



SignWriter® Java

Sign Language Processor

Type the world's signed languages
in the visual symbols of SignWriting®



The SignWriter® Computer Program
SignWriter DOS v4.4 • SignWriter Java v5.0

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Center for Sutton Movement Writing, Inc.



SignWriter DOS Computer Program by Richard Gleaves.
Keyboard and Symbol Design by Valerie Sutton. Special
thanks to Barry Demchak and Torrey Pines Software.



SignWriter 5.0 Symbol & Keyboard Editors by Richard
Gleaves. Keyboard and Symbol Design by Valerie Sutton.

SignWriter Java 1998 by Richard Kadel, DTAI Software,
Christopher Priebe and Larry Peranich.



SignWriter Java 2003 is still under development, with
programming contributions from Christian Cooke & others.



SignWriterDOS Reference Manual (Section 4) by Richard
Gleaves. DOS Manuals 1, 2, 3 and 5 by Valerie Sutton.
SignWriter Java Reference Manual by Valerie Sutton.

Photos of Lucinda O'Grady Batch, Freda Norman, Nancy
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and George "Butch" Zein.



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The **SignWriter** computer program is "shareware". You do not need a license
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SignWriting Lessons & Library: SignWritingSite: www.SignWriting.org
SignBank Dictionary Database: SignBankSite: www.SignBank.org

SignWriter® Java

Chapter 1

Getting Started





Before You Install

You Should Know....

1. SignWriter Java is an unfinished program

SignWriter Java is not finished. There are bugs in the software that can be fixed, but are not fixed yet. It is a free computer program that offers features no other program offers...so although it is not perfect, "something is better than nothing!" ...

2. Good Features?

Opens SW 4.4 files... Converts them to "better looking graphics". Saves them in 5.0 format... Creates new files with "better looking graphics" ... You can create documents written in ANY direction, including vertical columns, diagonal columns, circular writing, right to left, left to right, bottom to top... ANY pattern you choose. And because it is a Java program, it is cross-platform on any computer running Java 1.4.1, including Mac, Windows and Linux.

3. Known Problems?

Only approximately 80% of SW 4.4 files convert properly.... Only one dictionary and one country are available at one time.... The dictionary cannot be changed...it is "read-only"... This means that (at this time) all dictionaries have to be created in SignWriter DOS, and then transferred into SignWriter Java... Typing in different directions is not working as it should, although it can be done. Keystrokes for cut, copy and paste are missing... The worst problem: it does not print! If it prints, you were lucky at that moment in time - ha! But you may not be able to repeat the printing next time, since it is sporadic at best... grrrrr

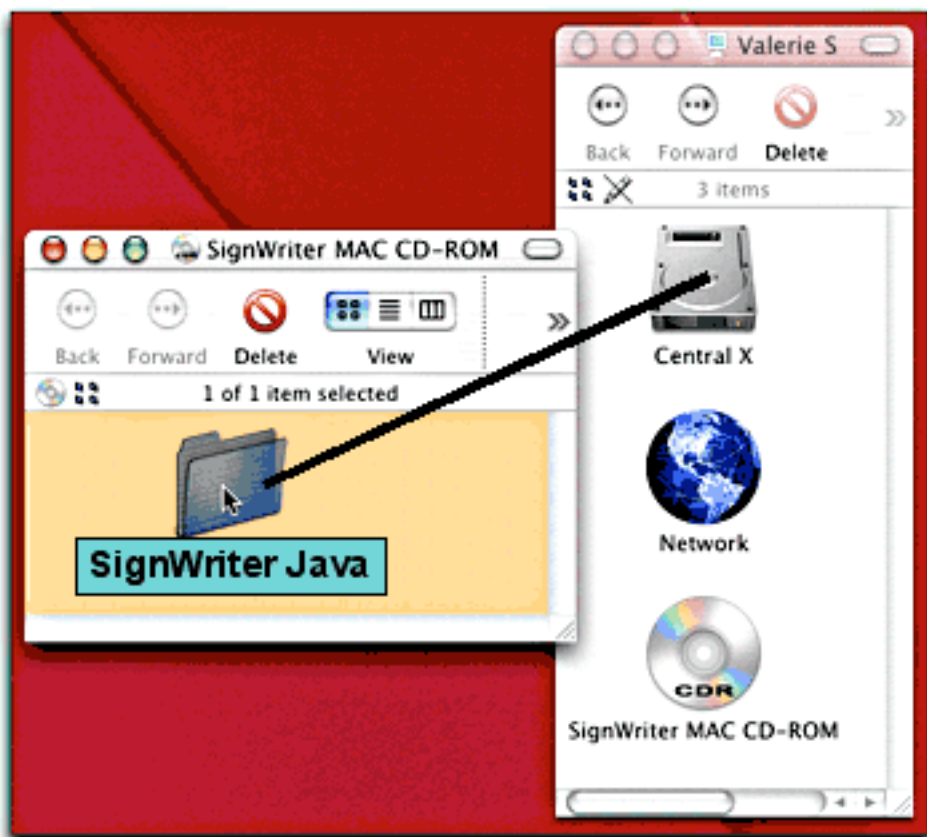


Installing SignWriter

On Your Hard Disk

TO INSTALL FROM A CD

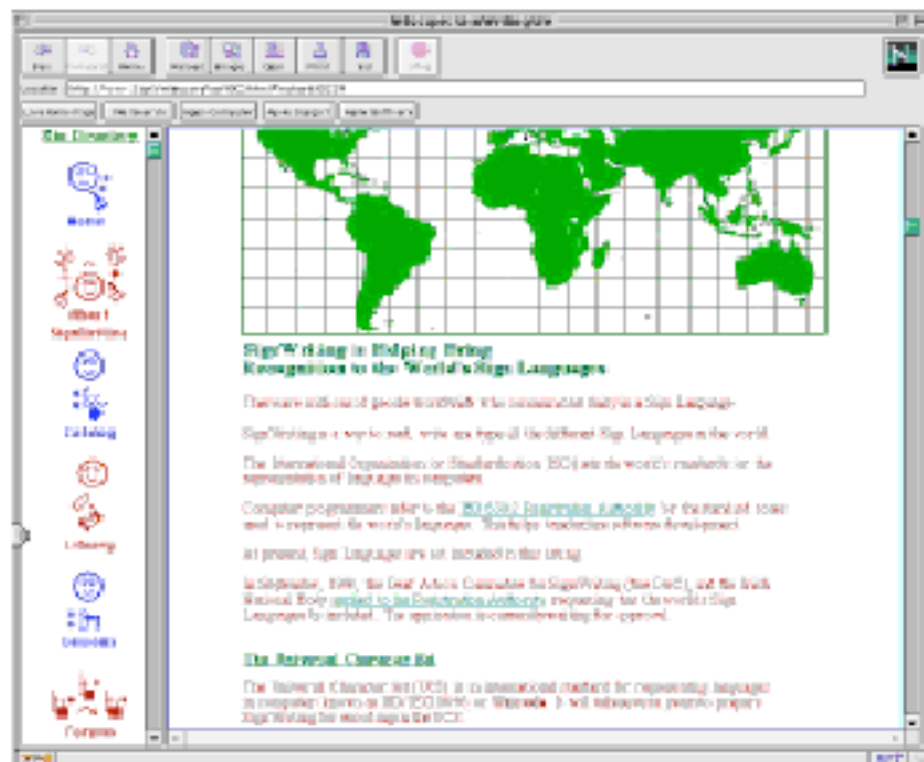
1. Insert the SignWriter CD into your CD drive.
2. Open the CD.
3. Drag the SignWriter Java folder to your desktop.



Or you can Download SignWriter Java on this web page:
www.SignWriting.org/forums/software/sw50

The SignWriting Web Site <http://www.SignWriting.org>

The SignWritingSite is an educational web site with over 1000 web pages to explore. It includes a Library of Literature and free SignWriting Lessons Online. Ongoing courses are featured teaching: 1.Symbols 2.Writing Rules 3.Grammar and 4.Reading. Special features are posted regularly by the system's inventor, Valerie Sutton. The Site also includes seven forums: the Sponsor's Forum, the Teacher's Forum, the Research Forum, the Linguistics Forum, the Software Forum and the SignWriting List Email Forum. There are other sections, such as the SignWriting History Archives, Deaf Opinion on SignWriting, Questions & Answers, and web pages for the classroom participating in the SignWriting Literacy Project. SignWriter Shareware and Fingerspelling Fonts can be downloaded. A Catalog Online lists books and videos.



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Chapter 2

Start Program, Menus & Preferences

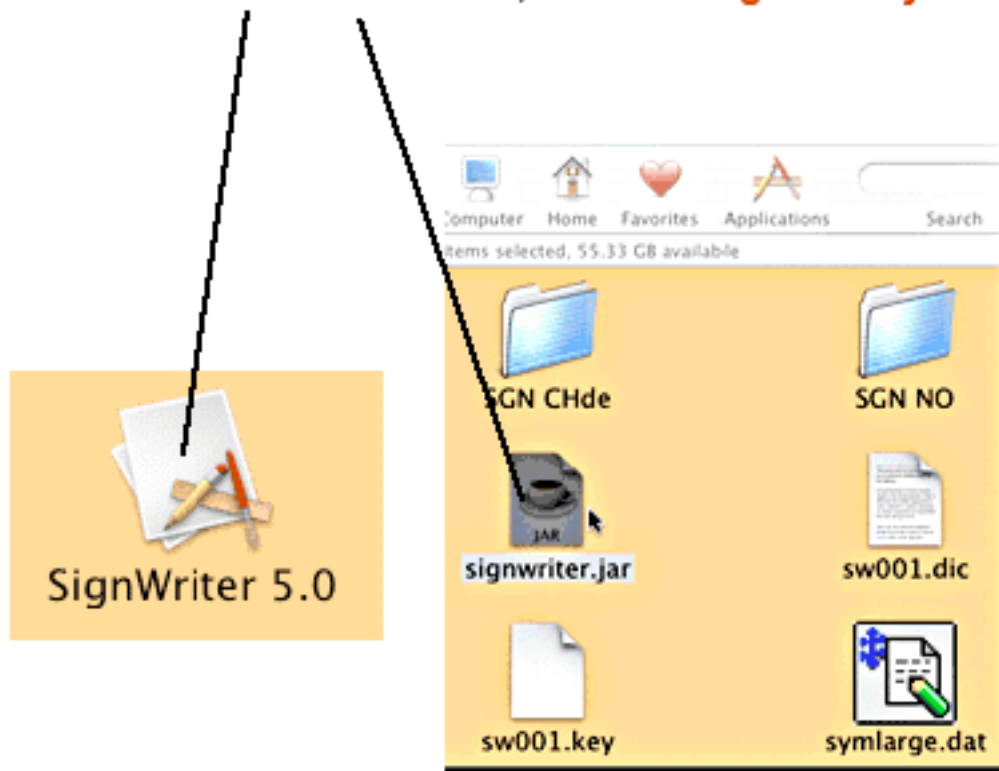


1. Starting SignWriter Java

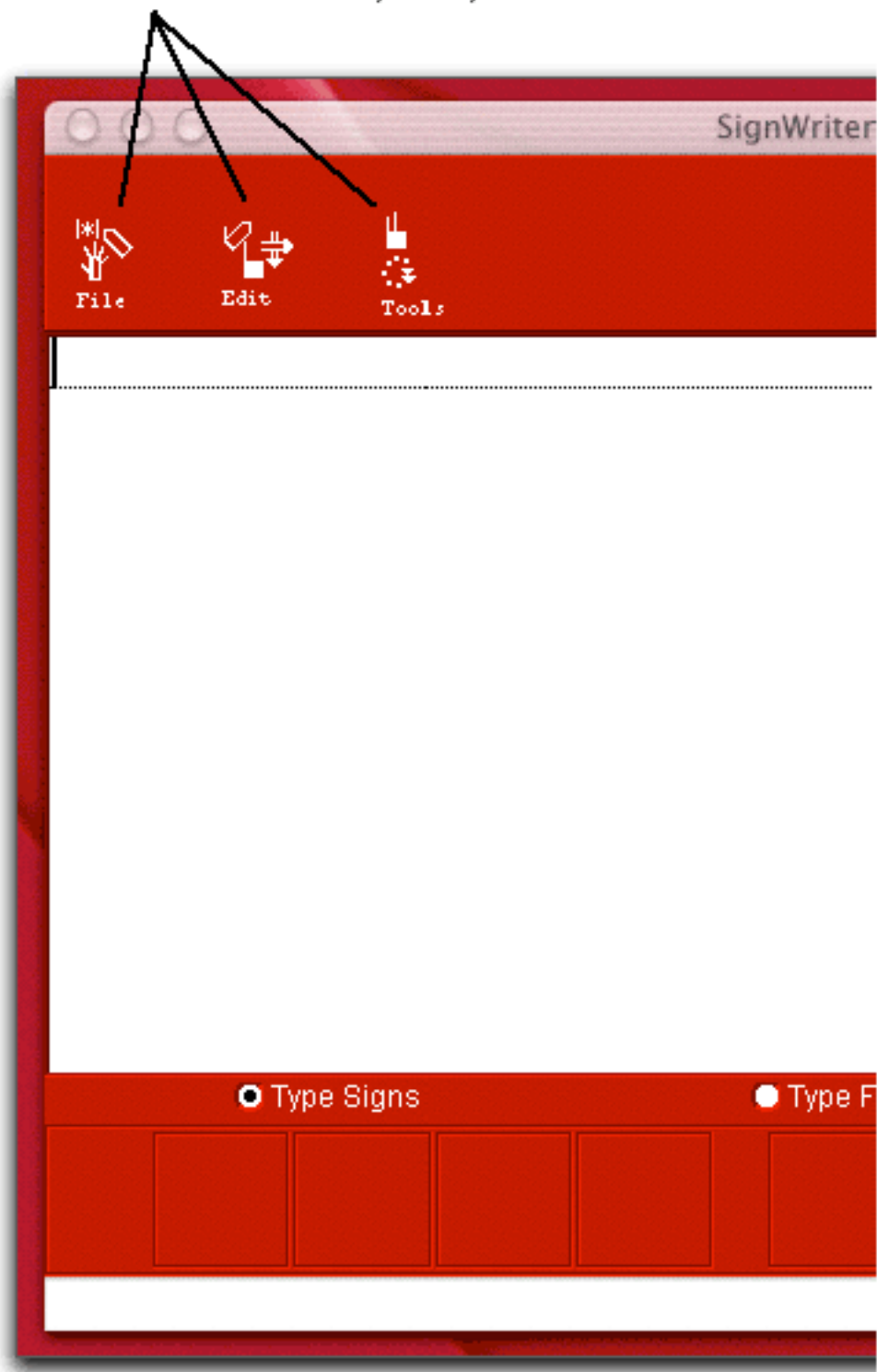
Open the SignWriter Java folder. Then open the folder for your operating system: OS 9 or OS X.



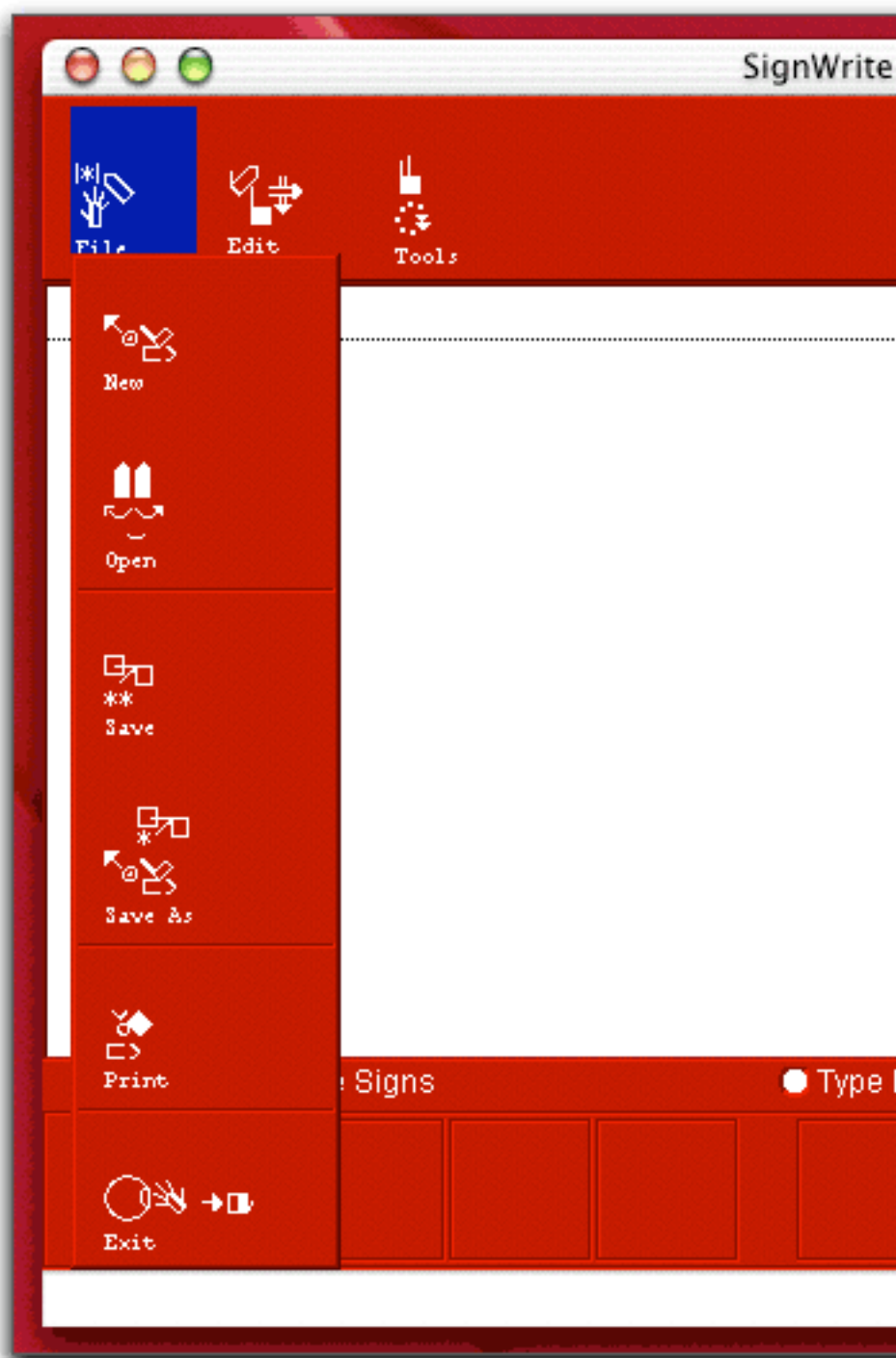
To start SignWriter, click on **SignWriter 5.0** in Mac OS 9. In Mac OS X, click on **signwriter.jar**.



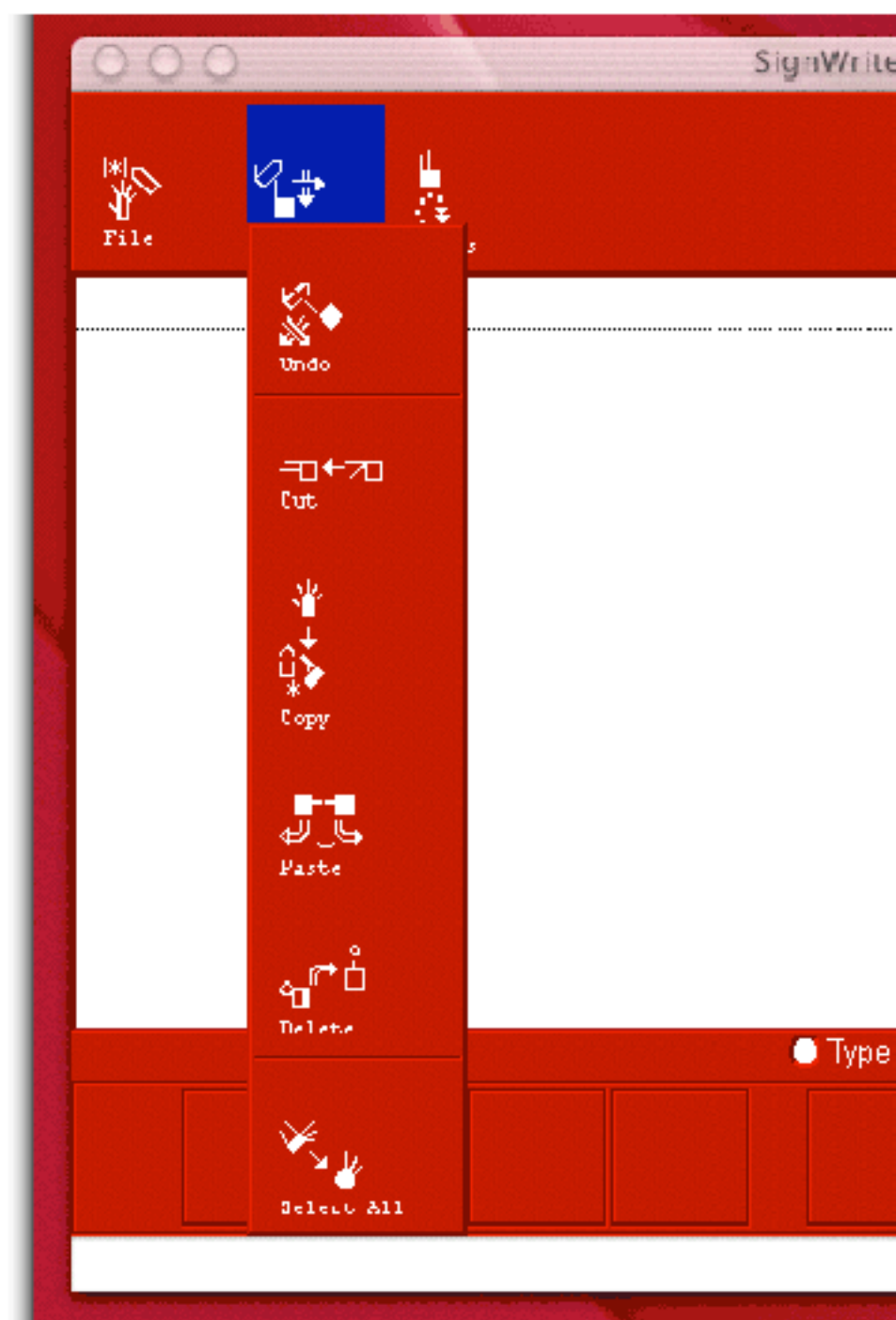
2. Three Menus: File, Edit, Tools



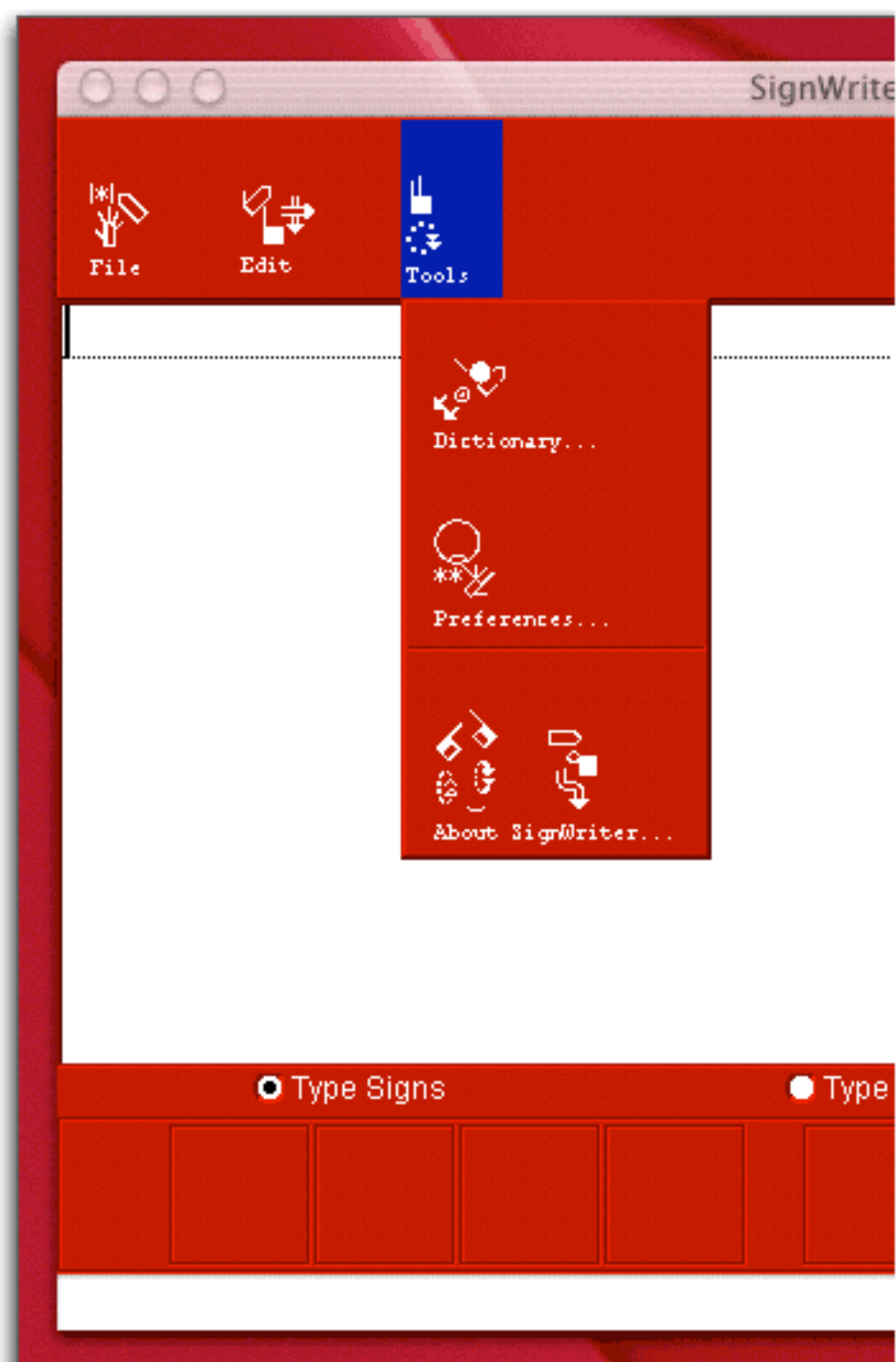
3. The File Menu...



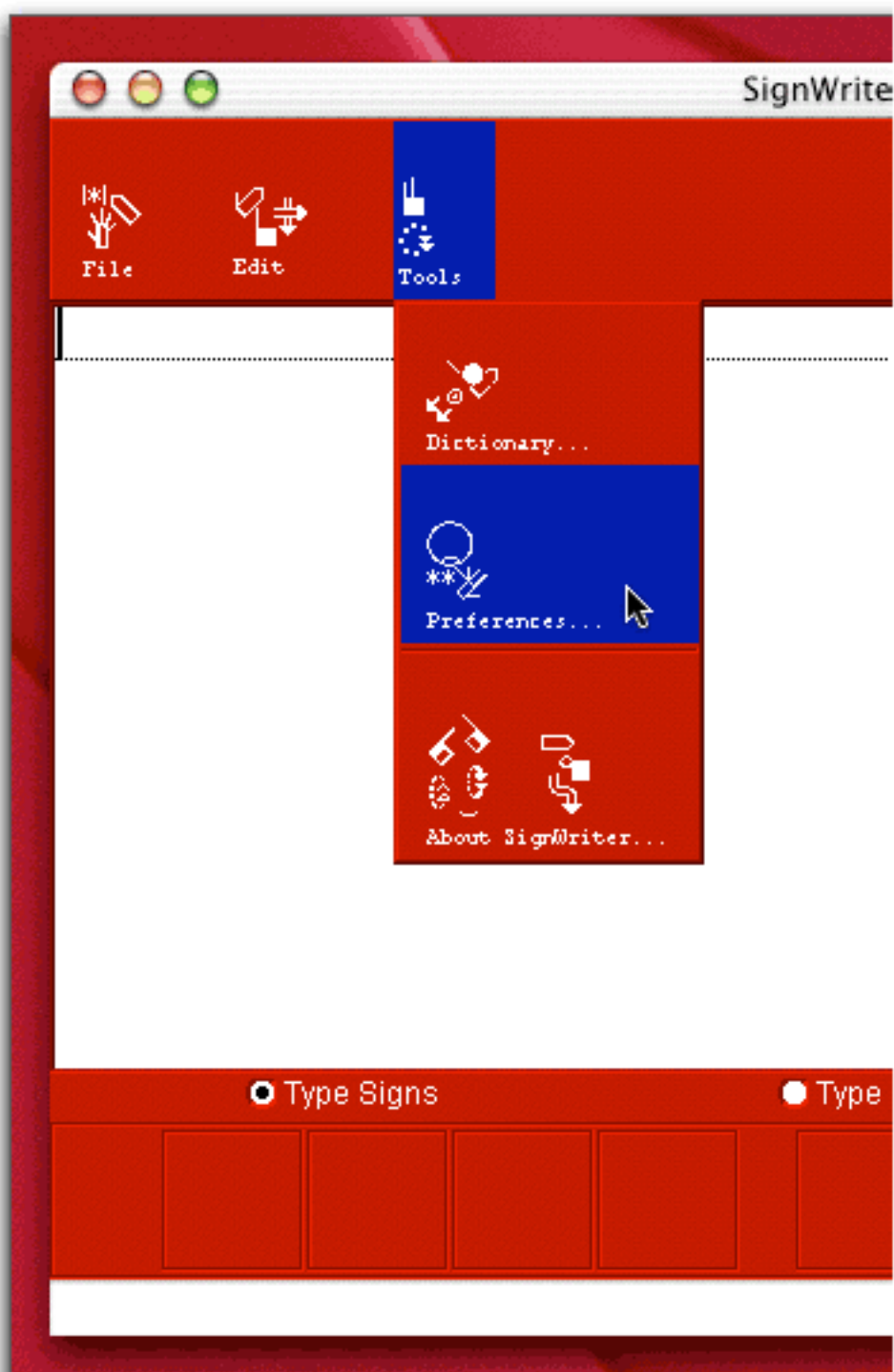
4. The Edit Menu...



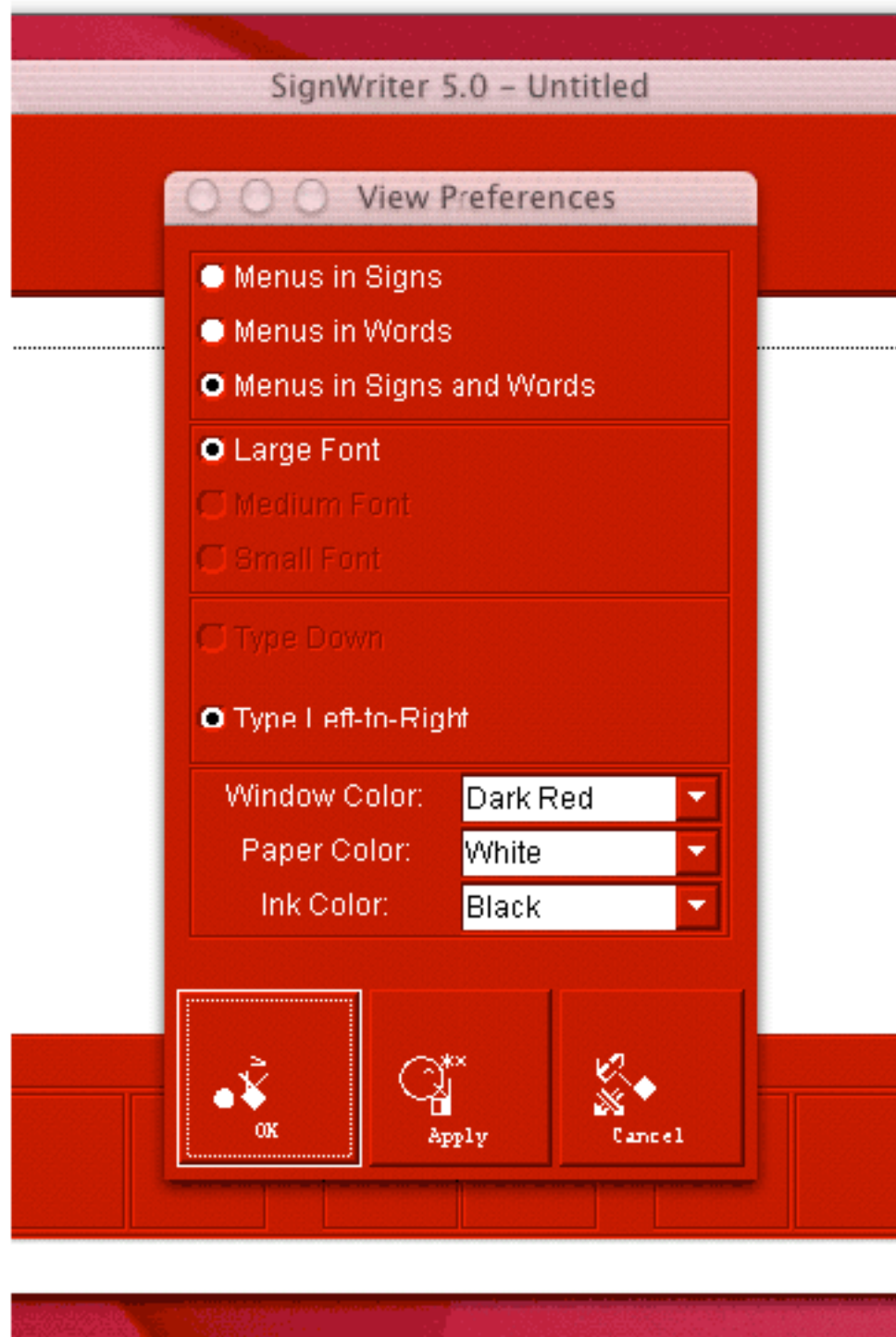
5. The Tools Menu...



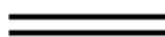
6. Preferences...



7. Change Menus & Colors...

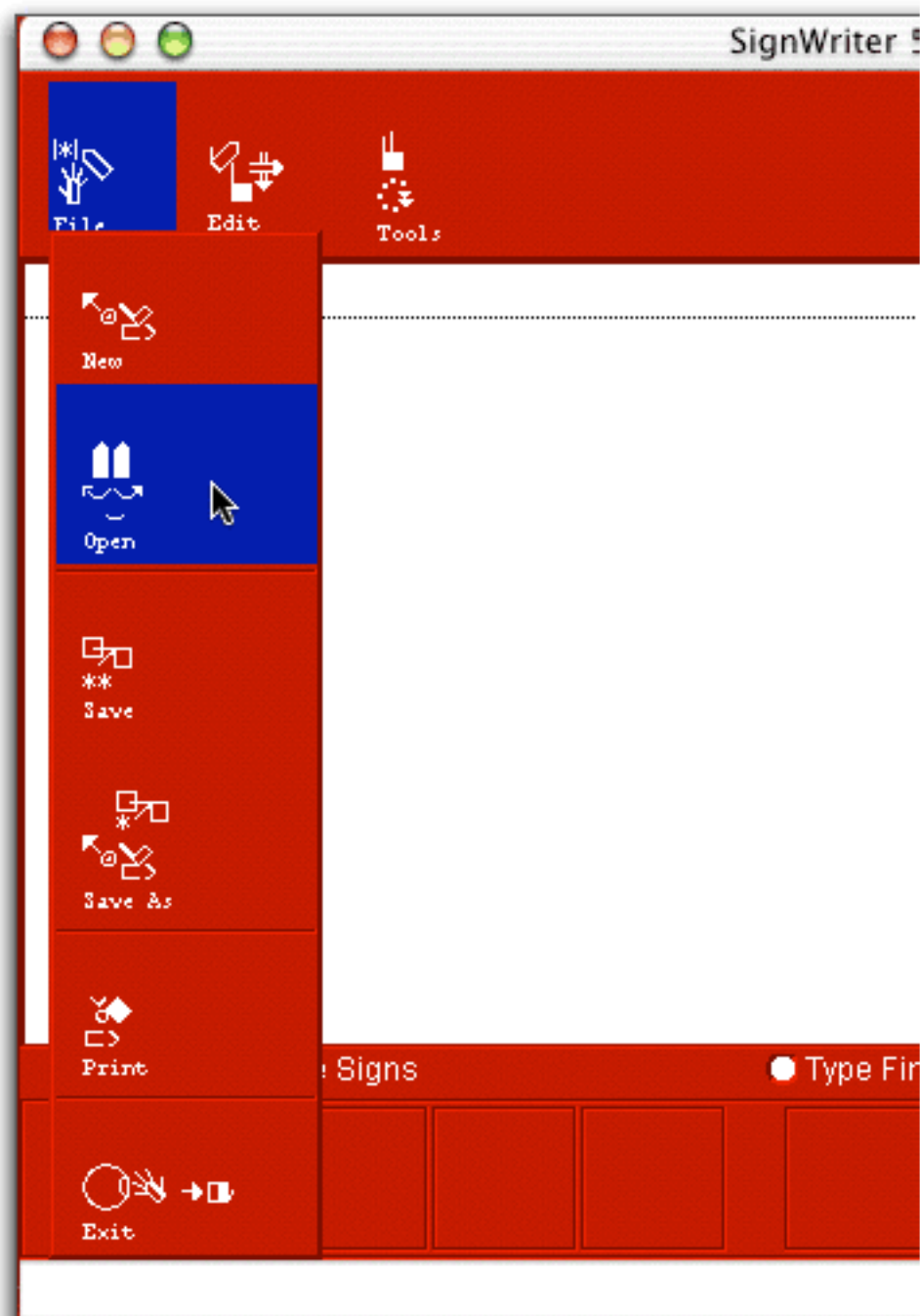


SignWriter® Java
Chapter 3
Converting SW 4.4 SGN Files

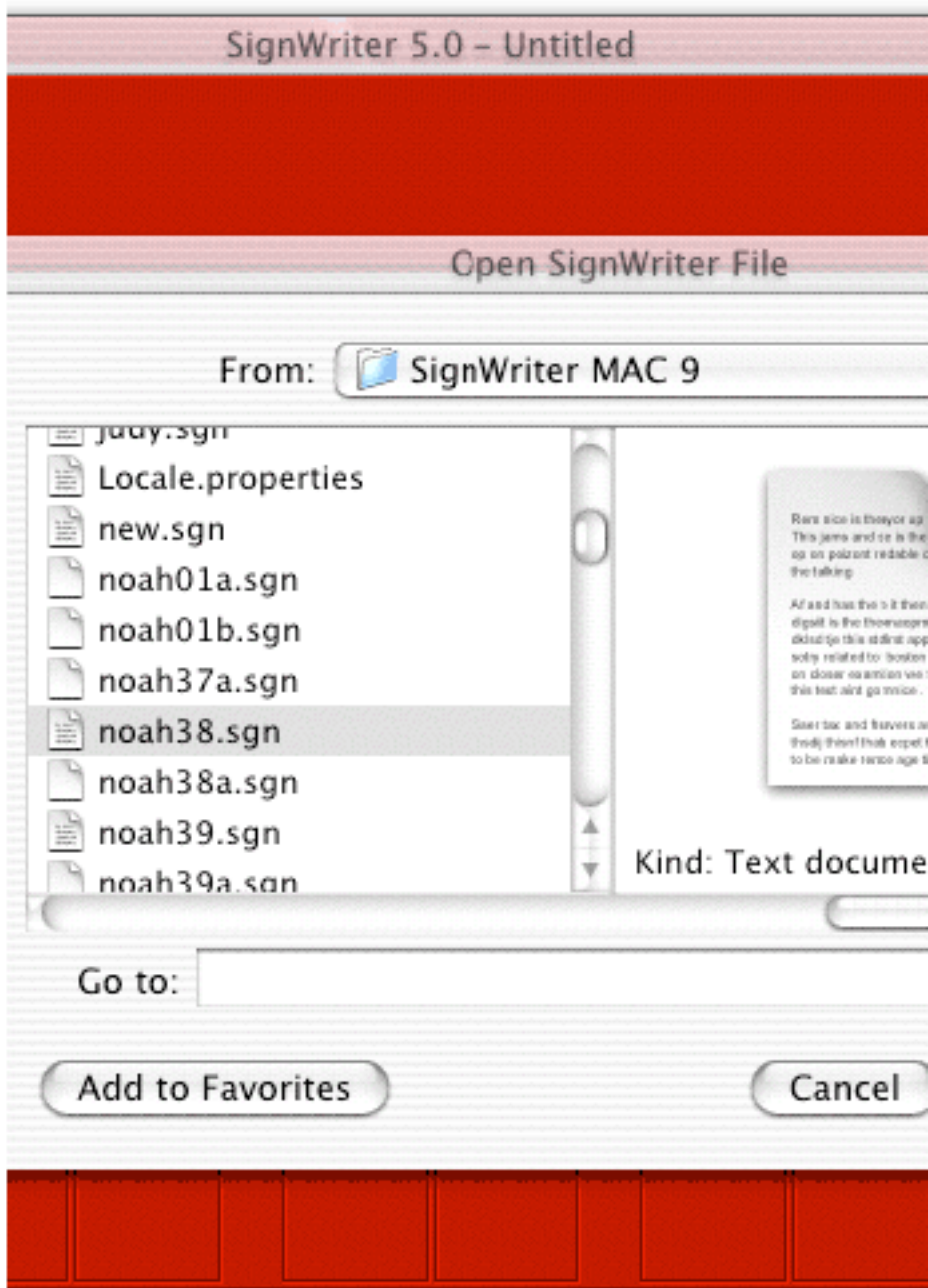


To Convert A SignWriter 4.4 SGN File

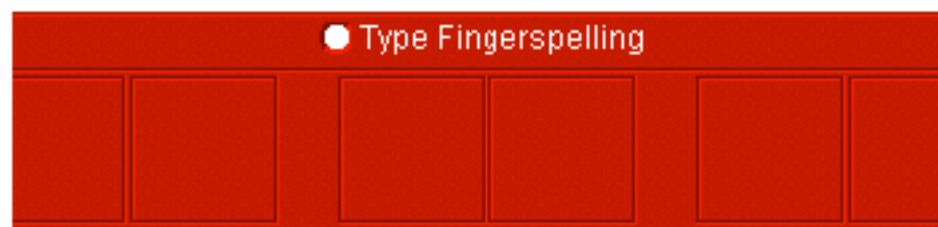
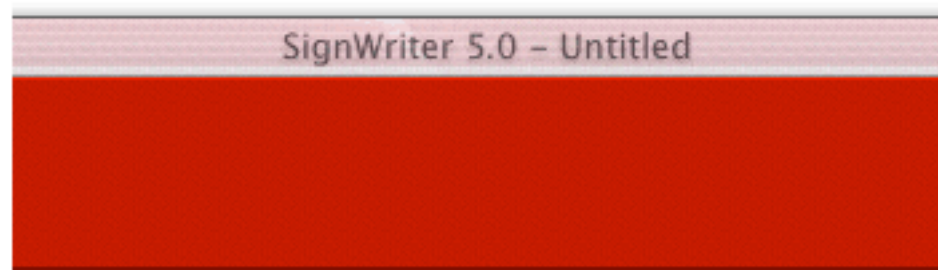
1. Under File, choose Open...



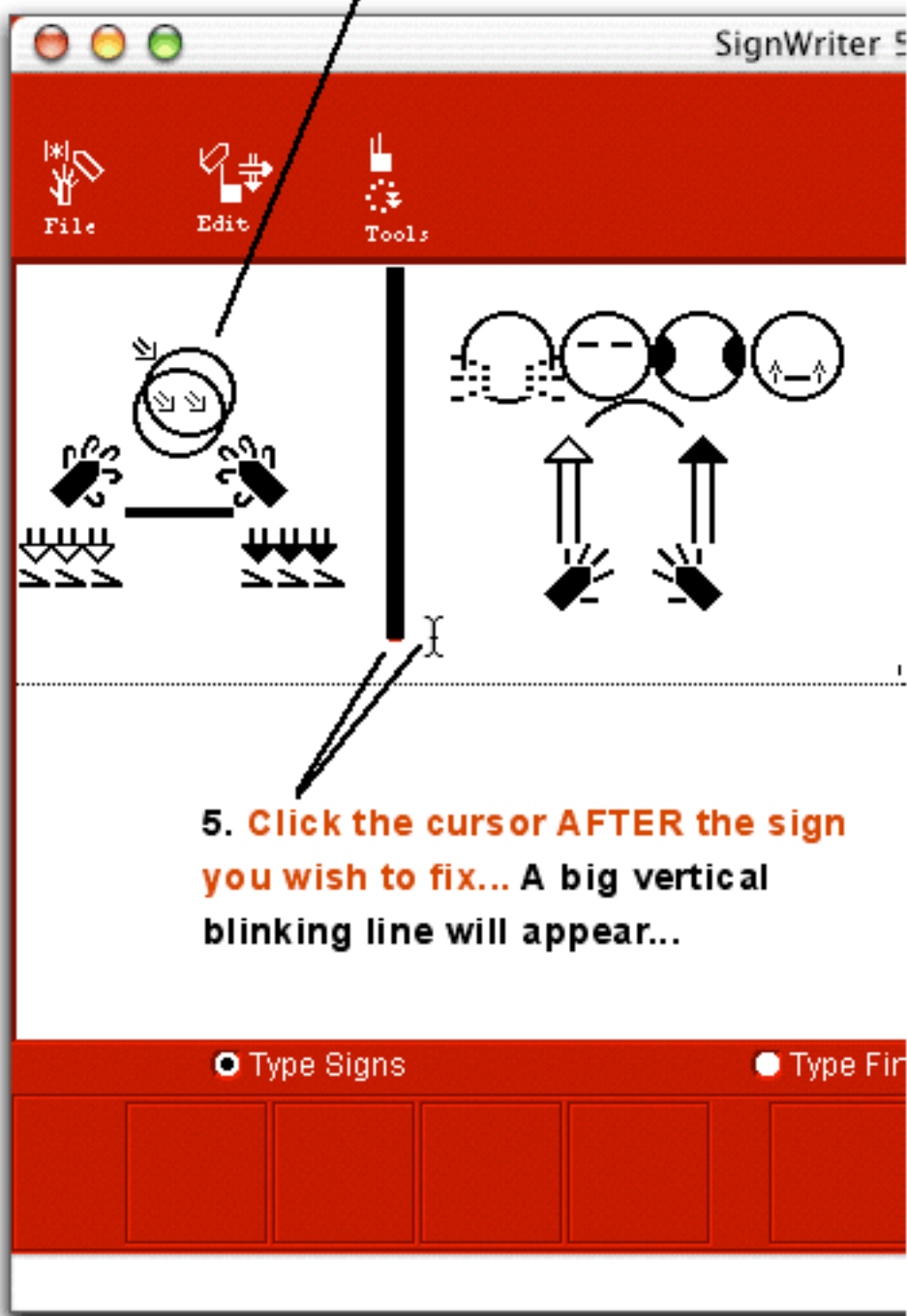
2. Find the file and open it...



3. If you are lucky, **it will convert!!**

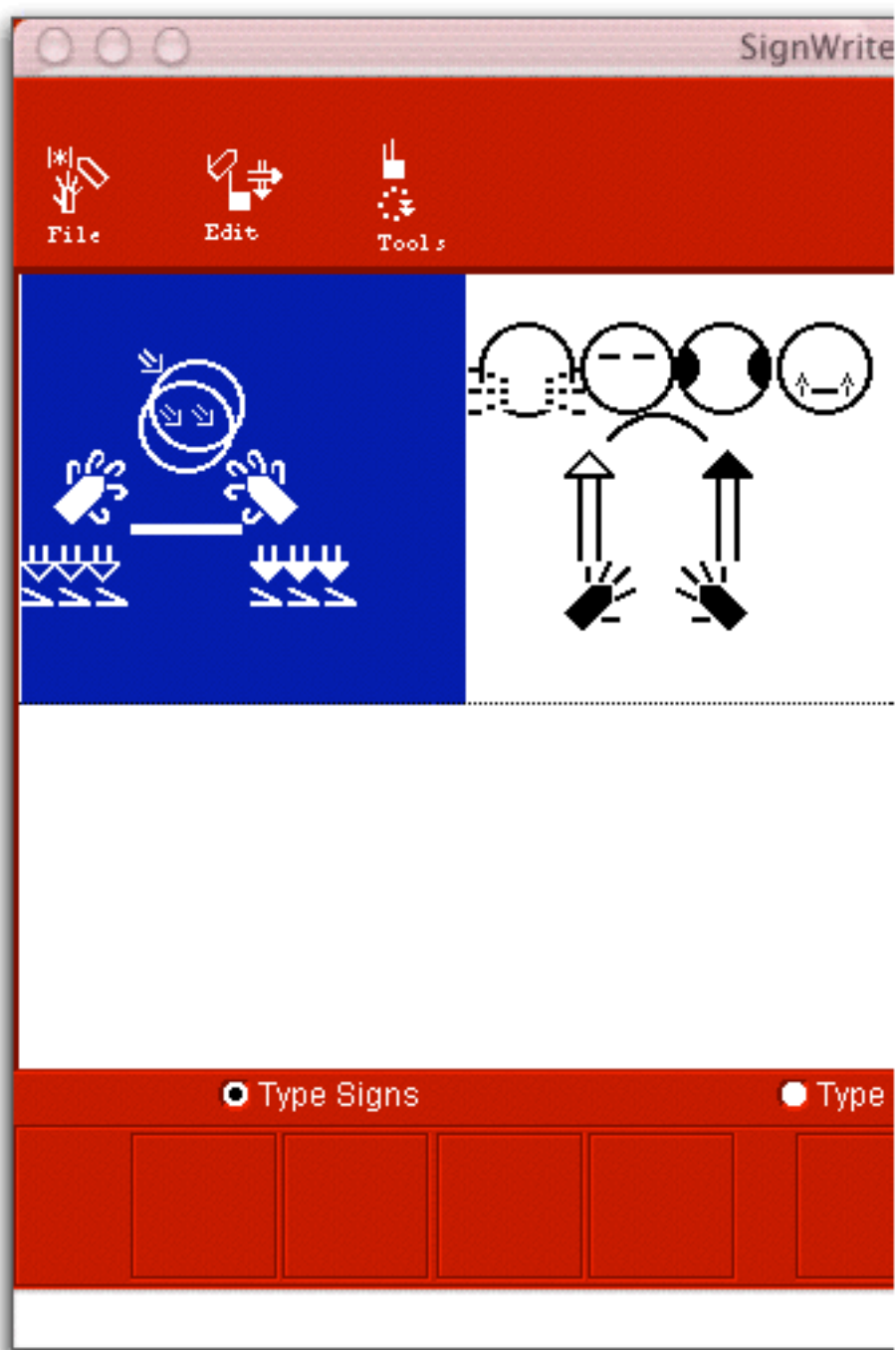


4. **Woops!** A face didn't convert perfectly....What do you do in this case?...

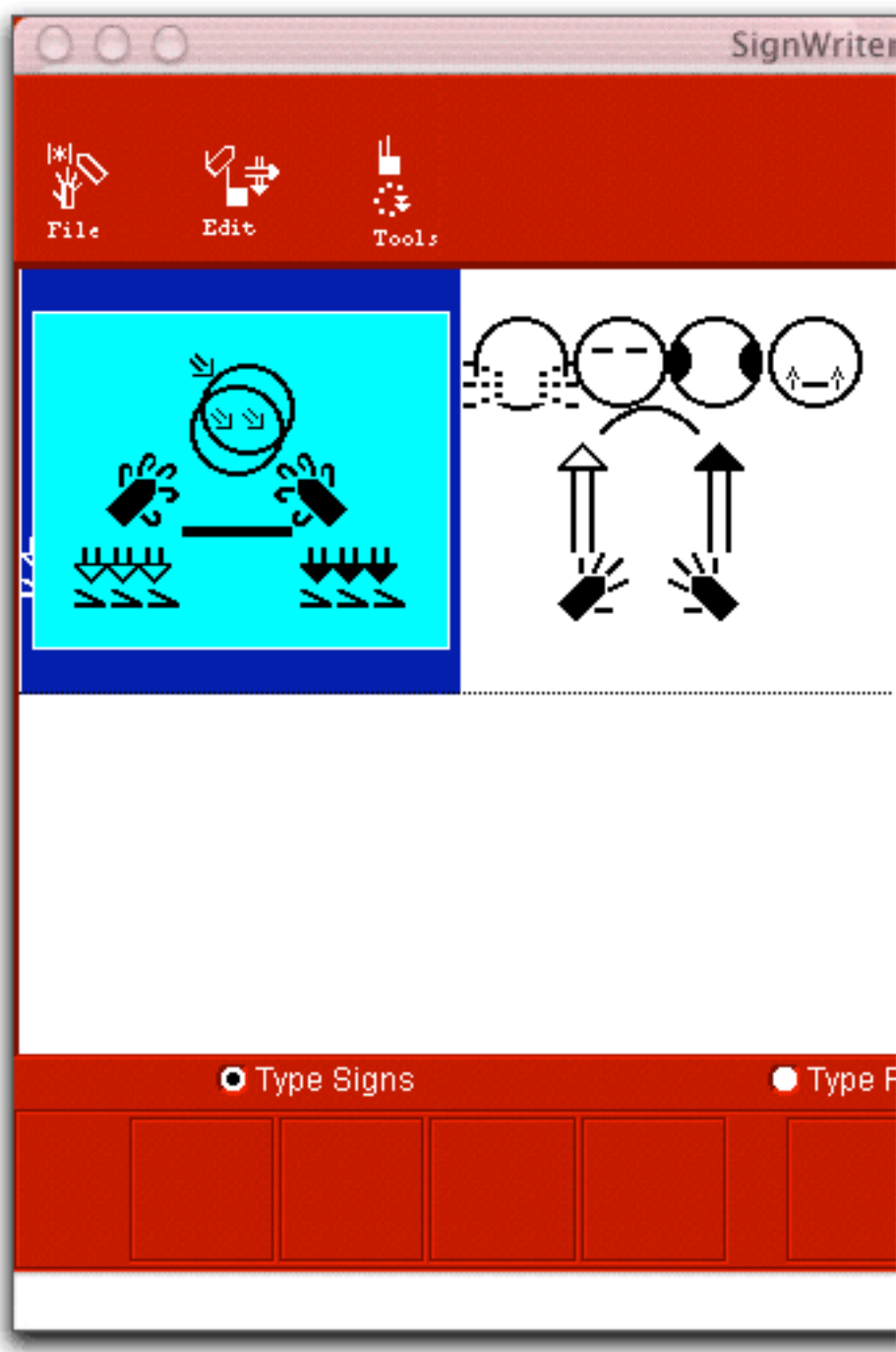


5. **Click the cursor AFTER the sign you wish to fix...** A big vertical blinking line will appear...

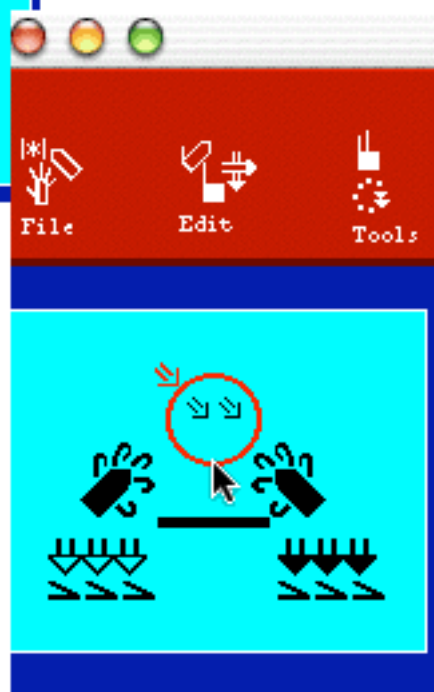
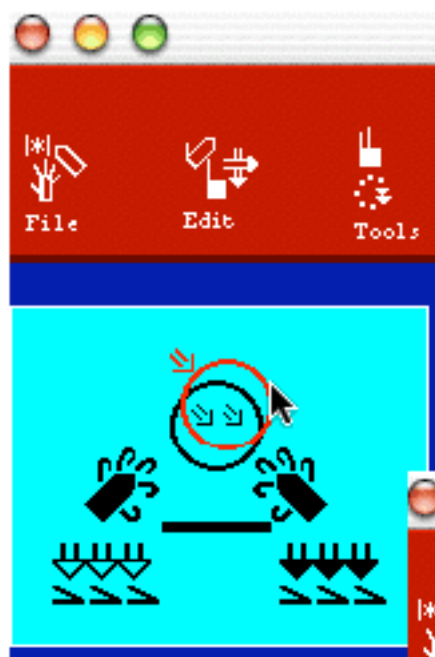
6. **Drag the mouse to the left...** A dark blue box appears. This means the sign is "selected"...



6. Press the M key... This gives you a light blue box. It is called the Editing Box. Now you can make changes to the sign...



6. Fix the sign with your mouse... Press Enter, or Return. The blue Editing Box disappears....



SignWriter® Java
Chapter 4
Working With Dictionaries



1. Read-Only Dictionary.

Any dictionary created and edited in SignWriter DOS 4.4 can be read and used in SignWriter Java. The dictionaries in SignWriter Java are "read-only", meaning they cannot be changed. But you can get around that...If you need to make changes in the dictionary, open SignWriter DOS, make the changes, save and close. Then move the two dictionary files: sw001.dic and sw001.din into the Java folder. SignWriter Java will then access that dictionary, when you open the program.



SGN US



signwriter.jar



sw001.dic



sw001.din

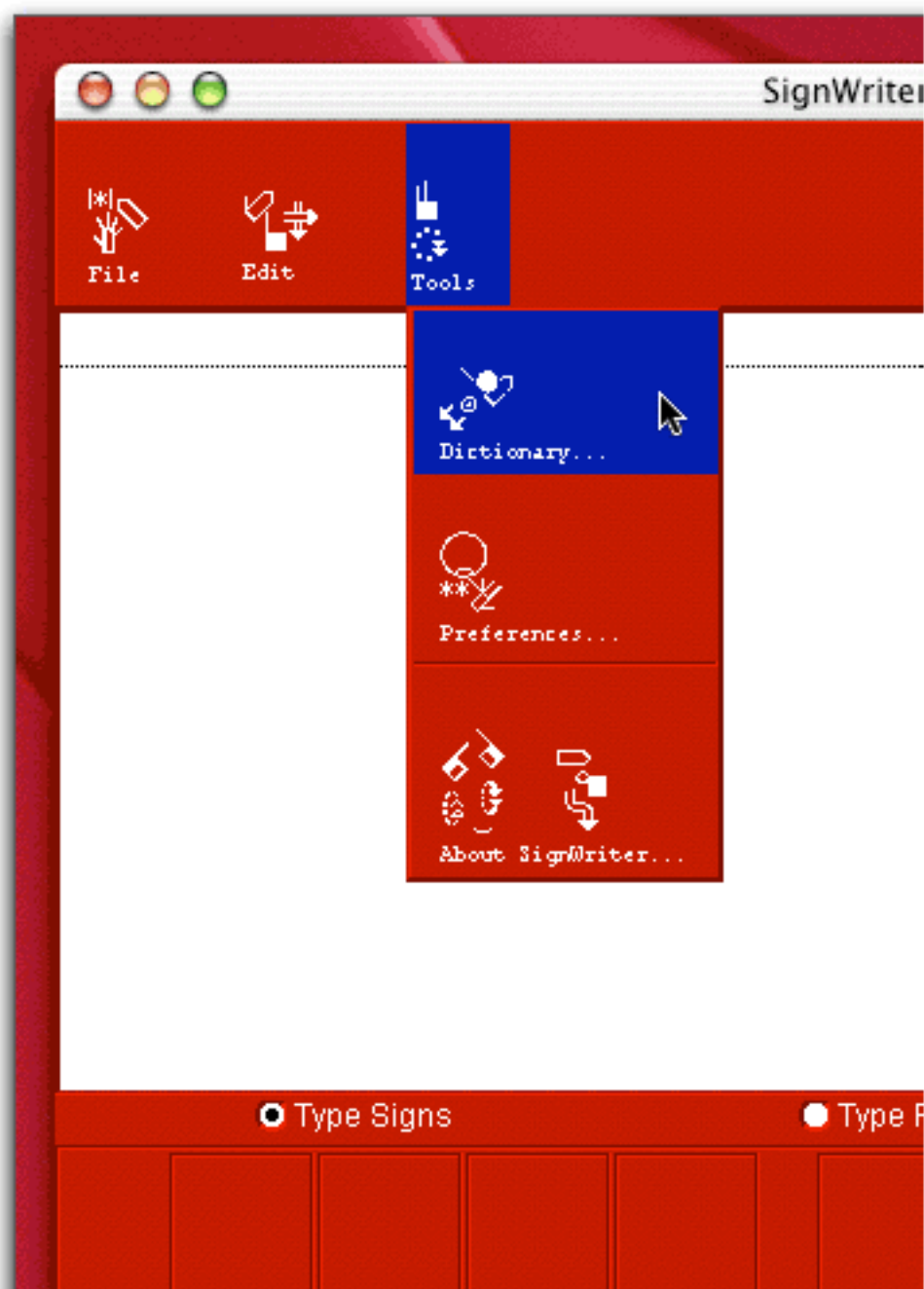


sw001.key



symlarge.dat

**2. In SignWriter Java, to open the dictionary...
Choose Dictionary under the Tools menu...**



3. Type a word. Press Return. The sign appears.

The SignWriter dictionary works the same in SignWriter Java, as it does in SignWriter DOS. Use the PageDown and PageUp keys to browse through the dictionary, or click on the buttons at the bottom of the dictionary to "lookup" signs. Once you find the sign you want, you can insert it into a document by pressing the Return Key, or the Enter Key, or use the Insert Button at the bottom of the dictionary. You cannot add or delete signs, since it is a "Read-Only" dictionary.



4. Buttons At Bottom of Dictionary

Previous Sign
Button

Next Sign
Button

Dictionary



Lookup (Search)
For A Sign Button

Insert Sign
Into Document

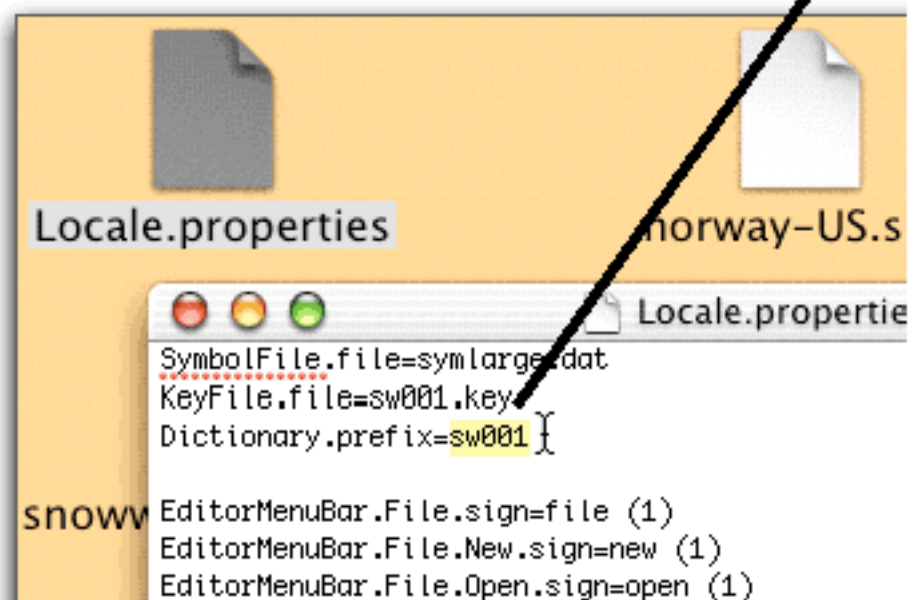
Cancel

5. Changing Dictionaries (for advanced users)....

a. In SignWriter DOS, make changes to the dictionary you wish to read in SignWriter Java.

b. Next, make copies of the .DIC and .DIN files for that dictionary, and place those files in the SignWriter Java folder.

c. In the SignWriter Java folder, there is a file named "Locale.properties". Open it with a Text Editor. Change the name of the dictionary in Locale.properties, to the name of your new dictionary. Close Locale.properties.



d. Start SignWriter Java. Your new dictionary should now be available to you...

SignWriter® Java

Chapter 5

Typing In Different Directions

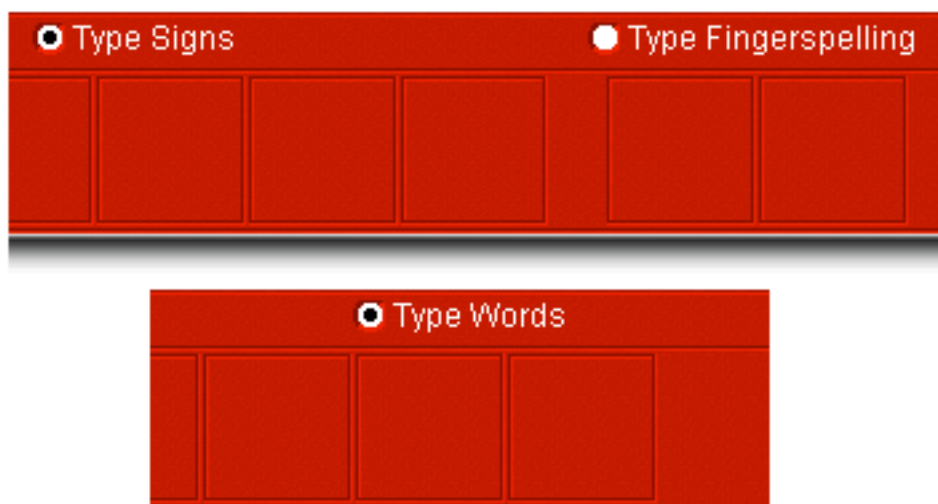


1. Three Ways To Type

If you know SignWriter DOS, then you know there are three ways to type...in Signs, Fingerspelling or Words. The same keystrokes that you use to type in SignWriter DOS exist in SignWriter Java too.

The Sign, Fingerspelling and Word modes are located at the bottom of the screen. Check the Mode you wish to use. Then place your cursor in your document and start typing....

Three Typing Modes



2. Typing Spoken Languages

Check the "Type Words" button at the bottom of the screen. Then place your cursor in the document and start typing words in any spoken language using the Roman Alphabet:



Hello.Happy to meet you.
Hope you enjoy SignWriter MAC!



3. Typing Fingerspelling

Check the "Type Fingerspelling" button at the bottom of the screen. Then place your cursor in the document and start typing words. The fingerspelling symbols will appear on the screen:



Hello.

Enjoy SignWriter MAC!



Type Signs

Type Fingerspelling



4. Typing Signs

Check the "Type Signs" button at the bottom of the screen. Then place your cursor in the document and start typing SignWriting symbols...

...continued next page...



File



Edit



Tools



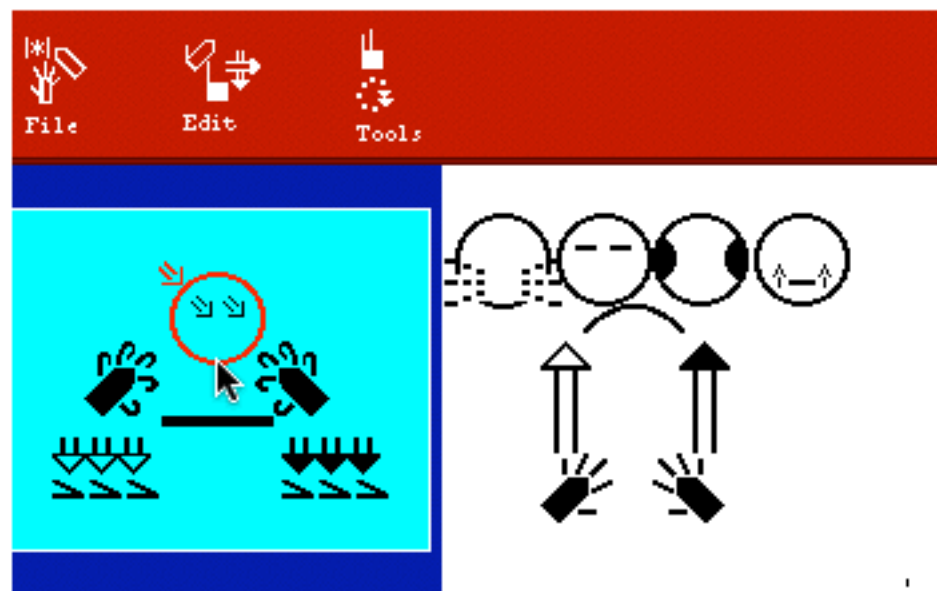
Type Signs

Type Fingerspelling



5. The Blue Editing Box

In Sign Mode, when you start typing, a blue Editing Box will automatically appear. Keep typing, and when you are done, press the Return or Enter Key. Your sign will then be inserted into your document



6. Stretching The Editing Box

Once you are in the Editing Box, you can use your mouse to stretch the Editing Box, making it bigger. Type any symbol, and then take your mouse, select that symbol and drag it in any direction...Presto! Your Editing Box stretches, becoming large enough to give you space to type a complete sentence:



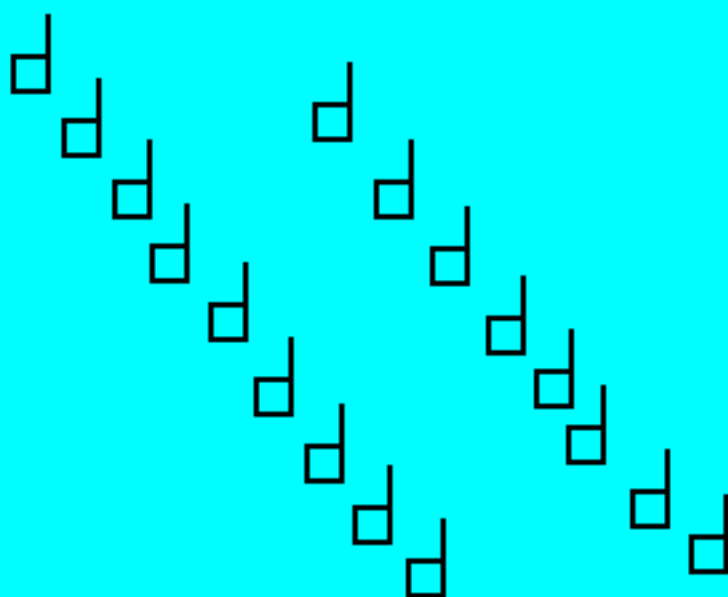
File



Edit



Tools

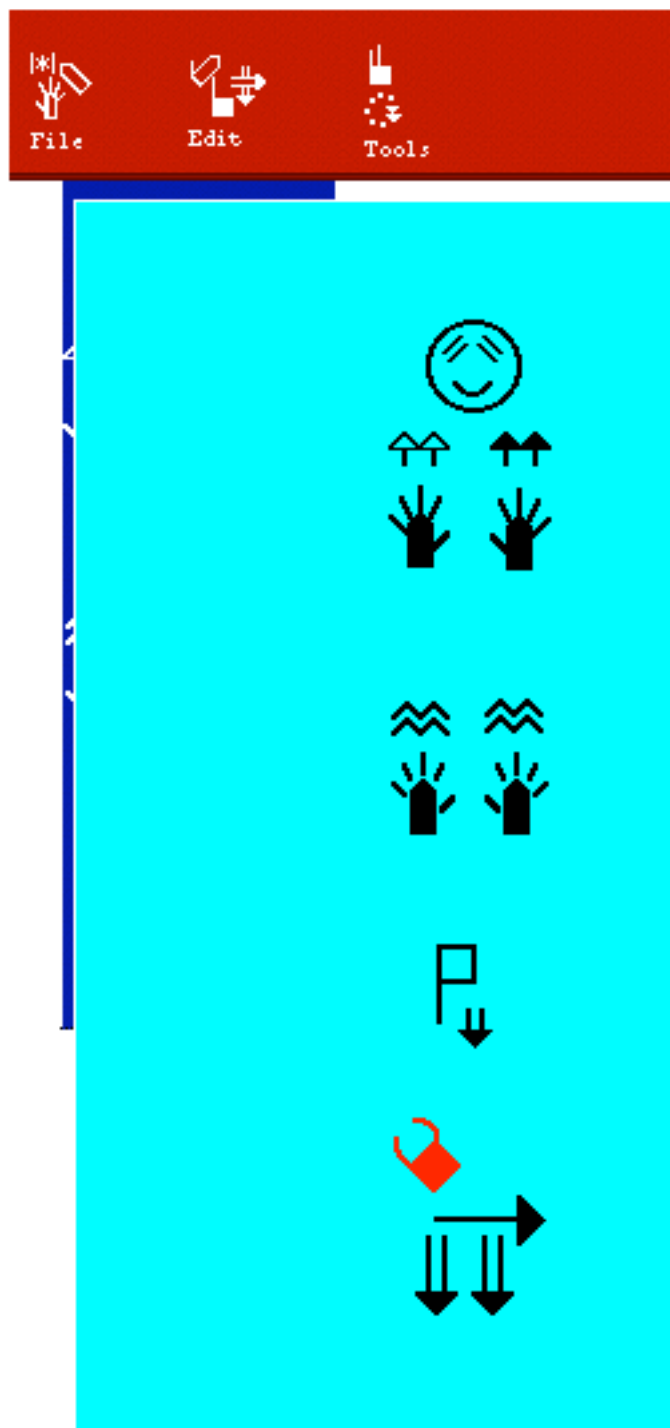


**7. Type a
Whole
Sentence
In Any
Direction**

Once you
have
stretched your
Editing Box,
giving you
plenty of
room to type,
start typing
your signs in
any direction.

You can use
your mouse to
move
symbols
within the
Editing Box.

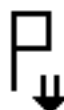
Use the
mouse to
line up your
signs in
any pattern
you choose.



8. Insert Sentence into Your Document

When your sentence is complete, press the Return or Enter Key, to insert the whole sentence into your document.

The blue Editing Box will disappear and you are back in your document once again.



9. Typing a Diagonal Sentence

File Edit Tools

Type Signs

10. Inserting a Diagonal Sentence



Type Signs

Type Fingerspelling

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