, does not have the functionality of PROC REPORT and only interactive which places some severe restrictions on its use. When FSREPORT is used interactively the pull down menus give no opportunity to 'SPAN' columns (see figure 1). Also I don't like interactive procedures but prefer to write code that I can rerun.

## Method

If you run FSREPORT, create a report using different fonts and go to the List REPORT statement pull-down menu you can see the report statements which are generated. I took the statements, which changed the fonts and used them in PROC REPORT and created a Report template. If I invoke FSREPORT with this template using a DM statement then I have much of the functionality of PROC REPORT and the font control of FSREPORT.

There are a few caveats to this process. These are:

- The PROC REPORT headline option does not work.
- You can only control fonts of labels and data. Spanning text and text in LINE statements uses the Helvetica font.
- The font size of spanning text and LINE statements is determined by the font size of the SAS session.
- The split character is '/'. You have no control over this.

Inspite of these caveats, I find this method extremely useful as I enables me to produce tables with proportional fonts entirely within the SAS system. It sure beats using some third party table generator to produce these tables, or saving the report as a word document and adding fonts there.

Figure 1. FSREPORT pull down menu.

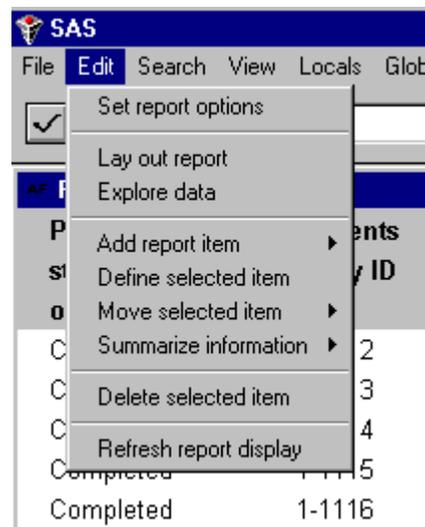


Figure 2. FSREPORT screen used to select fonts.

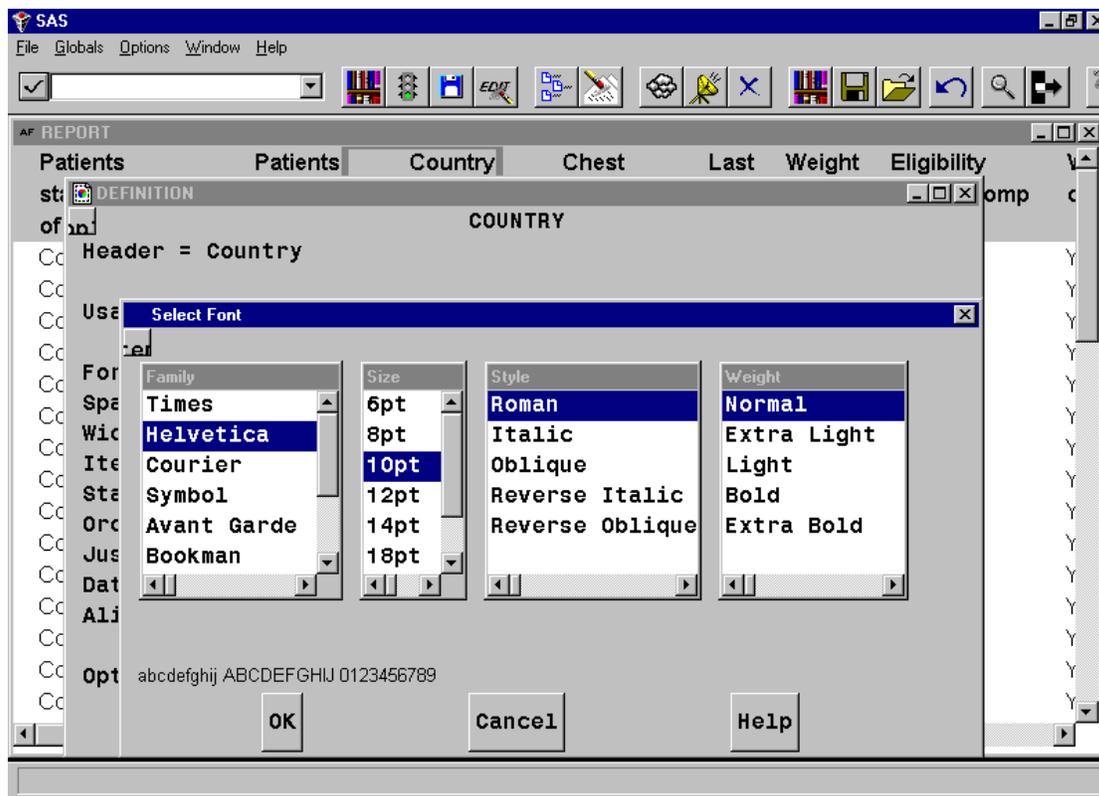


Figure 2 shows how you select the fonts within FSREPORT. I recommend using FSREPORT interactively to apply fonts, see the results and generated code.

**Below is the code I use to control fonts:**

Font details were taken from the interactive report session.

```
%let script = '(RATIO 2      FAMNAME " " PORTABLE 0 WIDTH -1 WEIGHT 4
STYLE -1 POINTS 180 CHARSET -1 FAMILY 9 OPTIONS 0)';
%let times = '(RATIO #F1.08 FAMNAME " " PORTABLE 0 WIDTH -1 WEIGHT 4
STYLE 1 POINTS 100 CHARSET -1 FAMILY 1 OPTIONS 0)';
%let courieri = '(RATIO #F1.08 FAMNAME " " PORTABLE 0 WIDTH -1 WEIGHT 4
STYLE 2 POINTS 100 CHARSET -1 FAMILY 3 OPTIONS 0)';

PROC REPORT data=dset outrep=work.report.temp;           * store report definition;
  ...report code...
  DEFINE Var1 / font=&times lfont=&script; * define fonts of variables;
  DEFINE Var2 / font=&courieri lfont=&script;
  ...report code...
RUN;

DM 'fsreport data=dset report=work.report.temp; print; end';
* Invoke FSREPORT with the report template, print it and end it;
```

## The sort of table which can be produced

Characteristic	Wonder drug	Old drug	p-value*
Previous MI	115 ( 43%)	166 ( 45%)	0.6729
PTCA	34 ( 13%)	55 ( 15%)	0.8279
CABG surgery	50 ( 19%)	66 ( 18%)	0.7047
Exertional angina (over past month)	174 ( 64%)	234 ( 63%)	0.4693

### A few tips

Decide on the default font size for your report, set this as the font size for your SAS session with the Options pull down menu.

Obtain your font specifications from the interactive procedure. I save the code generated by FSREPORT and then cut and paste selected sections. Soon you will realise what the code means:

- i.e., *STYLE 2* is italic
- WIDTH 9** is bold
- RATIO and POINTS determines size

When using the interactive FSREPORT procedure to get your fonts use the fonts provided on the first screen. I have found that when I use the system fonts (obtained by pressing the 'System ...' button see Figure 2.) these produce errors.

### Conclusion

If different fonts, style or character sizes are required in a report then this method I have described here should be considered. Font control can easily be added or removed from current PROC REPORT code. Not all reports are suitable as they may require changing the split character or the headline option.

By using FSREPORT to run report templates generated by PROC REPORT you can mix and match to achieve the result you want.

### Contacts

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