

XPress Tags

Note that all codes that are set in angle brackets can be combined within one set of angle brackets. For example, <BI*d(1,3)> changes the formatting to bold, italic, and with an initial cap.

Character Formats

Style	Code ¹
Plain	<P>
Bold	
Italic	<I>
Outline	<O>
Shadow	<S>
Underline	<U>
Word underline	<W>

Style (continued)	Code ¹
Strikethrough	</>
All caps	<K>
Small caps	<H>
Superscript	<+>
Subscript	<->
Superior	<V>
Type style of current style sheet	<S>

¹These codes act as toggle switches; the first time they're encountered, the format is activated. The second time, the format is deactivated. Note the similarity to formatting keystrokes.

Style/Attribute	Code ²	Value type or units
Typeface	<f"name">	Name of font, exactly as it appears in XPress's font menu or Measurements palette
Size	<z#>	Points
Color	<c"name">	Name of color (the four process colors and white can be specified by C, M, Y, K, and W, without quotes, as in <cY>)
Shade	<s#>	Percentage
Horizontal scale	<h#>	Percentage
Vertical scale	<y#>	Percentage
Kern next 2 characters	<k#>	1/200 em
Track	<t#>	1/200 em
Baseline shift	<b#>	Points

²In these codes, “#” should be replaced with a number. This number can be set to the same precision as QuarkXPress's measurements (tenths, hundredths, or thousandths of a unit). The measurement units used are shown. If you replace “#” or any other code value with a dollar sign (\$), QuarkXPress uses the formatting of the current style sheet. For Kern, Track, and Baseline Shift, the numbers can be either positive (no sign) or negative (use hyphen for negative sign). Positive Kern and Track values make the type looser; negative Kern and Track values make the type tighter. Positive Baseline Shift values shift up; negative Baseline Shift values shift down.

Paragraph Formats

Attribute	Code ³	Value type or units
Left-align	<*L>	None

Center-align	<*C>	None
Right-align	<*R>	None
Justify	<*J>	None
Force-justify	<*F>	None
Paragraph attributes	<*p(##,##,##,##, G or g)>	Left Indent, First Line, Right Indent, Leading, Space Before, Space After, Lock to Baseline Grid (G = lock, g = don't lock)
Drop cap	<*d(chars,lines)>	Character Count and Line Count
Keep With Next ¶	<*kn1> or <*kn0>	1=keep with next, 0=don't keep with next
Keep Lines Together	<*kt(A)> or <*kt(start,end)>	"A"=all; start and end are number of lines
Set Tab Stops	<*t(##,"character")>	Position, Alignment (0=left, 1=center, 2=right, 4=decimal, 5= comma), Fill character or characters ⁴
H&J	<*h"name">	Name of H&J specification
Rule Above	<*ra(##,"name",##,##,##)>	See "Rule Below"
Rule Below	<*rb(##,"name",##,##,##)>	Width, Style (from 1–11), Name of color, Shade (percent), From Left, From Right, Offset (if you specify Offset as a percentage, place a percent sign after the number) (enter T in front of Left Indent value to base rule length on length of text rather than indents)

³In these codes, “#” should be replaced with a measurement in points. If you replace “#” or any other code value with a dollar sign (\$), XPress uses the formatting of the current style sheet. If the code requires multiple values, every value must be present and delineated by a comma up until the last code you wish to specify (i.e., if you only wanted to specify Left Indent, you could just type <*p(2p)>; you wouldn't have to type <*p(2p,\$,\$,\$,\$,\$)>.)

⁴Align on is specified by replacing the alignment number by the character contained within quotation marks. QuarkXPress 3.3 and later allows two-character tab leaders.

Special Characters

Character	Code
Soft return (“new line”)	<\n>
Discretionary return	<\d>
Normal hyphen	<\- > ⁵
Discretionary hyphen	<\h>
Indent Here	<\i>
Previous text box page #	<\2>
Current text box page #	<\3>
Next text box page #	<\4>
New column	<\c>
New box	<\b>
@	<\@>
<	<\<>
\	<\ >
Standard space	<\s > ⁵
En space (figure space)	<\f > ⁵
Em space (there isn't one)	<\f ><\f > ⁵
Flex space ⁶	<\q > ⁵
Punctuation space	<\p > ⁵

ASCII character	<\#decimal value> ^{5,7}
En dash	<\#208> ^{5,7,8}
Em dash	<\#209> ^{5,7,8}
Open double quotes	<\#210> ^{5,7,8}
Close double quotes	<\#211> ^{5,7,8}
Open single quote	<\#212> ^{5,7,8}
Close single quote or apostrophe	<\#213> ^{5,7,8}
Return (new paragraph)	<\#13> ^{5,7,8}
Tab character	<\#9> ^{5,7,8}
Right-align tab character	<\t>

⁵Precede these codes with an exclamation point to make them nonbreaking. For example, <!-> for a non-breaking hyphen.

⁶The QuarkXPress documentation continues to insist on incorrectly calling this a “1/4-em space.” It can conceivably be defined as such, of course, but it’s totally user-configurable.

⁷Note that the number sign (#) must precede the ASCII value.

⁸You can also type the character itself on the Macintosh.

Paragraph Style Sheets

Description	Code	Values
Define style sheet	@name=	Name of style sheet; follow the equal sign with definition, just as if you were inserting “manual” or “local” formatting in the text stream
Based on/next style	@name=[S"based-on_name", "next style name"]	Name of based-on style sheet, followed by definition
Apply style sheet	@name:	Name of style sheet
Apply “Normal”	@\$:	
Apply “No Style”	@:	

Character Style Sheets

Description	Code	Values
Define style sheet	@name=	Just like defining a paragraph style sheet, except (of course) don’t specify any paragraph attributes
Apply style sheet	<@name>	Name of style sheet
Apply Normal character style	<@\$>	
Return to character style sheet that “belongs” to current ¶ style sheet	<@Sp>	

General Codes

Code	Means...
<v#>	XPress Tags filter version number. XPress 3.2’s filter is version 1.60; XPress 3.3’s is version 1.70; XPress 4.0’s is version 4.0. You can typically ignore this tag.
<e#>	Platform number: 0=Mac, 1=Windows DTP; 2=ISO Latin 1. You can ignore these unless you’re moving XPress Tags files from one computer platform to another.