

AlbumEasy V4.2

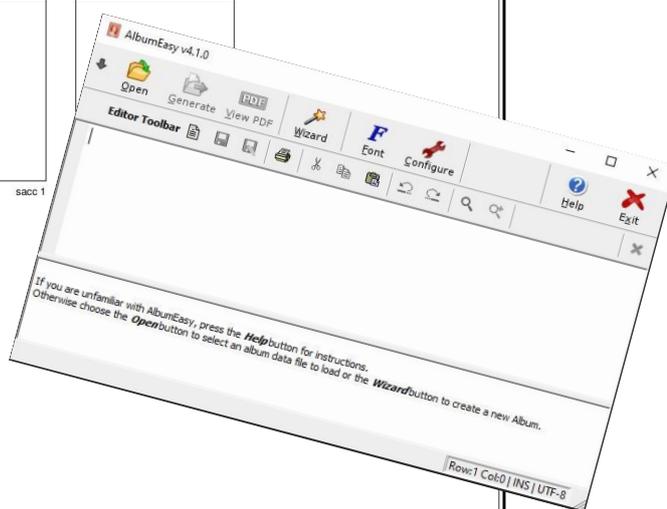
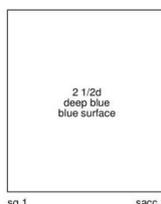
A Reference Companion

```
Notepad
Annotated AlbumEasy.txt
File Edit Format View Help
# RUN THIS FILE IN ALBUEASY AND PRINT THE PAGES SO YOU CAN SEE IT AS YOU #FOLLOW ALONG!
#####
# Sample AlbumEasy File. (c) 2005 Bundu Technology Ltd.
# Note: the # character is used for comments, any text following the # is
# ignored.
# All measurements are in millimeters, except for font sizes which are points.
#####
# First setup the page elements that are common to all pages in this album.
# Only one of the two following lines can have a # to turn it off. Currently set for
# 8.5 x 11. to set for A4 size paper, put a # in front of the 1st line and remove it
# from 2nd.
ALBUM_PAGES_SIZE (215.9 279.4) #set the page to US Letter (8.5 x 11)
#ALBUM_PAGES_SIZE (210.0 297.0) #use this for A4
# Now set margins in mm in order left, right, top and bottom page margins
ALBUM_PAGES_MARGINS (25.0 12.0 15.0 15.0)
# Now set the border. The first number is the width of the outside border line, the 2nd
# is the distance between the outer and inner line whose width is set by the 3rd number.
ALBUM_PAGES_BORDER (0.5 0.1 1.0)
# Now make the title for the album page.
#TN -Times Roman Normal
#TB -Times Roman Bold
#TI -Times Roman Italic
#TS -Times Roman Bold-Italic
#HN -Helvetica Normal
#HB -Helvetica Bold
#HI -Helvetica Italic
#HD -Helvetica Bold-Italic
# here the title in quotes is font Times bold
# 16 point. Title must be in quotes
sacc 1 sg 2 sacc 1a
```

re united on the
of May 1961 w



Used



A Programme for Creating Custom Stamp Albums.

By Clive Levinson

New Commands added with V4.2:

V4.2.1 (Dec 2020)

- *Bug fix: Text inside the stamp box was not being centred correctly by the **STAMP_ADD_IMG** command when the box included both text and an image.*

V4.2.0 (Dec 2020)

- *New: **STAMP_ADD_HEXAGON** and **STAMP_ADD_OCTAGON** commands for hexagonal and octagonal stamp boxes.*
- *New: **PAGE_BACKGROUND_IMG** command adds a background image to the page.*
- *New: **PAGE_START_GROUP_BEGIN** and **PAGE_START_GROUP_END** commands to define a group of commands that are output at the start of each new page.*
- *New: **TEXT_LINE_LEADING** command to adjust the leading or spacing between the lines of text in a multiline text item such as a paragraph.*
- *New: **PAGE_VSPACE** to add vertical spacing between elements on the page.*
- *New: **ALBUM_PAGES_HEADER** and associated commands for placing text into the top margin of the page in a similar manner to the existing **ALBUM_PAGES_FOOTER** commands that operates on the bottom margin.*
- *New: **COLOUR_ALBUM_DECORATIVE_BORDER** to set the line colour for decorative borders.*
- *Enhancement: **STAMP_ADD_IMG** now supports placing both text and images simultaneously inside stamp boxes.*
- *Enhancement: Added configuration options to disable the prompt to save the album when generating an album and to also disable the prompt when exiting the application.*
- *Bug fix: The **ALBUM_STAMP_IMG_SETTING** command has been replaced by the **ALBUM_STAMP_NEW_IMG_SETTING** to correct a calculation error. The old command has been retained for backwards compatibility.*
- *Bug fix: Image file names that included international characters could sometimes generate an error on Linux and Mac operating systems - now fixed.*
- *Bug fix: SaveAs on MacOS was not always functional. Now fixed.*

Edited and Enhanced From The Albumeasy Help File

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AlbumEasy

<http://www.thestampweb.com/>

February 2021

AlbumEasy V4.2

Contents

1.) WORKFLOW OUTLINE FROM CHAOS TO ORDER	4
2.) ALBUMEASY – GETTING STARTED	5
Creating A First Album	9
3.) ALBUM WIZARD	10
4.) ALBUMEASY – COMMANDS	13
4.i.) Album Global Settings Commands	14
4.ii.) Page Commands	19
4.iii.) STAMP COMMANDS	27
4.iv.) Colour Commands	38
5.) Fonts and Miscellaneous Commands	40
5.i.) Custom fonts:	40
5.ii.) Standard Fonts	40
5.III.) OBSOLETE COMMANDS	41
6.) Decorative Borders	43
6.i.) BORDER DEFINITION FILE	44
7.) Character Sets	47
8.) COLOUR PARAMETERS	48
9.) CONFIGURATION DIALOGUE BOX	58
10.) CONSOLE MODE	60
11.) Hints and Tips	61
11.i.) First title page with pictures next to title	61
11.ii.) Large left vertical Block with Small block	62
12.) EXAMPLES	65
12.i.) Example of an AlbumEasy .TXT File	65
12.ii.) Steiner Example	69
12.iii.) Decorative Border examples	72
13.) HISTORY	74
AlbumEasy LICENCE	78
INDEX	87

1.) WORKFLOW OUTLINE FROM CHAOS TO ORDER

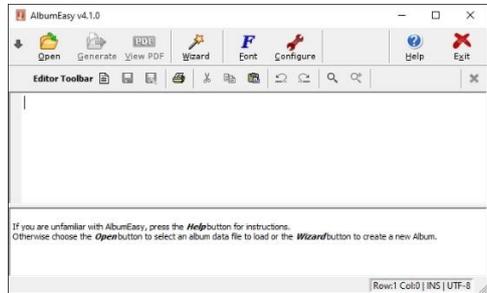
From a pile of stamps to a customized stamp album of your own design



1. Your pile of Stamps

```
#####
# RUN THIS FILE IN ALBUEASY AND PRINT THE PAGES SO YOU CAN SEE IT AS YOU FOLLOW ALONG!
#####
# create AlbumEasy file (CC 2000 South Technology Ltd)
#####
# Note: the # character is used for comments, any text following the # is
# ignored.
# All measurements are in millimeters, except for font sizes which are points.
#####
# First setup the page elements that are common to all pages in this album.
# Only any of the two following lines can have a # so turn it off. (currently set for
# A5 (L5.5x7.5) - to set for an A5R paper, set a # in front of the last line and remove the
# # symbol.
ALBUM_PAGES_SIZE (L5.5x7.5) #set the page to A5 letter (L5.5 x 7.5)
ALBUM_PAGES_BORDER (0.5 0.5 1.0) #set the border
# Now set margins to set to order: left, right, top and bottom page margins
ALBUM_PAGE_MARGIN (21.0 12.0 13.0 13.0)
# Now set the border: the first number is the width of the outside border line, the 2nd
# is the distance between the outer and inner line above which is set by the 1st number.
ALBUM_PAGE_BORDER (0.5 0.5 1.0)
# Now use the title for the album page.
ALBUM_PAGE_TITLE
ALBUM_PAGE_TITLE_FONT
ALBUM_PAGE_TITLE_SIZE
ALBUM_PAGE_TITLE_ALIGN
ALBUM_PAGE_TITLE_COLOR
ALBUM_PAGE_TITLE_FONT_STYLE
ALBUM_PAGE_TITLE_FONT_WEIGHT
ALBUM_PAGE_TITLE_FONT_STYLE
ALBUM_PAGE_TITLE_FONT_WEIGHT
ALBUM_PAGE_TITLE_FONT_STYLE
ALBUM_PAGE_TITLE_FONT_WEIGHT
# Now the title is open: to font: Times bold
ALBUM_PAGE_TITLE_FONT (12)
ALBUM_PAGE_TITLE_FONT_STYLE (bold)
```

2. Album Definition Text File



3. AlbumEasy to Generate a PDF



4. Your custom Designed album Page



5. Then into your custom-made albums

2.) ALBUMEASY – GETTING STARTED

```
Annotated Albumeasy.txt - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
# RUN THIS FILE IN ALBUMEASY AND PRINT THE PAGES SO YOU CAN SEE IT AS YOU #FOLLOW ALONG!

#####
# sample AlbumEasy file. (c) 2005 Bundu Technology Ltd.
# -----
# Note: the # character is used for comments, any text following the # is
# ignored.
# All measurements are in millimeters, except for font sizes which are points.
#####

# -----
# First setup the page elements that are common to all pages in this album.
# -----

# Only one of the two following lines can have a # to turn it off, currently set for
# 6.5 x 11. to set for A4 size paper, put a # in front of the 1st line and remove it
# from 2nd.
ALBUM_PAGES_SIZE (215.9 279.4) #Set the page to US Letter (8.5 x 11)
#ALBUM_PAGES_SIZE (210.0 297.0) #Use this for A4

# Now set margins in mm in order left, right, top and bottom page margins
ALBUM_PAGES_MARGINS (25.0 12.0 15.0 15.0)

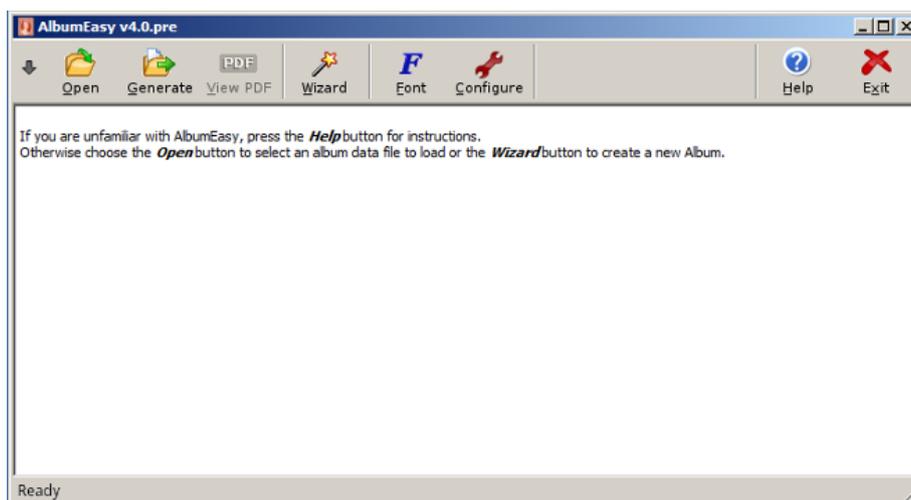
# Now set the border. The first number is the width of the outside border line, the 2nd
# is the distance between the outer and inner line whose width is set by the 3rd number.
ALBUM_PAGES_BORDER (0.5 0.1 1.0)
```

Albums are defined by a set of commands in an album definition file. This is a regular text file which is created by means of a text editor or word-processor. AlbumEasy processes these commands to generate an Album in PDF format for later viewing and printing.

The Main Window

The main window can take one of two forms, depending on whether the text editor is enabled or not via the configuration dialogue box.

- **Main Window - without Text Editor enabled**



The main window consists of three panels. The toolbar, a message area, and the bottom status bar.

The Toolbar

Contains the following buttons:

- Down Arrow: List of recently used files.
- Open: Open an album text file.
- Generate: Generate the album from an open album text file. This button is disabled until an album text file has been opened.
- View PDF: View the generated album. This button is disabled until an album has been generated.
- Wizard: Display the New **Album Wizard Dialogue Box** for creating a new album.
- Font: Display the Available **Fonts Dialogue Box** containing the list of fonts that may be used with AlbumEasy.
- Configure: Display the **Configuration Dialogue Box** for setting the application configuration.
- Help: Display this help window.
- Exit: Exit the application.

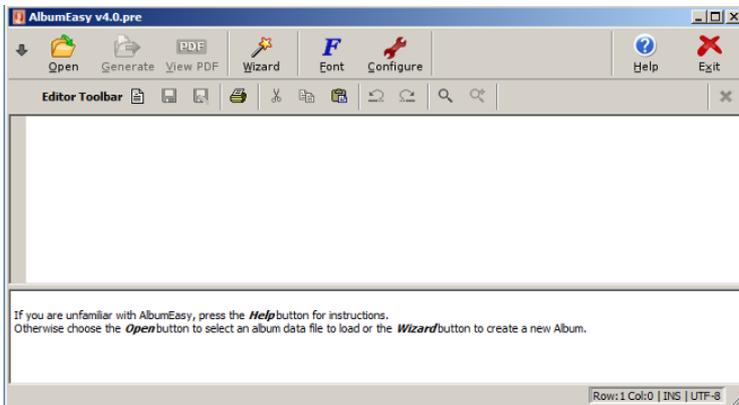
The Message Area

The message area displays messages related to the running of the program, as well as any error messages that may occur when generating an album.

The Status Bar

The grey box at the bottom of the main window is the status bar used to display prompt messages when the mouse cursor hovers over a button

• Main Window - Text Editor enabled



When the text editor is enabled, the area occupied by message panel is split. The top section contains the text editor complete with its own toolbar, while the bottom section continues to serve as the message area.

Text Editor

An integrated text editor has been part of AlbumEasy as from V4.0. Prior to this version, it was necessary to use an external text editor.

A useful aspect of the integrated editor is *Syntax Highlighting*. This is the use of colour and formatting to make the text easier to read and errors more obvious. e.g comments displayed in green, keywords in red, etc.

For those users who would prefer to continue using an external editor, and find the internal editor distracting, it can easily be disabled by means of the **Configuration Dialogue**.

The editor font and syntax highlighting colours can be customised via the **Text Editor Page** of the Configuration Dialogue.

The text editor includes its own toolbar with the following buttons:



- New: * Create a new empty file.
- Save: Save the current album text file.
- Save As: Save the current album text file under a new name.
- Print: Print the current album text file.
- Cut: Cut selected text to the clipboard.
- Copy: Copy selected text to the clipboard.
- Paste: Paste text from the clipboard.
- Undo: Undo the last change.
- Redo: Redo the previously undone change.
- Find: Find text.
- Find Next: Find the next occurrence of the search text.
- Close: * Close the current album text file.

* *NOTE:* The New and Close buttons perform the identical function - close the current file and create a new empty file. Both buttons have been included solely for convenience.

• **Keyboard Controls**

The list of editor functions and associated keyboard shortcuts:

- Cut: Ctrl+X *
- Copy: Ctrl+C *
- Paste: Ctrl+V *
- Select All: Ctrl+A *
- Undo: Ctrl+Z *
- Redo: Ctrl+Y *
- Duplicate Line: Ctrl+D *
- Delete Line: Ctrl+U *
- Delete To Line End: Ctrl+K *
- Find: Ctrl+F *
- Find Next: Ctrl+G *
- Previous Char: Left
- Previous Word: Ctrl+Left
- Next Char: Right
- Next Word: Ctrl+Right
- Previous Line: Up
- Next Line: Down
- Previous Page: PgUp
- Next Page: PgDown
- Start of Line: Home
- Start of Document: Ctrl+Home

- End of Line: End
- End of Document: Ctrl+End

* **NOTE:** These key sequences can be reassigned by the user via the **Text Editor Keymap Page** of the Configuration Dialogue.

It is possible to use almost any text editor such as the very basic Windows Notepad, it will be far more productive to use one of the many excellent text editors that are available free on the Web. A few examples are jEdit, Geany and NotePad ++, which are cross platform or the Windows only Programmer's Notepad. Alternatively, a word-processor may be used in which case it is important to ensure that the file is saved in text only format.

A PDF viewer such as the ubiquitous Adobe Acrobat is also necessary for viewing and printing the generated Albums. In most cases the user is likely to have this already installed on their system, If not it may be downloaded free of charge from <http://get.adobe.com/uk/reader/>

NOTE: When printing from Acrobat, please ensure that the *“Shrink oversized pages to paper size”*, and *“Expand small pages to paper size”* options are not checked in the print dialogue box. Otherwise items on the page may be printed with the wrong dimensions.

```

22                                     #place a triple line border around the page
23 ALBUM_PAGES_BORDER3 {0.1 0.5 0.1 1.0}
24                                     #for a single or double line border-uncomment one of these instead
25 # ALBUM_PAGES_BORDER3 {0.5 0.1 0.0 1.0} #use for a double line border
26 # ALBUM_PAGES_BORDER3 {0.5 0.0 0.0 1.0} #use for a single line border
27
28
29
30
31 ALBUM_PAGES_TITLE {TB 10 "Union of South Africa"}
32 ALBUM_PAGES_SPACING {6.0 6.0}
33
34 # -----
35 # Define the first page of this album
36 # -----
37
38 PAGE_START
39
40 PAGE_TEXT {HN 10 "The Cape of Good Hope, Natal, the Orange Free State and "\
41 "Transvaal were united on the 31st of May 1910 to form The Union of South Africa, "\
42 "The Union existed until the 31st of May 1961 when it left the British "\
43 "Commonwealth to become The Republic of South Africa."}
44
45 PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE {HS 12 "4 November 1910\nInauguration of The Union Parliament."};
46 PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE {HN 12 "rint"}
47
48
49 ROW_START_FS {HN 6 0.1 6.0}
50 STAMP_ADD {32.0 37.0 "2 1/2d" "deep blue" "blue surface" "sg 1" "" "sacc 1"}
51 STAMP_ADD {32.0 37.0 "2 1/2d" "blue" "white surface" "sg 2" "" "sacc 1a"}
52
53 PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE {HN 12 "\nUsed"}
54
55 ROW_START_FS {HN 6 0.1 6.0}
56 STAMP_ADD {32.0 37.0 "2 1/2d" "deep blue" "blue surface" "sg 1" "" "sacc 1"}
57 STAMP_ADD {32.0 37.0 "2 1/2d" "blue" "white surface" "sg 2" "" "sacc 1a"}
58

```

If you are unfamiliar with AbunEasy, press the **Help** button for instructions.
 Otherwise choose the **Open** button to select an album data file to load or the **Wizard** button to create a new Album.

Loaded File: C:\Users\Ray\Documents\Stamping\Projects\Abun Easy Manual\4.1\examples\AbunSample.txt
 Press the **Generate** button to create the album.



CREATING A FIRST ALBUM

In order to create an Album using the provided sample files please follow these simple steps:

1. Press the **Open** button to display the *File Open* dialogue box. Use this to navigate to the *examples* folder which should have been created when AlbumEasy was installed and then open the *AlbumSample.txt* file in your **documents folder** under AlbumEasy/examples.
2. After the *AlbumSample.txt* file has been loaded press the **Generate** button to create an album called *AlbumSample.pdf* that may now be viewed via Adobe Acrobat or a similar PDF viewer.



CREATING A CUSTOM ALBUM

1. The easiest way of creating a new album is by means of the Wizard. Alternatively, one could copy and modify an existing text file such as the provided example: *AlbumSample.txt*. After copying the new file, it should be given an appropriate name e.g. *Canada.txt*.
2. The new text file is edited with a text editor using any of the commands listed in the Commands section of this reference guide to specify the album.
3. After the file is saved it is opened with AlbumEasy which then generates the new album as a PDF file.



ADVANCED – USING FONTS

AlbumEasy provides a number of built-in fonts which are used for creating text. These built-in fonts contain the characters in the Latin 1-character set which should be sufficient for displaying text in most Western European languages. In addition to the built-in fonts AlbumEasy is also able to display text using many of the fonts installed on a user's system. This may be purely for aesthetic purposes or when necessary to display international languages.

The **examples folder** contains additional sample files illustrating this usage:

- *Font.txt*: Illustrates how to load and use additional fonts.
- *International.txt*: This illustrates how to load and use additional fonts to display international character sets. **Note:** This file has been saved in Unicode (UTF-8) format. In order to generate albums correctly, it is necessary for AlbumEasy to be configured for *Unicode (UTF-8)* via the configuration dialogue box.

3.) ALBUM WIZARD

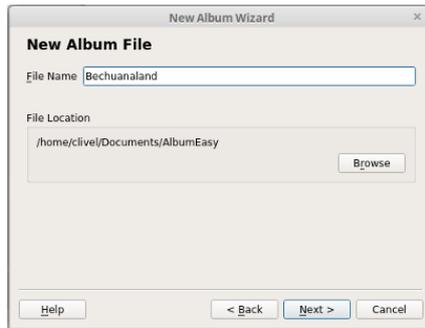
This wizard provides a simple means of creating a new stamp album from scratch by following the sequence of pages and entering in the relevant parameters.

As an alternative to using the wizard, a new album may be created by copying and modifying an existing album.



Album File Page

This wizard page is used to specify the name and location of the new album file.



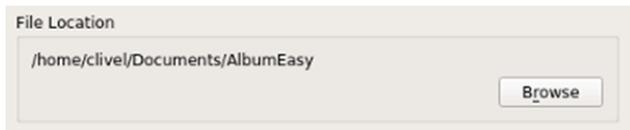
File Name:

Name to be used for the new album file.



File Location:

The directory where the new album file will be created. Select the *Browse* button to choose a different directory.



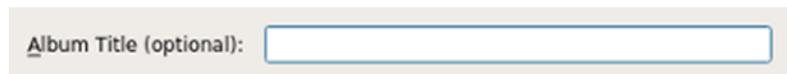
Album Layout Page

This wizard page is used to specify the parameters for the new album.



Album Title:

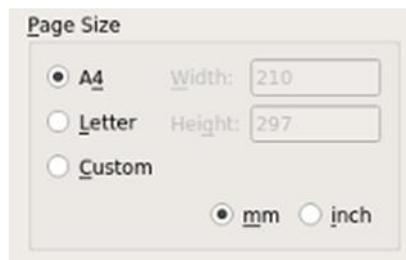
This field is used to specify the title which will be placed at the top of every page in the album. This can be left blank if no title is required



Album Title (optional):

Page Size:

Specify the size of the pages to be used for the album. Either one of the predefined standard sizes; *a4* or *US Letter* or a custom size by entering in the page dimensions.



Page Size

A4 Width:

Letter Height:

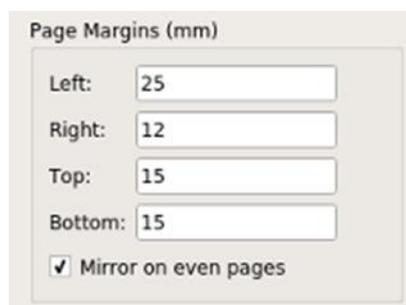
Custom

mm inch

Page Margins:

Specify the width of the margins.

Often it is desirable to leave a wider margin on the left to allow for punch holes. However, if the pages are to be printed double sided, then the wider margin should be on the right-hand side for even numbered pages. This can be accomplished by ticking the *Mirror on even pages* checkbox.



Page Margins (mm)

Left:

Right:

Top:

Bottom:

Mirror on even pages

Page Border:

Allows for the selection of different border styles. The borders can be further customised when editing the album file



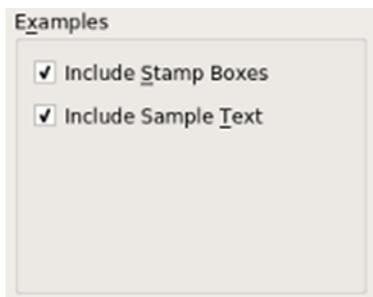
Page Border

Triple 

Sets an initial border style which can be further customised when the album file is edited.

Examples:

As an aid to getting started, sample text and initial stamp boxes can be included in the album file by checking the appropriate checkboxes.



4.) ALBUMEASY – COMMANDS



This section contains a list of the commands that may be included in an album definition text file.

Note 1: All measurements are specified in **mm**. (1 inch = 25.4mm)

Note 2: Commands that output text require that the user specify a font. Available fonts are listed in the **Fonts section**.

- **COMMENTS**

An album definition text file may contain comments, that is text used to document the file for the human reader but ignored by the AlbumEasy program. Comment text is delimited by means of a # character. All text in a line containing a # will be ignored starting from the # until the end of the line.

Example Comment Line if it is in the built-in editor the font will be green

- **OPTIONAL PARAMETERS**

Some of the AlbumEasy commands listed on this page take optional parameters in addition to the mandatory parameters. Optional parameters are indicated by square brackets

e.g.

PAGE_TEXT (Font Fontsize Text [vspace]) *Font*, *Fontsize*, and *Text* are mandatory parameters, *vspace* is optional.

- **TEXT CONTINUATION & SPECIAL CHARACTERS**

- **Text Continuation**

For convenience, when adding text by means of the PAGE_TEXT, PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE and PAGE_TEXT_RIGHT commands it may be placed over multiple lines in the album text file by means of the \ character which is used to indicate line continuation. This must be placed immediately after a closing quote " and must be the last character on the line.

e.g.

```
PAGE_TEXT (HN 10 "This is all "\n    "one "\n    "line of text")
```

This is all one line of text

The **PAGE_TEXT_PARAGRAPH_START** command introduced with AlbumEasy V4.0 provides another option for entering large blocks of text that some may find more convenient.

- **Special Characters**

The following two-character sequences have a special meaning within a text string:

- **\n** A line break - begin a new line
 - **\"** Insert a " character
 - **** Insert a \ character

e.g. To place two lines of text centred on the page:

```
PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE (HS 12 "First line of text \n Second Line.")
```

First line of text
Second Line.

4.i.) Album Global Settings Commands



The following commands control the appearance of all pages in the album:

The Album Commands control the appearance and layout of all the pages in an album. These commands should be placed at the beginning of each album text file. Some, but not all Album Commands are mandatory and need to be included in every album file.

ALBUM_PAGES_SIZE (width height)

Mandatory command to set the page size

Set the width and height of the album page

ALBUM_PAGES_SIZE (210.0 297.0) for A4 sized pages. For Landscape **(297.0 210.0)**

or

ALBUM_PAGES_SIZE (215.9 279.4) for US Letter size (8.5 x 11). For Landscape **(279.4 215.9)**

ALBUM_PAGES_MARGINS (left right top bottom)

ALBUM_PAGES_MARGINSE (left right top bottom)

ALBUM_PAGES_MARGINS a mandatory command used to set the page margins.

e.g. **ALBUM_PAGES_MARGINS (25.0 12.0 15.0 15.0)** to leave a wider left margin to allow for punch holes.

ALBUM_PAGES_MARGINSE an optional command that is used to apply a different set of margins to even numbered pages.

e.g. **ALBUM_PAGES_MARGINSE (12.0 25.0 15.0 15.0)** set a wider right margin on even numbered pages.

ALBUM_PAGES_SPACING (horizontal vertical)

Mandatory command to set the default horizontal and vertical spacing for elements on a page.

Horizontal spacing controls the distance that text and stamps will be separated from the left and right borders. Vertical spacing controls the space between rows of stamps, or blocks of text.

e.g.

ALBUM_PAGES_SPACING (6.0 6.0) set both the horizontal and vertical spacing to 6 mm.

ALBUM_PAGES_TITLE (Font Fontsize Title)

Optional command to place a title on every page of the album.

e.g. **ALBUM_PAGES_TITLE (TB 16 "New and enhanced commands – AlbumEasy V3.6 & V3.7")**.

Use Times Roman Bold 16 point to place New and enhanced commands – AlbumEasy V3.6 & V3.7 on every page.

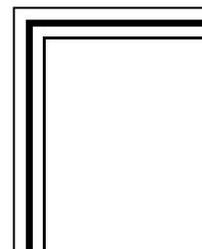
New and enhanced commands - AlbumEasy V3.6 & V3.7

ALBUM_PAGES_BORDER (outer inner1 inner2 spacing)

Optional command to place a single, double or triple line border around the page. This is placed just inside the page margins.

e.g.

ALBUM_PAGES_BORDER (0.1 0.5 0.1 1.0) draw a triple line border consisting of an outer line 0.1mm thick, an inner line 0.5mm thick, and a second inner line 0.1mm thick with a 1mm space between the lines.



Double or single line borders can be placed by setting the unused line thickness to 0.0

e.g.

ALBUM_PAGES_BORDER (0.5 0.1 0.0 1.0) will draw a double line border with an outer line 0.5mm thick, an inner line 0.1 mm thick and a 1mm space between the lines.

NOTE: In order to maintain backwards compatibility with older versions of AlbumEasy which only supported double line borders, this command will also accept only three parameters: ALBUM_PAGES_BORDER (outer inner spacing).

ALBUM_PAGES_DECORATIVE_BORDER (border-definition-file)

Optional command that places a decorative border around the page at the page margins. This command takes a single parameter which is the name of a Decorative Border Definition File.

e.g.

ALBUM_PAGES_DECORATIVE_BORDER ("ArtDeco.txt")

The default AlbumEasy installation includes a number of sample decorative border definition files:

- ArtDeco.txt
- ArtDecoSmall.txt
- Bottom.txt
- CornerStyleA.txt
- CornerStyleB.txt
- CornerAndVerticalStyleC.txt
- Classic.txt

These sample border definition files may be used as is or used as templates for creating custom decorative borders.

See the **Decorative Borders** topic for further details.

ALBUM_PAGES_HEADER (Font Fontsize Position Text)

ALBUM_PAGES_HEADER_NUMBER (Font Fontsize Position [Start] [Text Before] [Text After])

ALBUM_PAGES_HEADER_DATE (Font Fontsize Position Format [Separator] [Text Before] [Text After])

ALBUM_PAGES_FOOTER (Font Fontsize Position Text)

ALBUM_PAGES_FOOTER_NUMBER (Font Fontsize Position [Start] [Text Before] [Text After])

ALBUM_PAGES_FOOTER_DATE (Font Fontsize Position Format [Separator] [Text Before] [Text After])

ALBUM_PAGES_NUMBER (Font Fontsize Position [Start] [Text Before] [Text After]) (*obsolete*)

ALBUM_PAGES_DATE (Font Fontsize Position Format [Separator] [Text Before] [Text After])

(*obsolete*) Optional commands for placing text, page numbers or the date that the album was generated in the page footer.

One or more of these commands may be used simultaneously as long as they are not assigned overlapping

positions.

The **Position** parameter is one of:

- L** Left
- R** Right
- C** Centre
- LR** Left on odd pages, right on even pages
- RL** Right on odd pages, left on even pages

If the text is too close to, or overlaps the top or bottom borders of the page, the **ALBUM_PAGES_HEADER_PAD** and **ALBUM_PAGES_FOOTER_PAD** commands may be used to space the text from the border.

ALBUM_PAGES_HEADER (Font Fontsize Position Text)

ALBUM_PAGES_FOOTER (Font Fontsize Position Text)

Insert text into the header or footer.e.g.

ALBUM_PAGES_FOOTER (TI 12 C "This text will appear in the footer of every page")

ALBUM_PAGES_HEADER_NUMBER (Font Fontsize Position [Start] [Before] [After])

ALBUM_PAGES_FOOTER_NUMBER (Font Fontsize Position [Start] [Before] [After])

Insert a page number into the page header or footer.

Optional parameters:

- Start** Page number to start the numbering from
- Before** Text to be placed before the page number
- After** Text to be placed after the page number

e.g.

ALBUM_PAGES_HEADER_NUMBER (HN 10 C) insert the page number centred in the header. Begin numbering from 1.

ALBUM_PAGES_HEADER_NUMBER (HN 10 C 7) same as previous example, except pages are numbered from page 7 onwards.

ALBUM_PAGES_FOOTER_NUMBER (HN 10 C 1 "Page " " of \$PAGES\$") will output *Page 1 of 32*

Note: \$PAGES\$ is substituted by the actual total number of pages when the album is generated.

ALBUM_PAGES_HEADER_DATE (Font Fontsize Position Format [Separator] [Before] [After])

ALBUM_PAGES_FOOTER_DATE (Font Fontsize Position Format [Separator] [Before] [After])

Insert the date that the PDF file was generated into the page header or footer.

Format is one of:

- YMD** year, month, day
- DMY** day, month, year
- MDY** month, day, year

Optional parameters:

- Separator** Text placed between the date fields
- Before** Text placed before the date
- After** Text placed after the date

e.g.

ALBUM_PAGES_HEADER_DATE(HN 10 R YMD) places the date *20190131* in the header right aligned.

ALBUM_PAGES_FOOTER_DATE(HN 10 R YMD "-") places: *2019-01-31* in the footer right aligned.

ALBUM_PAGES_FOOTER_DATE(HN 10 L YMD "-" "Created: ") places: *Created: 2019-01-31* in the footer left aligned.

ALBUM_PAGES_NUMBER (Font Fontsize Position [Start] [Text Before] [Text After]) (*obsolete*)

ALBUM_PAGES_DATE (Font Fontsize Position Format [Separator] [Text Before] [Text After]) (*obsolete*)

Prior to the introduction of the **ALBUM_PAGES_HEADER_NUMBER** and **ALBUM_PAGES_HEADER_DATE** commands, these two commands were used for adding a page number and date to the footer.

For consistency, they have now been renamed as **ALBUM_PAGES_FOOTER_NUMBER** and **ALBUM_PAGES_FOOTER_DATE**. However, the original names are still accepted by AlbumEasy for backwards compatibility

ALBUM_PAGES_HEADER_PAD (padding)

ALBUM_PAGES_FOOTER_PAD (padding)

Commands to adjust the spacing between the page borders and text placed in the header or footer by the **ALBUM_PAGES_HEADER**, **ALBUM_PAGES_FOOTER** and associated commands. The padding, once set, will be applied to the whole album.

e.g. **ALBUM_PAGES_HEADER_PAD** (5.0)

ALBUM_PAGES_FOOTER_PAD (3.0)

ALBUM_AUTHOR (author)

ALBUM_TITLE (title)

Optional commands that may be used to set the author and title attributes of the PDF file. These attributes are visible in the PDF file properties and have no effect on the printed output.

e.g. **ALBUM_TITLE** ("All the world stamp album")

ALBUM_AUTHOR ("Johnny Stamp Collector")

ALBUM_STAMP_NEW_IMG_SETTING (horizontal vertical stretch)

ALBUM_STAMP_IMG_SETTING (horizontal vertical stretch) (*obsolete*)

This command controls the placement and scaling of images inside stamp boxes.

Parameters are:

- **horizontal:** Width of the space between the stamp frame vertical edges and the image in mm.
- **vertical:** Height of the space between the stamp frame horizontal edges and the image in mm.
- **stretch:** Accepts a value of true or false. See description below.

Note: When the **ALBUM_STAMP_IMG_SETTING** command was first implemented, the horizontal and vertical values were inadvertently treated as units of 0.35mm rather than 1mm. Therefore, for example, a setting of 4.0 would only actually leave 1.4mm of space.

To maintain backwards compatibility this has not been corrected. Instead, this command has been replaced by the **ALBUM_STAMP_NEW_IMG_SETTING** command which accepts units in millimetres.

It is recommended that **ALBUM_STAMP_NEW_IMG_SETTING** is used for all new albums.

The stretch parameter must be either *true* or *false*. This setting will only affect images that are smaller than the stamp drawing area. When stretch is set to *true* the images will be stretched to fill the box, if *false* then images will be drawn actual size centred within the stamp box.

e.g. **ALBUM_STAMP_IMG_SETTING (3.0 3.0 false)**

or **ALBUM_STAMP_IMG_SETTING (3.0 3.0 true)**

Note: If this command is not given, then the default setting will be used.

This is the equivalent of *ALBUM_STAMP_NEW_IMG_SETTING (0.7 0.7 false)* which will give a 0.7mm gap between the image and the stamp box

For examples of how the this command may be used please refer to the *Images.txt* sample album file which can be found in the AlbumEasy examples directory.

4.ii.) Page Commands



The following commands apply to individual pages:

PAGE_START

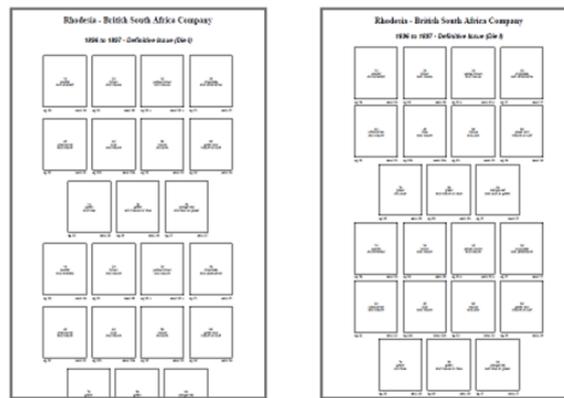
Start a new page. **NB** There must always be at least one PAGE_START to indicate the first page.

PAGE_START_VAR (horizontal vertical)

Start a new page, overriding the ALBUM_PAGES_SPACING for this page only

This command adjusts the spacing of a page independently from the rest of the album.

For example an album was created with ALBUM_PAGES_SPACING (5.0 5.0) which set the page spacing to 5.0mm in both the horizontal and vertical directions. One of the pages overflowed the bottom border as shown by the left image. To correct the page, the spacing of the whole album could have been changed or the set of stamps could have been split onto two pages. Alternatively, as illustrated in the image on the right, the spacing of the offending page can be adjusted independently. A PAGE_START_VAR (5.0 2.0) command reduced the vertical spacing to 2.0mm allowing all stamps to fit on the page.



PAGE_COLUMN_START ([padding])

PAGE_COLUMN_NEXT

PAGE_COLUMN_STOP

Split the page into two vertical columns with each column behaving like an independent page. Column mode persists until the end of the page or when terminated by a **PAGE_COLUMN_STOP** command.

PAGE_COLUMN_START: Start column mode. All output will be placed on the left half of the page.

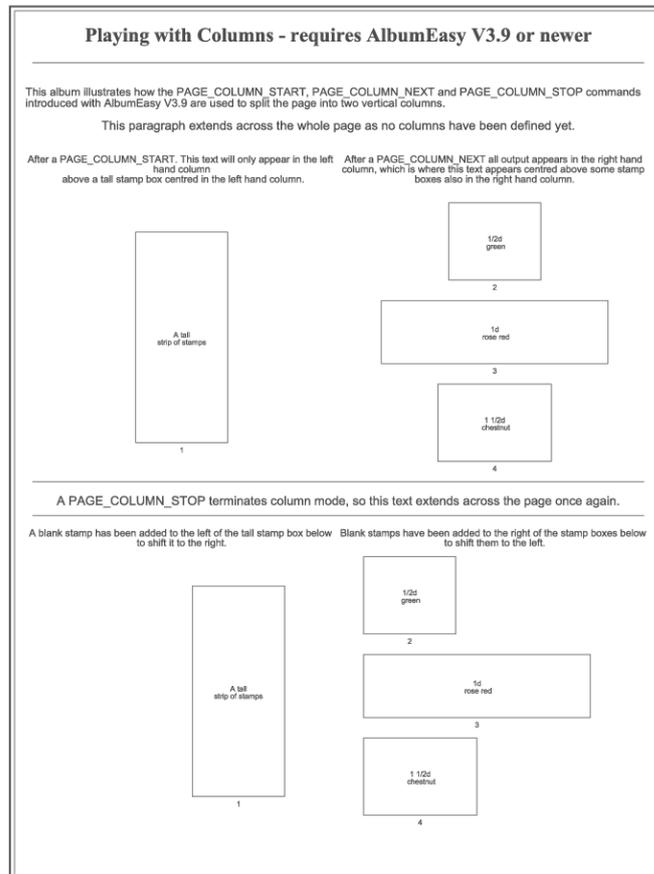
PAGE_COLUMN_NEXT: Begin the second column. All output will be placed on the right half of page.

PAGE_COLUMN_STOP: Optional command used to exit column mode and switch back to normal mode before the end of the page.

As from **AlbumEasy V4.0** the **PAGE_COLUMN_START** command accepts an *optional padding* parameter which adds space between the left and right columns. The padding value is the amount of space inserted to the right of the first column and to the left of the second column

e.g.

PAGE_COLUMN_START (2.0) will insert 4.0mm of space between the two columns



PAGE_TEXT (Font Fontsize Text [vspace])

PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE (Font Fontsize Text [vspace])

PAGE_TEXT_RIGHT (Font Fontsize Text [vspace])

Place a paragraph of text on the page. Text is formatted to fit between the page margins, spaced from the margins by the horizontal value specified in ALBUM_PAGES_SPACING.

- PAGE_TEXT:** Place text left aligned.
- PAGE_TEXT_RIGHT:** Place text right aligned.
- PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE:** Place text centred between the margins.

e.g.

PAGE_TEXT (HN 10 "Some text") Place text left aligned using a Helvetica Normal 10-point font

PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE (HB 10 "A heading") Place text centred using a Helvetica Bold 10-point font

The **PAGE_TEXT** commands also accept an *optional vspace* parameter which is used to set the amount of blank space after the text.

e.g.

PAGE_TEXT (HN 12 "A line of text" 0.5) Place the text using a Helvetica Normal 12 point font with 0.5mm of blank space after the text.

This is useful for example to output a paragraph of text where each line does not have the same font.

example.

PAGE_TEXT, PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE and PAGE_TEXT_RIGHT - optional vspace parameter

Lines or paragraphs of text output by the **PAGE_TEXT** commands are followed by blank space. The actual amount of space is determined by the vertical spacing set for the album by means of the

ALBUM_PAGES_SPACING command.

e.g.

```
PAGE_TEXT (TN 12 "A line of text.")  
PAGE_TEXT (HI 12 "A second line of text.")
```

A line of text.
A second line of text.



However the **PAGE_TEXT** commands also accept an optional **vspace** parameter which is used to set the amount of blank space after the text item irrespective of the **ALBUM_PAGES_SPACING** command setting. This can be used for example to output what appears to be a single paragraph of text containing lines in different fonts:

```
PAGE_TEXT (TN 12 "A line of text." 1.0)  
PAGE_TEXT (HI 12 "A second line of text.")
```

A line of text.
A second line of text.

A negative **vspace** parameter can be used to place the item that follows the text before the text on the page.
e.g.

PAGE_TEXT (HN 10 "Descriptive text" -3.5) will start drawing the next item 3.5mm above the bottom of the line of text.

PAGE_TEXT_PARAGRAPH_START (Font Fontsize Alignment [padding] [vspace])
PAGE_TEXT_PARAGRAPH_END

Introduced with **AlbumEasy V4.0** the **PAGE_TEXT_PARAGRAPH_START** along with the **PAGE_TEXT_PARAGRAPH_END** commands provide an alternative to the **PAGE_TEXT** commands for placing text on the page.

This command pair, which formats the paragraph automatically, is especially convenient when placing larger paragraphs of text. Also, unlike the **PAGE_TEXT** commands, these commands provide support for **fully justified** text in addition to left, centred and right aligned text.

The Alignment parameter can be one of:

LEFT	Left aligned text
RIGHT	Right aligned text
CENTRE	Centred text
CENTER	" "
JUSTIFIED	Justified text

To include a paragraph of text, add the text after a **PAGE_TEXT_PARAGRAPH_START** command, ending the paragraph with a **PAGE_TEXT_PARAGRAPH_END** command.

The lines of text will be concatenated and output as a single paragraph aligned and formatted to fit the page. Line endings are ignored, newlines when required can be included by means of the **\n** newline indicator.

e.g.

PAGE_TEXT_PARAGRAPH_START(TN 10 JUSTIFIED)

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. \nUt enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip

ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit.

PAGE_TEXT_PARAGRAPH_END

Note. Because line endings are ignored a space has been placed before the first word of the second and third lines to prevent the first word of these lines from being joined to the last word of the previous line.

The **PAGE_TEXT_PARAGRAPH_START** command also accepts an *optional padding* parameter used to pad the text the specified distance from the left and right margins, as well as an *optional vspace* parameter used to set the amount of blank space after the text.

For additional examples of these commands please refer to the *NewExamples.txt* sample album files which can be found in the AlbumEasy examples directory.

PAGE_RULE_H (line spacing)



PAGE_RULE_H (line spacing margin)

Draw a horizontal rule line that extends from the left to right margins. Spacing is the amount of blank space before the line, this is in addition to the vertical space set by the ALBUM_PAGES_SPACING command e.g. if the vertical spacing is set to 6mm then:

PAGE_RULE_H (0.5 10.0) will draw a 0.5mm horizontal line 16mm below the current element.

Note, spacing can take a negative value so if the vertical spacing is set to 6mm then:

PAGE_RULE_H (0.5 -6.0) will draw a 0.5mm horizontal line immediately below the current element.

This command accepts an optional third “margin” parameter that offsets the start and end of the line away from the margins.

e.g. PAGE_RULE_H (1.0 10.0 5.0). Will draw a 1mm horizontal line indented 5mm in from the left margin and ending 5mm from the right margin.



PAGE_VSPACE (spacing)

Insert vertical space before the next element on the page.

Spacing can be negative in which case the next element will be moved up by the specified distance.

e.g.

PAGE_VSPACE (12.5) Leave a gap of 12.5mm before the next item.

PAGE_VSPACE (-15.0) Move the next item up by 15mm.

The **PAGE_VSPACE** command has been included for convenience as the same functionality can be achieved by using one of the **PAGE_TEXT** commands with an optional vertical space parameter to adjust the spacing.

PAGE_START_GROUP_BEGIN

PAGE_START_GROUP_END

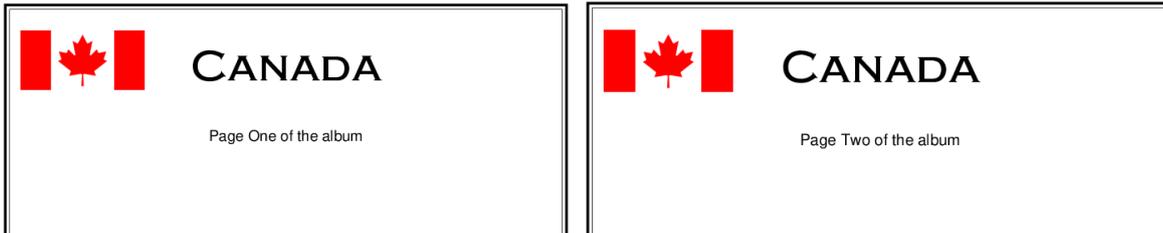
These commands are used to define a group of commands that will be output at the start of each new page. The command group must be defined before any **PAGE_START** commands, and only one command group can be defined per album.

e.g. a trivial example that will output a line of text at the start of each page:

PAGE_START_GROUP_BEGIN

PAGE_TEXT (HN 12 "This text will be output at the start of each new page")

PAGE_START_GROUP_END



Needless to say, far more complex command groups can be created, such as a heading that includes an image of the flag along with the country name that will automatically be added to the start of each page rather than having to copy and paste the commands.

Command groups may also include placeholders designated by two \$ symbols followed by a digit between 1 and 9. e.g. \$\$1 \$\$2 etc.

Parameters, added to the **PAGE_START** or **PAGE_START_VAR** command, are substituted for these placeholders in positional order. i.e the first parameter will be substituted for \$\$1 the second for \$\$2 etc.

e.g.

PAGE_START_GROUP_BEGIN

PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE (HN 12 "" 5.0)

PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE (HN 12 "Country: \$\$1")

PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE (HN 12 "Year: \$\$2")

PAGE_START_GROUP_END

PAGE_START (Bechunaland 1926) - generate a new page with two lines of text: "Country: Bechunaland" and "Year: 1926"

PAGE_START (Basutoland 1932) - generate a new page with two lines of text: "Country: Basutoland" and "Year: 1932"

Start of the page start command group

PAGE_START_GROUP_BEGIN

PAGE_COLUMN_START

PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE (HN 1 "" 7.5)

ROW_START_FS (HN 6 0.1 6.0)

STAMP_ADD_IMG (\$\$4 \$\$5 \$\$6 "" "" "" NO_FRAME)

PAGE_COLUMN_NEXT

PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE (HN 1 "" 6)

PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE (LUCIDA_CI 26 "France" 8.0)

PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE (HN 13 \$\$1 1.5)

PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE (HN 13 "Definitive Series" 1.5)

PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE (HN 13 \$\$2 7.0)

PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE (HI 10 \$\$3 5.0)

PAGE_COLUMN_STOP

PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE (HN 1 "" 10.0)

PAGE_START_GROUP_END

Album Page 1

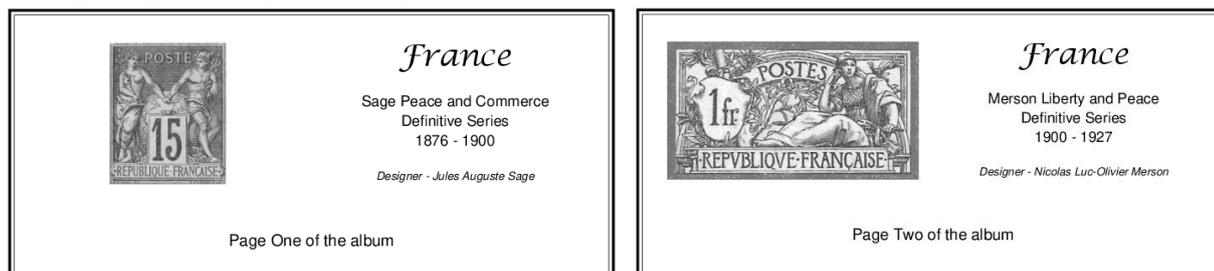
PAGE_START ("Sage Peace and Commerce" "1876 - 1900" "Designer - Jules Auguste Sage" 37.0 45.0
"stamp_images/Sage.png")

PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE (HN 14 "Page One of the album")

Album Page 2

PAGE_START ("Merson Liberty and Peace" "1900 - 1927" "Designer - Nicolas Luc-Olivier Merson" 80.0 45.0
"stamp_images/Merson.png")

PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE (HN 14 "Page Two of the album")



PAGE_BACKGROUND_IMG (image [scale] [hoffset voffset])

Add a background image to the page. If the image is specified without any optional parameters, then the image will be centred within the page margins. If the image is larger than the margins it will be reduced to fit. Currently, AlbumEasy only supports PNG and JPEG format image files.

Parameters accepted by this command:

image: Name of the image file including the path.

scale: Optional parameter that will scale the image.
e.g 0.5 will halve the size of the image, 2.0 will double it.

hoffset and voffset: Optional horizontal and vertical parameters that offset the image from its central position. If given, then both parameters are required.
A negative horizontal value will displace the image to the left, whereas a positive value will move it to the right.
Similarly, a negative vertical value will move the image up, and a positive value will move it down.

e.g.

place the image *background.png* centred on the page, actual size, but no larger than the page margins.

PAGE_BACKGROUND_IMG ("background.png")

Place the image centred on the page at half the actual size.

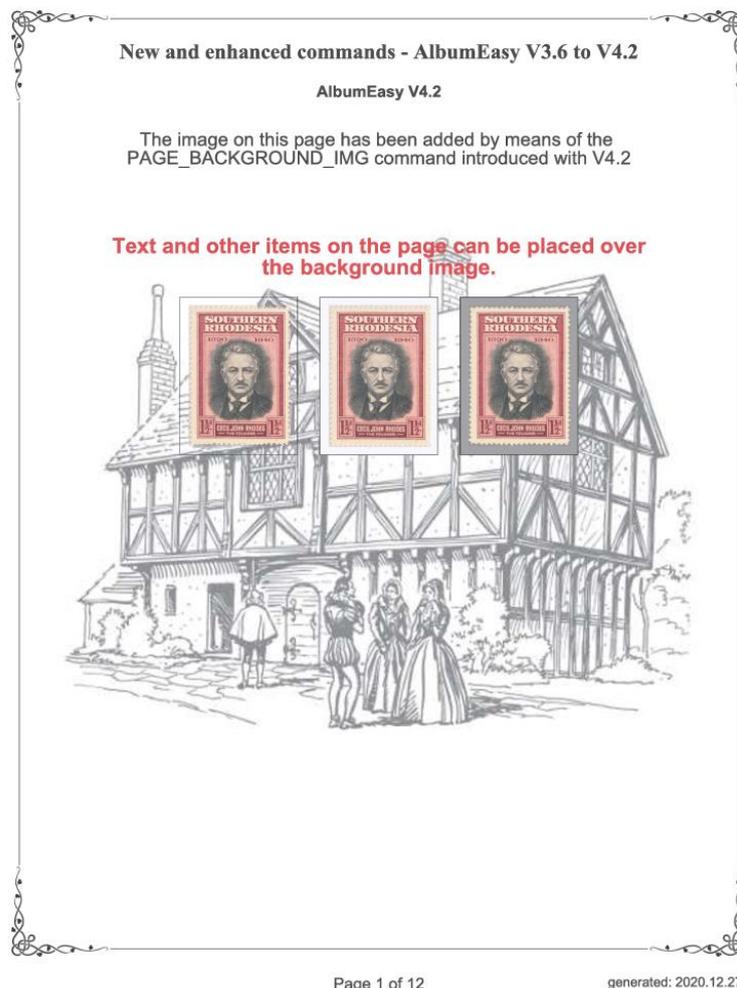
PAGE_BACKGROUND_IMG ("background.png" 0.5)

Place the image centred on the page at the actual size, but shifted left by 25mm.

PAGE_BACKGROUND_IMG ("background.png" 1.0 -25.0 0.0)

The image file must be specified relative to the location of the album text file.

So for example if the image file is called *background.png* and located in the same directory as the album file, it should be specified as "background.png" however if it is located in for example a sub-folder called *images*, then the sub-folder name must be included "images/background.png"



TEXT_CHAR_SPACING (spacing)

This command is used to adjust the tracking, or inter-character spacing, by a fixed amount for succeeding text. Tracking is different from kerning which adjusts the spacing between individual pairs of letters based on the letter shapes whereas tracking inserts a fixed amount of space between the letters.

A positive spacing value will increase the amount of space between characters, a negative value will reduce it.

e.g.

TEXT_CHAR_SPACING (0.1) increases the inter-character spacing by 0.1mm

TEXT_CHAR_SPACING (-0.5) decreases the spacing by 0.5mm

TEXT_CHAR_SPACING (0.0) reset to the default spacing

- Note 1: The **TEXT_CHAR_SPACING** setting applies to all text except for text inside or under stamp boxes.
- Note 2: Once set, the spacing value remains in effect until the next **TEXT_CHAR_SPACING** command for most text commands. See Note 3 below for the exceptions.
- Note 3: The **TEXT_CHAR_SPACING** in effect when an **ALBUM_PAGES_TITLE**, **ALBUM_PAGES_FOOTER**, **ALBUM_PAGES_NUMBER** or **ALBUM_PAGES_DATE** command is issued will be applied to all pages in the album, subsequent **TEXT_CHAR_SPACING** commands will be ignored for these specific items.

TEXT_LINE_LEADING (leading)

Adjust the amount of space between lines of text in a paragraph or other multiline text item. This is especially useful for increasing the spacing when a line of text contains diacritical marks that may collide with descenders in the line of text above.

Default line leading is 0mm:

1. ledna 1993 se Česká republika stala samostatným státem, pokračujícím v tradici státnosti Československa, Českého království, Českého knížectví a Velké Moravy, počínaje 9. stoletím.

Line leading increased to 1.5mm:

1. ledna 1993 se Česká republika stala samostatným státem, pokračujícím v tradici státnosti Československa, Českého království, Českého knížectví a Velké Moravy, počínaje 9. stoletím.

A positive leading value increases the amount of space between lines of text, a negative leading will reduce it. e.g.

TEXT_LINE_LEADING (1.0) increases the inter-line spacing by 1.0mm

TEXT_LINE_LEADING (-1.5) decrease the inter-line spacing by 1.5mm

TEXT_LINE_LEADING (0.0) reset to the default spacing

- Note 1:** The **TEXT_LINE_LEADING** command applies only to multiline text items e.g.
 PAGE_TEXT (HN 10 "Line 1 \n Line2")
 It has no effect between paragraphs such as between these:
 PAGE_TEXT (HN 10 "Line 1t")
 PAGE_TEXT (HN 10 "Line2")
- Note 2:** Once set, the leading value will remain in effect until the next **TEXT_LINE_LEADING** command for most text commands. See Note 3 below for the exceptions.
- Note 3:** The **TEXT_LINE_LEADING** in effect when an **ALBUM_PAGES_TITLE**, **ALBUM_PAGES_FOOTER**, **ALBUM_PAGES_NUMBER** or **ALBUM_PAGES_DATE** command is issued will be applied to all pages in the album, subsequent **TEXT_LINE_LEADING** commands will be ignored for these specific items.

4.iii.) STAMP COMMANDS



The following commands apply to Stamps:

ROW_START_ES (Font Fontsize border)

Start a row of stamps with equal spacing

The stamps are spaced evenly across the page with equal spacing between the stamps as well as the margins. Font and Fontsize specify the font that will be used for any text under or inside the stamp frame. Border specifies the thickness of the line used to draw the stamp frame.

e.g. **ROW_START_ES (HN 6 0.1)**. Use 6 point Helvetica Normal font, with a 0.1mm border for the stamp frames.

ROW_START_JS (Font Fontsize border)

Start a row of stamps with justified spacing

The left edge of the leftmost stamp at the left margin, the right edge of the rightmost stamp at the right margin, with equal spacing between the stamps

ROW_START_FS (Font Fontsize border spacing)

Start a row of stamps with fixed spacing

Stamps are placed with fixed spacing between them, with the row centred between the margins.

e.g. **ROW_START_FS (HN 6 0.1 6.0)**. Use a 6 point Helvetica font, with a 0.1mm border for the stamp frames. Stamps are spaced 6.0mm apart.

ROW_ALIGN_TOP

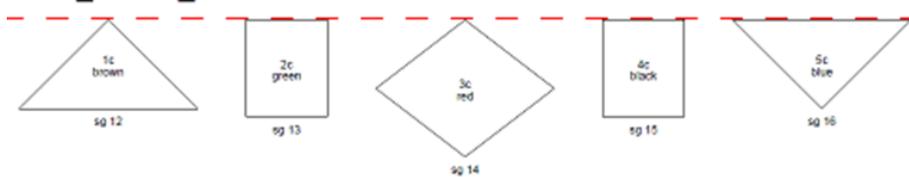
ROW_ALIGN_MIDDLE

ROW_ALIGN_BOTTOM

These commands control the vertical alignment of stamps in a row. Stamps will be aligned by either the top or bottom edges or the middle according to command. The alignment will be applied to all subsequent rows until the next ROW_ALIGN_ command.

ROW_ALIGN_TOP is the default.

ROW_ALIGN_TOP



ROW_ALIGN_MIDDLE



ROW_ALIGN_BOTTOM



STAMP_ADD (width height inside left centre right)

STAMP_ADD_DIAMOND (width height inside left centre right)

STAMP_ADD_OVAL (width height inside left centre right)

STAMP_ADD_TRIANGLE (width height inside left centre right [apex])

STAMP_ADD_TRIANGLE_INV (width height inside left centre right [apex])

STAMP_ADD_HEXAGON (width SU|CU inside left centre right)

STAMP_ADD_OCTAGON (width SU|CU inside left centre right)

Add a rectangular, diamond, triangle, inverted-triangle, hexagonal, octagonal or oval stamp frame (for round stamps use an oval with equal width and height).

Except for hexagons and octagons which only require a width, frames are sized according to the width and height parameters.

In addition, each stamp requires 4 text parameters:

- inside:** Text placed inside the frame.
- left:** Text placed below the stamp to the left.
- centre:** Text placed below the stamp in the centre.
- right:** Text placed below the stamp to the right.

e.g.

STAMP_ADD (25.0 28.0 "inside" "below left" "below centre" "below right")

Text items can be placed over multiple lines by using the \n newline indicator.

e.g.

STAMP_ADD (25.0 28.0 "inside line 1 \n inside line 2" "left" "centre 1 \n centre 2 \n centre 3" "right")

Note: All text items parameters must be provided even if not used. e.g.

STAMP_ADD (50.0 28.0 "" "" "below centre" "")

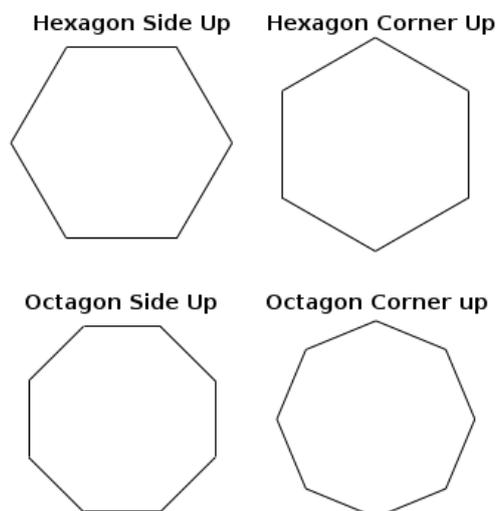
STAMP_ADD (50.0 28.0 "" "" "" "") Will draw the frame only without any text.

Note: In place of the height parameter, hexagons and octagons require an orientation parameter which can be either SU for side up, or CU for corner up. e.g.

STAMP_ADD_HEXAGON (28.0 SU "Hexagon\n side\n up" "" "" "")

STAMP_ADD_OCTAGON (28.0 CU "Octagon\n corner\n up" "" "" "")

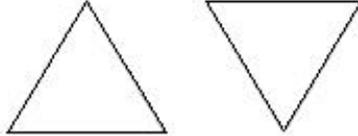
The differences between side up and corner up



Note: The `STAMP_ADD_TRIANGLE` and `STAMP_ADD_TRIANGLE_INV` commands accept an optional apex parameter for creating flattened triangles. This value is the width of the apex (or bottom in the case of an inverted triangle) of the triangle.

Examples of these flattened triangles or trapeziums (trapezoids in the US).

```
STAMP_ADD_TRIANGLE (38.0 32.0 "" "" "" "")
STAMP_ADD_TRIANGLE_INV (38.0 32.0 "" "" "" "")
```



With optional apex parameter

```
STAMP_ADD_TRIANGLE (38.0 32.0 "" "" "" "" 18.0)
STAMP_ADD_TRIANGLE_INV (38.0 32.0 "" "" "" "" 18.0)
```



Note: Prior to AlbumEasy V3.8 the `STAMP_ADD` commands required 6 text parameters. Three lines of text inside the stamp box and the three text items below:

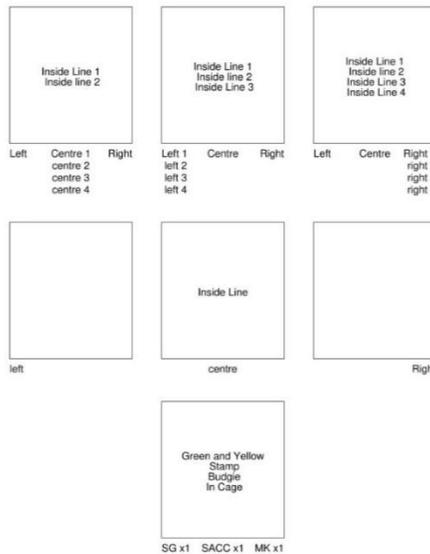
- `STAMP_ADD (width height txt0 txt1 txt2 txtBL txtBC txtBR)`
... etc.

This syntax is still supported for backwards compatibility, however it is not recommended for new albums.
e.g.

`STAMP_ADD (50.0 28.0 "inside line 1" "inside line 2" "inside line 3" "below left" "below centre" "below right")`

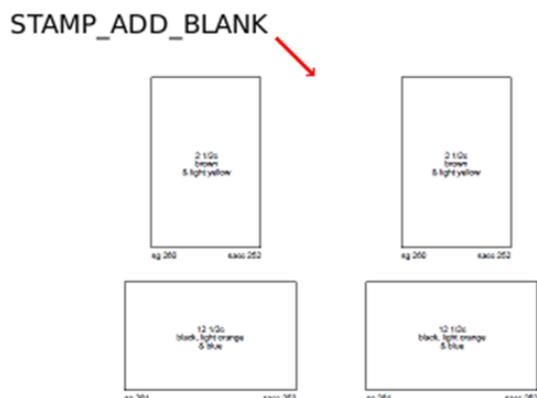
New Simplified `STAMP_ADD` command

Some sample text - centred



STAMP_ADD_BLANK (width height)

Add a blank stamp with no frame or text. This is useful for leaving a gap within a row. The following diagram illustrates how this command can be used to insert spacing between stamps in a row:



STAMP_ADD_IMG (width height image left centre right [NO_FRAME])

Add a stamp box containing an image. This command can also be used for adding non-stamp images elsewhere on the page.

Currently AlbumEasy only supports **PNG** and **JPEG** format image files.

The parameters accepted by this command:

width:	Width of the stamp box.
height:	Height of the stamp box.
image:	Name of the image file.
left:	Text placed below the stamp to the left.
centre:	Text placed below the stamp in the centre.
right:	Text placed below the stamp to the right.
NO_FRAME:	Optional parameter to draw the stamp image without a frame.

*NOTE: the optional **ALBUM_STAMP_IMG_SETTING** command can be used to adjust the placement of the image within the stamp frame.*

The image file must be specified relative to the location of the album text file.

So for example if the image file is called *admiral.png* and located in the same directory as the album file, it should be specified as "admiral.png" however if it is located in for example a sub-folder called *images*, then the sub-folder name must be included "images/admiral.png"

e.g. **STAMP_ADD_IMG (50.0 28.0 "admiral.png" "sg 5a" "" "sacc 4b")** will draw a 50mm by 28mm frame containing the image *admiral.png*.

Like the **STAMP_ADD** command text items can be placed over multiple lines by means of the **\n** newline indicator.

STAMP_ADD_IMG (50.0 28.0 "admiral.png" "left 1 \n left 2" "centre 1 \n centre 2" "right 1 \n right 2")

The optional **NO_FRAME** parameter is used to draw the stamp without a frame. This is especially useful for placing non-stamp images on the page

e.g. **STAMP_ADD_IMG (50.0 28.0 "admiral.png" "" "" "" **NO_FRAME**)**

Note: As of AlbumEasy V4.1 the **STAMP_BORDER_STYLE (BLANK)** can be used as an alternative to the **NO_FRAME** parameter for creating frameless stamp boxes.

ALBUM_STAMP_IMG_SETTING (horizontal vertical stretch)

This command controls the placement and scaling of images inside stamp boxes. Parameters are:

- horizontal:** Width of the space between the stamp frame vertical edges and the image.
- vertical:** Height of the space between the stamp frame horizontal edges and the image.
- stretch:** Accepts a value of true or false. See description below.

The stretch parameter which can have a value of *true* or *false* only effects images that are smaller than the stamp drawing area. When stretch is set to *true* the images will be stretched to fill the box, if it is *false* then images will be drawn actual size centred within the stamp box.

e.g. **ALBUM_STAMP_IMG_SETTING (3.0 3.0 false)**

or

ALBUM_STAMP_IMG_SETTING (3.0 3.0 true)

Note: The default settings which are the equivalent of *ALBUM_STAMP_IMG_SETTING (2.0 2.0 false)* will be used if this command is not given.

For examples of how the this command is used please refer to the *Images.txt* sample album file which can be found in the AlbumEasy examples directory.

Stamp Image Examples

A row of stamps containing images drawn using the default image settings:
 These are a 0.7mm border between the image and the frame, and stretch is set to false. This will ensure that images that are smaller than the printing area are drawn actual size rather than stretched to fill the box as illustrated by the rightmost stamp.
 The third stamp is drawn a second time to illustrate the effect of the optional NO_FRAME parameter.

Postage Due sg 21 Cecil John Rhodes sg 55 NGV Definitive sg 3 NGV Definitive sg 3 War Effort Bartram sg 98

The same row of stamps as above but with stretch now set to true:
 A 0.7mm border between the image and the frame, however, with stretch set to true, images that are smaller than the printing area will be stretched to fill the box as can be seen in the rightmost stamp.

Postage Due sg 21 Cecil John Rhodes sg 55 NGV Definitive sg 3 NGV Definitive sg 3 War Effort Bartram sg 98

The same row of stamps as above, but with changed image settings:
 The 0.7mm border between the image and frame has been changed to 2.0mm, and stretch has been set to false

Postage Due sg 21 Cecil John Rhodes sg 55 NGV Definitive sg 3 NGV Definitive sg 3 War Effort Bartram sg 98

Stamp Image Examples

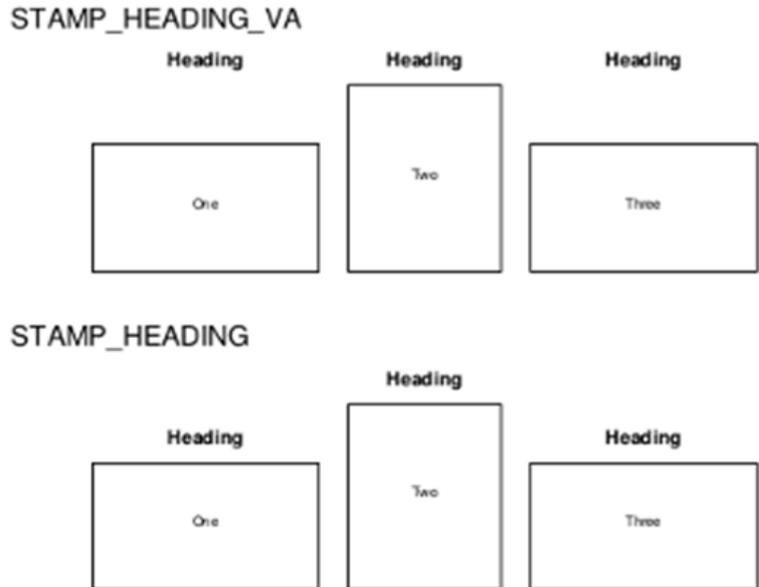
Stamp boxes containing both text and images:

Text above the image inside the box
 and under the box
 SCS SCS

Or below the image:
 A few blank lines:
 followed by a few more lines of text as shown here.

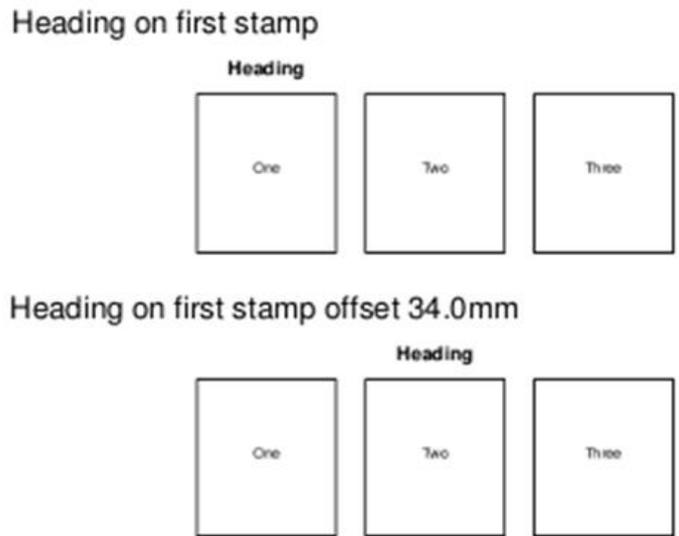
Text below the image
 A second line
 and a third spaced from the line above.

Here, the image had been moved to the upper left.
 The text has been placed at the lower right.



STAMP_HEADING_VA and **STAMP_HEADING** commands offset parameter

By default, headings are centred above a stamp. However, both these commands take an optional offset parameter that can shift the heading horizontally. The following diagram illustrates how a heading over the first stamp can be shifted by means of this optional parameter:



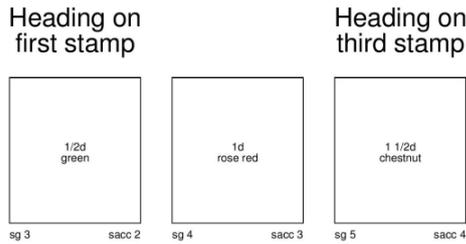
STAMP_HEADING_PADDING (padding)

This command is used to adjust the space between the stamp heading and the stamp box. The padding value, which may be negative or positive, is added to the default spacing. E.g.:

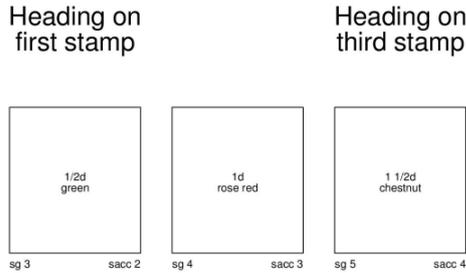
STAMP_HEADING_PADDING (6.0)
or
STAMP_HEADING_PADDING (-3.0)

A positive value will increase the spacing, a negative value will reduce it

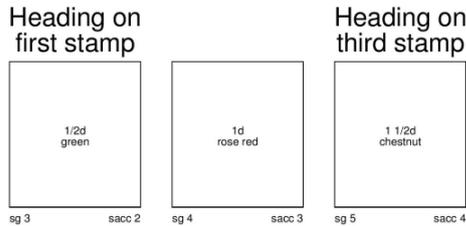
Default heading padding:



Heading padding set to 6.0mm:



Heading padding set to -3.0mm:



TEXT_CHAR_SPACING (spacing)

A line of text with normal spacing (inter-character space is 0)

A line of text with inter-character space set to 0.5mm

A line of text with inter-character space set to 2.0 mm

A line of text with inter-character space set to -0.5mm

Back to normal spacing (inter-character space is 0)

This command is used to adjust the inter-character spacing by a fixed amount for text that follows. The spacing value increases or decreases the spacing between characters dependent on whether it is positive or negative.

e.g.: **TEXT_CHAR_SPACING (0.1)** increases inter-character spacing by 0.1mm
or **TEXT_CHAR_SPACING (-0.5)** decreases the spacing by 0.5mm

Note 1: The spacing value will persist until the next **TEXT_CHAR_SPACING** command. **TEXT_CHAR_SPACING (0.0)** sets the default spacing.

Note 2: **TEXT_CHAR_SPACING** controls the spacing of all text including headings over stamp boxes, however it does not affect the text inside or under stamp boxes.

Note 3: The `TEXT_CHAR_SPACING` in effect when an `ALBUM_PAGES_TITLE`, `ALBUM_PAGES_NUMBER` or `ALBUM_PAGES_DATE` command is issued will apply to all pages in the album for those items.

STAMP_INNER_BORDER (padding border) **

Add a second or inner frame to all succeeding stamp boxes until the command is cancelled. The appearance of the inner frame may be modified by means of the `STAMP_INNER_BORDER_STYLE` and `COLOUR_STAMP_INNER_BORDER` commands.

The parameters accepted by this command are:

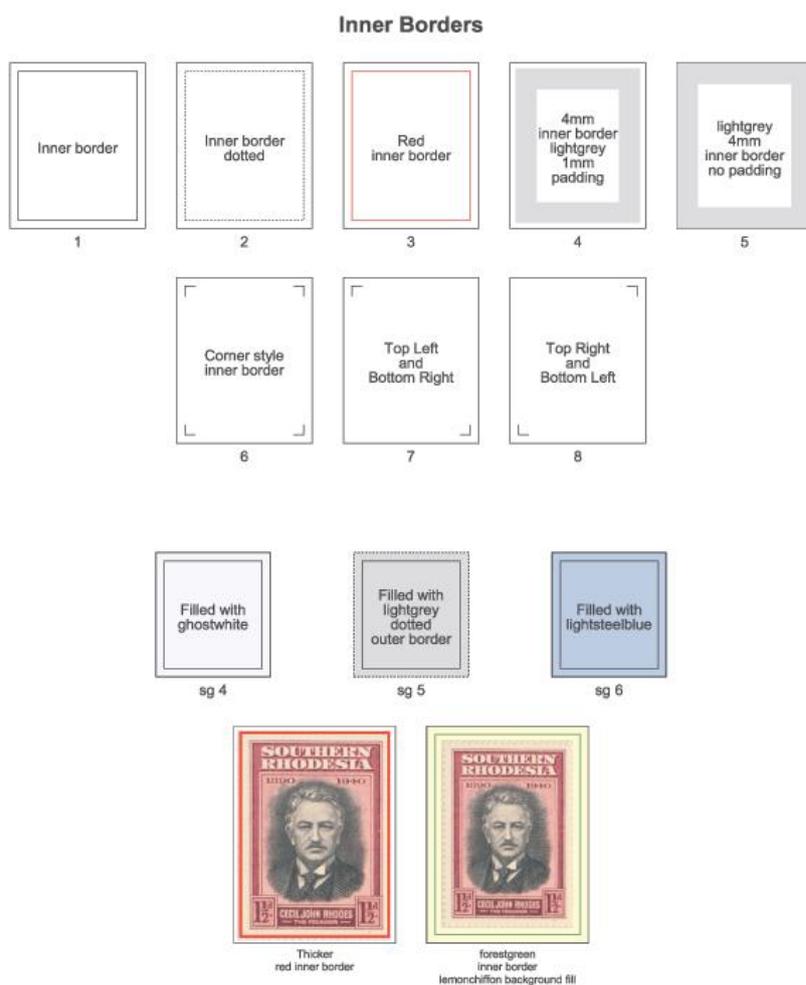
padding: Spacing between the outer and inner frames.

border: Thickest of inner frame border line.

To cancel this command set both parameters to zero

e.g

`STAMP_INNER_BORDER (0.0 0.0)`



**** NOTE:** This command is only applicable to rectangular stamp boxes with borders and will be ignored for other stamp shapes.

STAMP_BORDER_STYLE (Style)

STAMP_INNER_BORDER_STYLE (Style) This command controls the style of stamp box borders.

Style can be one of:

- SOLID**
- DOTTED**
- DOT_DASH**
- DASHED**
- BLANK** (no border)
- CORNER ****

e.g.

STAMP_BORDER_STYLE (DOT_DASH)

The default style is **SOLID**, once a style has been set it will be applied to all succeeding stamp boxes until the next **STAMP_BORDER_STYLE** command.

The **CORNER** style places a small corner marker in each of the four corners of the box.

The **CORNER** style can be modified by adding one to four optional parameters: **TL**, **TR**, **BL**, or **BR** to indicate which corners should receive a marker.

e.g.

STAMP_BORDER_STYLE (CORNER) Would draw a corner marker in all four corners of the stamp box

STAMP_BORDER_STYLE (CORNER TL BR) Would draw a corner marker in the Top Left and Bottom Right corners of the stamp box

**** NOTE: The CORNER style is only applicable to rectangular stamps boxes. Other box shapes will receive a SOLID border frame when this style is in effect.**

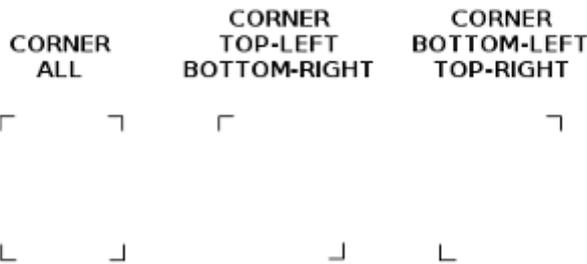
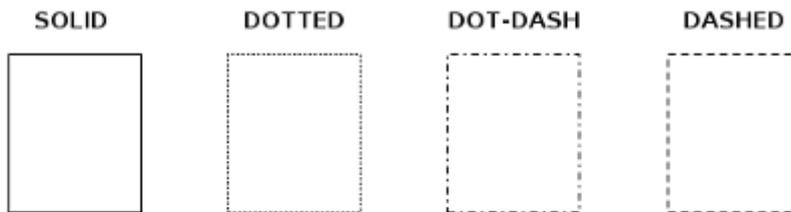
e.g.:

STAMP_BORDER_STYLE (SOLID)

or

STAMP_BORDER_STYLE (DOT_DASH)

STAMP_BORDER_STYLE



The default style is **SOLID**, once a style is set it is applied to all stamp boxes until the next **STAMP_BORDER_STYLE** command.

STAMP_BOXES_SIZE_ADJUST (adjust)

This command is used to increase or decrease the box sizes of all succeeding stamps.

A positive value increases stamp sizes, a negative value will decrease stamp size.

e.g. a 20x25mm stamp added after a **STAMP_BOXES_SIZE_ADJUST(2.0)** will increase the size of all succeeding stamp boxes by 2mm, and would actually be drawn as 22 x 27mm.

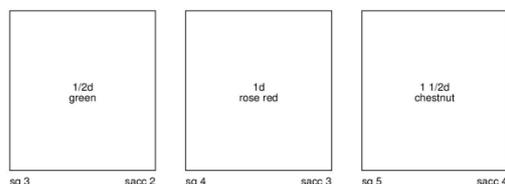
Similarly, the same stamp after a **STAMP_BOXES_SIZE_ADJUST(-1.5)** would decrease all succeeding stamp boxes by 1.5mm, and would be drawn as 18.5 x 23.5mm

The primary purpose of this command is to facilitate the sharing of albums. If for example someone creates an album with the intention of using mounts requiring a 2mm border all round, then the stamp boxes would be sized 4mm larger than the stamps. For someone else to use the same album without mounts, rather than edit the album to adjust the size of each and every stamp, they could simply add an **STAMP_BOXES_SIZE_ADJUST(-4.0)** command to the beginning of the album to ensure that all boxes are drawn actual size.

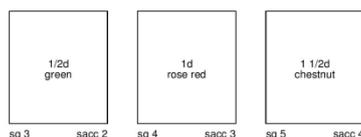
A row of stamps:



The same row of stamps after a **STAMP_BOXES_SIZE_ADJUST(4.0)** command:



The same row of stamps after a **STAMP_BOXES_SIZE_ADJUST(-5.5)** command:



STAMP_BOXES_ADJUST_SAVE

STAMP_BOXES_ADJUST_RESTORE

The **STAMP_BOXES_ADJUST_SAVE** and **STAMP_BOXES_ADJUST_RESTORE** commands can be used to temporarily disable the effect of the **STAMP_BOXES_SIZE_ADJUST** command. This is useful for example to prevent an image from being resized.

e.g.

STAMP_BOXES_SIZE_ADJUST(4.0) increase the size of all succeeding stamp boxes by 4mm

...

STAMP_BOXES_ADJUST_SAVE temporary disable the **STAMP_BOXES_SIZE_ADJUST** command

STAMP_ADD_IMG (50.0 50.0 "image.png" "" "" "") This box will be drawn actual size, the adjusted value will be ignored

STAMP_BOXES_ADJUST_RESTORE re-enable the **STAMP_BOXES_SIZE_ADJUST** command

4.iv.) Colour Commands



Commands for setting the colours of various elements on a page:

Commands for setting the colours of various elements on a page. These commands take a single parameter which is the colour name. For a full list of available colours please refer to the table found on the **Colours Page**.

Note: AlbumEasy accepts both the International and American spellings of colour. e.g:
COLOUR_ALBUM_BORDER and **COLOR_ALBUM_BORDER**.

COLOUR_ALBUM_BORDER (colour)

COLOUR_ALBUM_DECORATIVE_BORDER (colour)

COLOUR_ALBUM_FOOTER (colour)

COLOUR_ALBUM_HEADER (colour)

COLOUR_ALBUM_TITLE (colour)

These commands set the colour of the page borders, footer text, header text, and title text respectively. Once a colour has been set on one of these elements, it will apply to **all pages** in the album.

e.g.

COLOUR_ALBUM_TITLE(blue)

COLOR_ALBUM_BORDER(red)

COLOR_ALBUM_FOOTER(green)

Note: **COLOUR_ALBUM_DECORATIVE_BORDER** only sets the colour of the decorative border lines. The images used in the border will have to be created using the desired colours.

- **COLOUR_PAGE_RULE_H (colour)**
- **COLOUR_PAGE_TEXT (colour)**

These commands set the colour of horizontal rule lines and all text on the page except for stamp box text and page titles.

Once a colour has been set on one of these elements, it will apply to **all succeeding** elements until the next **COLOUR_** command.

e.g.

COLOR_PAGE_RULE_H(seagreen)

COLOUR_PAGE_TEXT(crimson)

COLOR_PAGE_TEXT(black) back to default black text for all succeeding page text.

COLOUR_STAMP_BORDER (colour)

COLOUR_STAMP_INNER_BORDER (colour)

COLOUR_STAMP_BACKGROUND (colour) **

COLOUR_STAMP_HEADING (colour)

COLOUR_STAMP_TEXT (colour)

These commands set the colour of stamp box borders, stamp box inner borders, stamp interior background, stamp heading text and the text inside and under stamp boxes.

Once a colour has been set on one of these elements, it will apply to **all succeeding** elements until the next **COLOUR_** command.

e.g.

COLOUR_STAMP_BORDER(royalblue)
COLOUR_STAMP_HEADING(chartreuse)
COLOUR_STAMP_TEXT(fuchsia)
COLOUR_STAMP_BACKGROUND(ghostwhite)

**** NOTE:** The COLOUR_STAMP_BACKGROUND command is only applicable to rectangular stamp boxes with borders (except for the CORNER style), and will be ignored for other stamp shapes.

**Examples of the colour/color commands
introduced with AlbumEasy v3.7**

Crimson text, followed by a THICK SeaGreen horizontal line.
(Colour names are listed in the help file)

And Back to Black!

Colour can be subtle - here it is used to highlight a scarce variety

Scarce

1d red	2d blue	2d blue inverted watermark	3d green
sg 1	sg 2	sg 2a	sg 3

Or as gaudy as you like!

Common	Common	Scarce	Common
1d red	2d blue	2d blue inverted watermark	3d green
sg 1	sg 2	sg 2a	sg 3

Or FILLED!

Common	Common	Scarce	Common
1d red	2d blue	2d blue inverted watermark	3d green
sg 1	sg 2	sg 2a	sg 3

5.) Fonts and Miscellaneous Commands



5.i.) Custom fonts:

Commands for adding external TrueType fonts to an album.

Note: A maximum of 16 external fonts may be assigned per album.

(Actually the 16 font limit applies to an AlbumEasy session. i.e. once a number of albums have been loaded during a session, where the total number of different assigned fonts exceeds 16, then it will be necessary to exit and then restart AlbumEasy before continuing).

- **ALBUM_DEFINE_FONT (UserFontId "fontName")**

This command defines a user font and assigns a TrueType font to it.

UserFontId : Used to identify the font. This can be any unique name that is between 2 and 12 characters long,

"fontName": (must include the quotes) is the name of the TrueType font as displayed in the [Available Fonts Dialogue Box](#)

e.g. Define some fonts:

```
ALBUM_DEFINE_FONT(DEJAVU_SANS "DejaVu Sans")
```

```
ALBUM_DEFINE_FONT(PENGUIN "Penguin Attack" )
```

Use the fonts:

```
PAGE_TEXT (PENGUIN 16 "16 point text using the Penguin Attack font" )
```

```
PAGE_TEXT (DEJAVU_SANS 14 "14 point text using the DejaVu Sans font")
```

NOTE: Prior to AlbumEasy V4.0 the ALBUM_DEFINE_FONT command accepted an optional Encoding parameter.

ALBUM_DEFINE_FONT (fontId "fontName" [Encoding])

This Encoding parameter is no longer used and will be ignored by AlbumEasy V4.0 and newer.

Note: Font sizes are specified in points. A point is equivalent to **1/72nd of an inch or 0.353mm**. Therefore, for example, an 18 point font would be 6.4mm tall.



5.ii.) Standard Fonts

AlbumEasy provides a number of built-in fonts that may be selected for generating text. The built-in fonts are comprised of the characters in the Latin 1 character set which should be sufficient for displaying text in most Western European languages.

Each built-in font is assigned a unique 2 character identifier which is used to associate the font with a text item:

Identifier Name

CN - Courier Normal

CB - **Courier Bold**

CI - *Courier Italic*

CS - ***Courier Bold-Italic***

TN	- Times Roman Normal
TB	- Times Roman Bold
TI	- <i>Times Roman Italic</i>
TS	- <i>Times Roman Bold-Italic</i>
HN	- Helvetica Normal
HB	- Helvetica Bold
HI	- Helvetica Italic
HS	- Helvetica Bold-Italic

For example, to output text in a 12 point *Times Roman Normal* font the *TN* identifier would be used:
PAGE_TEXT (TN 12 "Some text")



5.III.) OBSOLETE COMMANDS

These obsolete commands have only been retained for backwards compatibility. It is recommended that they are no longer used for new albums.

ALBUM_PAGES_BORDER3 (outer inner1 inner2 spacing)

The **ALBUM_PAGES_BORDER** command should be used in place of the **ALBUM_PAGES_BORDER3** command.

PAGE_TEXT_VSPACE (Font Fontsize Text Vspace)

PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE_VSPACE (Font Fontsize Text Vspace)

PAGE_TEXT_RIGHT_VSPACE (Font Fontsize Text Vspace)

The **PAGE_TEXT** commands with optional *vspace* parameter should be used in place of the **PAGE_TEXT_VSPACE** commands.

STAMP_ADDX (width height txt0 txt1 txt2 txtBL txtBC txtBR txt1BL txt1BC txt1BR)

This command provided for three text items inside the stamp box and three text items of two rows each below the box.

As of AlbumEasy V3.8 the **STAMP_ADD** command supports multiple lines of text inside as well as below the stamp boxes and should be used in place of the **STAMP_ADDX** command.

STAMP_ADDX_IMG (width height image txtBL txtBC txtBR txt1BL txt1BC txt1BR [NO_FRAME])

This command provided for three text items of two rows each below the box.

As of **AlbumEasy V3.8** the **STAMP_ADD_IMG** command supports multiple lines of text below the stamp boxes, and should be used in place of the **STAMP_ADDX_IMG** command.

ALBUM_STAMP_IMG_SETTING (horizontal vertical stretch) (*obsolete*)

This command controls the placement and scaling of images inside stamp boxes.

Parameters are:

- **horizontal:** Width of the space between the stamp frame vertical edges and the image in mm.
- **vertical:** Height of the space between the stamp frame horizontal edges and the image in mm.
- **stretch:** Accepts a value of true or false. See description below.

Note: When the **ALBUM_STAMP_IMG_SETTING** command was first implemented, the horizontal and vertical values were inadvertently treated as units of 0.35mm rather than 1mm. Therefore, for example, a setting of 4.0 would only actually leave 1.4mm of space.

ALBUM_PAGES_NUMBER (Font Fontsize Position [Start] [Text Before] [Text After]) (*obsolete*)

ALBUM_PAGES_DATE (Font Fontsize Position Format [Separator] [Text Before] [Text After]) (*obsolete*)

Prior to the introduction of the **ALBUM_PAGES_HEADER_NUMBER** and **ALBUM_PAGES_HEADER_DATE** commands, these two commands were used for adding a page number and date to the footer.

For consistency, they have now been renamed as **ALBUM_PAGES_FOOTER_NUMBER** and **ALBUM_PAGES_FOOTER_DATE**. However, the original names are still accepted by AlbumEasy for backwards compatibility

6.) Decorative Borders

A Decorative border is comprised of one or more images, also known as page ornaments, that are positioned at the corners and along the margins of the page and optionally connected by lines.

The placement of the border is determined by the **ALBUM_PAGES_MARGINS** command.

The border is defined by means of a **Decorative Border Definition File** which specifies the positioning of the various elements that make up the border.

The decorative border file is included in the album by means of the **ALBUM_PAGES_DECORATIVE_BORDER** command.

A small selection of sample border definition files are included with AlbumEasy. These are found in the *borders* folder which is located within the AlbumEasy folder on Windows and Linux, or the AlbumEasy app on the Apple Mac (control-click and choose Show Package Contents)

The sample border definition files may be used as-is or used as templates for creating custom decorative borders.

The *DecorativeBorders.txt* album found in the examples folder can be used to view the provided samples.

When searching for a border definition file AlbumEasy will first search the *borders* folder. If no file with the specified name is found it will then search in the same location as the album text file. If the file name includes a directory it must be relative to the location of the album text file.

e.g.

ALBUM_PAGES_DECORATIVE_BORDER ("FancyBorder.txt") searches for the FancyBorder.txt file first in the *borders* folder, if not found it will then look for the file in the same location as the album text file.

ALBUM_PAGES_DECORATIVE_BORDER ("MyBorders/FancyBorder.txt") search a folder called *MyBorders* located in the same folder as the album text file for the FancyBorder.txt file.

IMAGES

A custom border's must include at the minimum one image. This may be a corner image used at the page corners, or a margin image to be placed along one of the page margins.

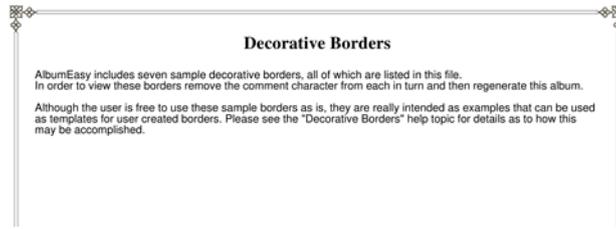
Only PNG format images with a transparent background are supported. Images should be placed in the same folder as the Decorative Border Definition File.

Images can be produced using a program such as The Gimp a free image manipulation program, scanned from old albums, or found on the Internet using search terms such as *free page ornaments*, *free page swirls* or *free page decorations borders*, etc.

One corner image is required for all four corners. It should be orientated for the top left corner of the page, it will be automatically rotated and positioned when the page is generated.

A single image may be used for the top and bottom margins, or two separate images. Either way the images should be orientated for the top margin. The bottom margin image will be flipped automatically when the page is generated.

Similarly a single or two different images may be used for the left and right margins. These should be orientated as if they are placed along the left margin. The right margin image will be flipped when the page is generated.



6.i.) BORDER DEFINITION FILE

A Decorative Border Definition File has a similar syntax to an album definition text file but with its own set of commands listed below.

Hint: When creating a new decorative border it may be found helpful to simultaneously place a regular single line coloured border on the page to show where the margins are.

e.g.

ALBUM_PAGES_BORDER (0.1 0.0 0.0 1.0)

COLOUR_ALBUM_BORDER (red)

ALBUM_PAGES_DECORATIVE_BORDER("MyNewBorder.txt")

Once the decorative border is satisfactory, the ALBUM_PAGES_BORDER and COLOUR_ALBUM_BORDER commands can be removed.

• COMMANDS

The commands that may be used in a Border Definition File are listed below.

- IMAGE_SCALE (scale-factor)

Images used in decorative borders are not necessarily the desired size when placed on a page. This command may be used to scale the images.

e.g.

IMAGE_SCALE(0.12)

A visually satisfying scaling factor can only be determined by experiment, however as many images downloaded from the internet have been digitised at 300 or 600dpi (dots per inch) and AlbumEasy pages are generated at a resolution of 72dpi it will likely be found that either IMAGE_SCALE(0.24) or IMAGE_SCALE(0.12) will provide a satisfactory starting point.

- IMAGE_CORNER (image)

Specify the image to be used for the border corners.

e.g.

IMAGE_CORNER ("CornerImage.png")

- The image should be located in the same folder as the Border Definition File.
- Only PNG images with a transparent background are supported.
- The same image is used for all four corners. It should be orientated as if it appears at the top left corner of the page. It will be automatically rotated and mirrored for the other positions when the page is generated.

IMAGE_CORNER_PAD (horizontal vertical)

Used to shift the image horizontally and vertically away from the default location.

e.g.

IMAGE_CORNER_PAD (5.0 6.0) shift the image 5mm horizontally and 6mm vertically

- IMAGE_EDGE_LEFT (image)
- IMAGE_EDGE_RIGHT (image)
- IMAGE_EDGE_TOP (image)
- IMAGE_EDGE_BOTTOM (image)

Specify the images to be used at the left, right, top and bottom margins.

e.g.

IMAGE_EDGE_BOTTOM ("horizontal.png")

All edge images are optional, but if no corner image is specified, then at least one edge image must be provided.

The same image may be used for one or more positions.

The image should be located in the same folder as the Border Definition File.

Only PNG images with a transparent background are supported.

The top and bottom images should be orientated as if they are placed on the top, the bottom image will be flipped when the page is generated.

The Similarly the left and right images should be orientated as if they are placed at the left margin. The right image will be flipped when the page is generated.

IMAGE_EDGE_PAD (horizontal vertical)

Used to shift the edge images from the horizontal and vertical margins.

e.g.

IMAGE_EDGE_PAD (3.0 0.0) shift the vertical (top and bottom) images 3mm out from the top and bottom margins, the position of the left and right images will not be affected

- BORDER_LINES (outer inner1 inner2 spacing)

Up to three border frame lines can be placed.

e.g.

BORDER_LINES (0.3 0.3 0.0 2.0) draw two lines each 0.3mm thick spaced 2mm apart

BORDER_LINES (0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0) draw a single 0.5mm thick line

- BORDER_PAD (horizontal vertical)

Shift the vertical border lines horizontally and the horizontal border lines vertically away from the default position at the margin centre by the specified distance.

e.g.

BORDER_PAD (2.0 0.0) shift the vertical border lines horizontally 2mm outwards. The horizontal lines will remain centred on the page margin

BORDER_PAD (-1.0 -1.0) shift the vertical border lines inwards 1mm horizontally, the horizontal lines are shifted vertically inward by 1mm

BORDER_END_OFFSETS (horizontal vertical)

Shift the border frame lines start and end positions away from the margin corners by the specified distances to prevent the lines from overlapping the corner images

e.g.

BORDER_END_OFFSETS (0.0 15.0)the horizontal frame lines in the corner, whereas the vertical frame line start and end positions are 15mm inwards from the corners

BORDER_END_OFFSETS (18.5 18.5)both the horizontal and vertical frame line start and end positions will be 18.5mm from the corners

7.) Character Sets

AlbumEasy is able to process text files encoded with either the *Unicode* or *Latin 1* character sets. The actual character set in use is specified in the configuration dialogue box.

Unicode (UTF-8)

Unicode containing over 110,000 characters is able to encode almost every writing system in use worldwide. AlbumEasy supports *UTF-8*, one of the more popular *Unicode* encoding standards.

Latin 1 (Windows CP1252)

The *Latin 1* character set, also known as *ISO-8859-1* consists of 191 "Latin Script" characters. It is the default character set for Western Europe, the Americas, Oceania, and most of Africa.

Unfortunately, *ISO-8859-1* omits a few characters that may be of use to philatelists, the most notable of which is the Euro symbol. So instead AlbumEasy uses *Windows CP1252* which is a superset of *ISO-8859-1*.

It should therefore be noted that the use of **Latin 1** in relation to AlbumEasy is not strictly correct as it actually refers to the **Windows CP1252** encoding instead of *ISO-8859-1*.

The table below illustrates the characters provided by *ISO-8859-1* and *Windows CP1252*. Characters common to both are shown in black, the additional *Windows CP1252* characters are shown in red.

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
0																
1																
2		!	"	#	\$	%	&	'	()	*	+	,	-	.	/
3	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	:	;	<	=	>	?
4	@	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
5	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	[\]	^	_
6	`	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o
7	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z	{		}	~	™
8	€		,	f	//	...	†	‡	^	%	š	<	œ		ž	
9		\	/	"	"	•	-	-	~	™	š	>	œ		ž	ÿ
A		ı	ç	£	¤	¥	ı	§	"	©	ª	«	¬		®	¯
B	°	±	²	³	´	µ	¶	·	,	ı	º	»	¼	½	¾	¿
C	À	Á	Â	Ã	Ä	Å	Æ	Ç	È	É	Ê	Ë	Ì	Í	Î	Ï
D	Ð	Ñ	Ò	Ó	Ô	Õ	Ö	×	Ø	Ù	Ú	Û	Ü	Ý	Þ	ß
E	à	á	â	ã	ä	å	æ	ç	è	é	ê	ë	ì	í	î	ï
F	ð	ñ	ò	ó	ô	õ	ö	÷	ø	ù	ú	û	ü	ý	þ	ÿ

8.) COLOUR PARAMETERS

AlbumEasy Colour Commands require a colour parameter. This can be any of the colours listed in the table below.

e.g.

ALBUM_COLOUR_PAGE_BORDER (**aliceblue**)

ALBUM_COLOR_PAGE_TEXT (**fuchsia**)

ALBUM_COLOUR_PAGE_TEXT (**red**) ... etc.

For those familiar with HTML hex notation, it is also possible to use this instead of a name to specify a colour, however, AlbumEasy requires that a \$ character is used as the initial character instead of the # used by web browsers

e.g.

ALBUM_COLOR_PAGE_TEXT (**\$0000FF**)

which is equivalent to

ALBUM_COLOUR_PAGE_TEXT (**blue**)

Note: AlbumEasy accepts both the American and International spellings of colour. E.g.:

ALBUM_COLOUR_PAGE_BORDER

and

ALBUM_COLOR_PAGE_BORDER

aliceblue	antiquewhite	aqua	aquamarine	azure	beige
bisque		blanchedalmond	blue	blueviolet	brown
burlywood	cadetblue	chartreuse	chocolate	coral	cornflowerblue
cornsilk	crimson	cyan	darkblue	darkcyan	darkgoldenrod
darkgray	darkgreen	darkgrey	darkkhaki	darkmagenta	darkolivegreen
darkorange	darkorchid	darkred	darksalmon	darkseagreen	darkslateblue
darkslategray	darkslategrey	darkturquoise	darkviolet	deeppink	deepskyblue
dimgray	dimgrey	dodgerblue	firebrick	floralwhite	forestgreen
fuchsia	gainsboro	ghostwhite	gold	goldenrod	gray
grey	green	greenyellow	honeydew	hotpink	indianred
indigo	ivory	khaki	lavender	lavenderblush	lawngreen
lemonchiffon	lightblue	lightcoral	lightcyan	lightgoldenrodyellow	lightgray
lightgreen	lightgrey	lightpink	lightsalmon	lightseagreen	lightskyblue
lightslategray	lightslategrey	lightsteelblue	lightyellow	lime	limegreen
linen	magenta	maroon	mediumaquamarine	mediumblue	mediumorchid
mediumpurple	mediumseagreen	mediumslateblue	mediumspringgreen	mediumturquoise	mediumvioletred
midnightblue	mintcream	mistyrose	moccasin	navajowhite	navy
oldlace	olive	olivedrab	orange	orangered	orchid
palegoldenrod	palegreen	paleturquoise	palevioletred	papayawhip	peachpuff
peru	pink	plum	powderblue	purple	red
rosybrown	royalblue	saddlebrown	salmon	sandybrown	seagreen
seashell	sienna	silver	skyblue	slateblue	slategray
slategrey	snow	springgreen	steelblue	tan	teal
thistle	tomato	turquoise	violet	wheat	white
whitesmoke	yellow	yellowgreen			

RGB color table

Basic colors:

Color HTML / CSS Name	Hex Code #RRGGBB	Decimal Code (R,G,B)
 Black	#000000	(0,0,0)
White	#FFFFFF	(255,255,255)
 Red	#FF0000	(255,0,0)
 Lime	#00FF00	(0,255,0)
 Blue	#0000FF	(0,0,255)
 Yellow	#FFFF00	(255,255,0)
 Cyan / Aqua	#00FFFF	(0,255,255)
 Magenta / Fuchsia	#FF00FF	(255,0,255)
 Silver	#C0C0C0	(192,192,192)
 Gray	#808080	(128,128,128)
 Maroon	#800000	(128,0,0)
 Olive	#808000	(128,128,0)
 Green	#008000	(0,128,0)
 Purple	#800080	(128,0,128)
 Teal	#008080	(0,128,128)
 Navy	#000080	(0,0,128)

Red colors

Color	HTML / CSS Color Name	Hex Code #RRGGBB	Decimal Code (R,G,B)
	lightsalmon	#FFA07A	rgb(255,160,122)
	salmon	#FA8072	rgb(250,128,114)
	darksalmon	#E9967A	rgb(233,150,122)
	lightcoral	#F08080	rgb(240,128,128)
	indianred	#CD5C5C	rgb(205,92,92)
	crimson	#DC143C	rgb(220,20,60)
	firebrick	#B22222	rgb(178,34,34)
	red	#FF0000	rgb(255,0,0)
	darkred	#8B0000	rgb(139,0,0)

Orange colors

Color	HTML / CSS Color Name	Hex Code #RRGGBB	Decimal Code (R,G,B)
	coral	#FF7F50	rgb(255,127,80)
	tomato	#FF6347	rgb(255,99,71)
	orangered	#FF4500	rgb(255,69,0)
	gold	#FFD700	rgb(255,215,0)
	orange	#FFA500	rgb(255,165,0)
	darkorange	#FF8C00	rgb(255,140,0)

Yellow colors

Color	HTML / CSS Color Name	Hex Code #RRGGBB	Decimal Code (R,G,B)
	lightyellow	#FFFFE0	rgb(255,255,224)
	lemonchiffon	#FFFACD	rgb(255,250,205)
	lightgoldenrodyellow	#FAFAD2	rgb(250,250,210)
	papayawhip	#FFEFD5	rgb(255,239,213)
	moccasin	#FFE4B5	rgb(255,228,181)
	peachpuff	#FFDAB9	rgb(255,218,185)
	palegoldenrod	#EEE8AA	rgb(238,232,170)
	khaki	#F0E68C	rgb(240,230,140)
	darkkhaki	#BDB76B	rgb(189,183,107)
	yellow	#FFFF00	rgb(255,255,0)

Green colors

Color	HTML / CSS Color Name	Hex Code #RRGGBB	Decimal Code (R,G,B)
	lawngreen	#7CFC00	rgb(124,252,0)
	chartreuse	#7FFF00	rgb(127,255,0)
	limegreen	#32CD32	rgb(50,205,50)
	lime	#00FF00	rgb(0,255,0)
	forestgreen	#228B22	rgb(34,139,34)
	green	#008000	rgb(0,128,0)
	darkgreen	#006400	rgb(0,100,0)
	greenyellow	#ADFF2F	rgb(173,255,47)
	yellowgreen	#9ACD32	rgb(154,205,50)
	springgreen	#00FF7F	rgb(0,255,127)

	mediumspringgreen	#00FA9A	rgb(0,250,154)
	lightgreen	#90EE90	rgb(144,238,144)
	palegreen	#98FB98	rgb(152,251,152)
	darkseagreen	#8FBC8F	rgb(143,188,143)
	mediumseagreen	#3CB371	rgb(60,179,113)
	seagreen	#2E8B57	rgb(46,139,87)
	olive	#808000	rgb(128,128,0)
	darkolivegreen	#556B2F	rgb(85,107,47)
	olivedrab	#6B8E23	rgb(107,142,35)

Cyan colors

Color	HTML / CSS Color Name	Hex Code #RRGGBB	Decimal Code (R,G,B)
	lightcyan	#E0FFFF	rgb(224,255,255)
	cyan	#00FFFF	rgb(0,255,255)
	aqua	#00FFFF	rgb(0,255,255)
	aquamarine	#7FFFD4	rgb(127,255,212)
	mediumaquamarine	#66CDAA	rgb(102,205,170)
	paleturquoise	#AFEEEE	rgb(175,238,238)
	turquoise	#40E0D0	rgb(64,224,208)
	mediumturquoise	#48D1CC	rgb(72,209,204)
	darkturquoise	#00CED1	rgb(0,206,209)
	lightseagreen	#20B2AA	rgb(32,178,170)
	cadetblue	#5F9EA0	rgb(95,158,160)
	darkcyan	#008B8B	rgb(0,139,139)
	teal	#008080	rgb(0,128,128)

Blue colors

Color	HTML / CSS Color Name	Hex Code #RRGGBB	Decimal Code (R,G,B)
	powderblue	#B0E0E6	rgb(176,224,230)
	lightblue	#ADD8E6	rgb(173,216,230)
	lightskyblue	#87CEFA	rgb(135,206,250)
	skyblue	#87CEEB	rgb(135,206,235)
	deepskyblue	#00BFFF	rgb(0,191,255)
	lightsteelblue	#B0C4DE	rgb(176,196,222)
	dodgerblue	#1E90FF	rgb(30,144,255)
	cornflowerblue	#6495ED	rgb(100,149,237)
	steelblue	#4682B4	rgb(70,130,180)
	royalblue	#4169E1	rgb(65,105,225)
	blue	#0000FF	rgb(0,0,255)
	mediumblue	#0000CD	rgb(0,0,205)
	darkblue	#00008B	rgb(0,0,139)
	navy	#000080	rgb(0,0,128)
	midnightblue	#191970	rgb(25,25,112)
	mediumslateblue	#7B68EE	rgb(123,104,238)
	slateblue	#6A5ACD	rgb(106,90,205)
	darkslateblue	#483D8B	rgb(72,61,139)

Purple colors

Color	HTML / CSS Color Name	Hex Code #RRGGBB	Decimal Code (R,G,B)
	lavender	#E6E6FA	rgb(230,230,250)
	thistle	#D8BFD8	rgb(216,191,216)
	plum	#DDA0DD	rgb(221,160,221)

	violet	#EE82EE	rgb(238,130,238)
	orchid	#DA70D6	rgb(218,112,214)
	fuchsia	#FF00FF	rgb(255,0,255)
	magenta	#FF00FF	rgb(255,0,255)
	mediumorchid	#BA55D3	rgb(186,85,211)
	mediumpurple	#9370DB	rgb(147,112,219)
	blueviolet	#8A2BE2	rgb(138,43,226)
	darkviolet	#9400D3	rgb(148,0,211)
	darkorchid	#9932CC	rgb(153,50,204)
	darkmagenta	#8B008B	rgb(139,0,139)
	purple	#800080	rgb(128,0,128)
	indigo	#4B0082	rgb(75,0,130)

Pink colors

Color	HTML / CSS Color Name	Hex Code #RRGGBB	Decimal Code (R,G,B)
	pink	#FFC0CB	rgb(255,192,203)
	lightpink	#FFB6C1	rgb(255,182,193)
	hotpink	#FF69B4	rgb(255,105,180)
	deeppink	#FF1493	rgb(255,20,147)
	palevioletred	#DB7093	rgb(219,112,147)
	mediumvioletred	#C71585	rgb(199,21,133)

White colors

Color	HTML / CSS Color Name	Hex Code #RRGGBB	Decimal Code (R,G,B)
	white	#FFFFFF	rgb(255,255,255)
	snow	#FFFAFA	rgb(255,250,250)

	honeydew	#F0FFF0	rgb(240,255,240)
	mintcream	#F5FFFA	rgb(245,255,250)
	azure	#F0FFFF	rgb(240,255,255)
	aliceblue	#F0F8FF	rgb(240,248,255)
	ghostwhite	#F8F8FF	rgb(248,248,255)
	whitesmoke	#F5F5F5	rgb(245,245,245)
	seashell	#FFF5EE	rgb(255,245,238)
	beige	#F5F5DC	rgb(245,245,220)
	oldlace	#FDF5E6	rgb(253,245,230)
	floralwhite	#FFFAF0	rgb(255,250,240)
	ivory	#FFFFF0	rgb(255,255,240)
	antiquewhite	#FAEBD7	rgb(250,235,215)
	linen	#FAF0E6	rgb(250,240,230)
	lavenderblush	#FFF0F5	rgb(255,240,245)
	mistyrose	#FFE4E1	rgb(255,228,225)

Gray colors

Color	HTML / CSS Color Name	Hex Code #RRGGBB	Decimal Code (R,G,B)
	gainsboro	#DCDCDC	rgb(220,220,220)
	lightgray	#D3D3D3	rgb(211,211,211)
	silver	#C0C0C0	rgb(192,192,192)
	darkgray	#A9A9A9	rgb(169,169,169)
	gray	#808080	rgb(128,128,128)
	dimgray	#696969	rgb(105,105,105)
	lightslategray	#778899	rgb(119,136,153)
	slategray	#708090	rgb(112,128,144)

	darkslategray	#2F4F4F	rgb(47,79,79)
	black	#000000	rgb(0,0,0)

Brown colors

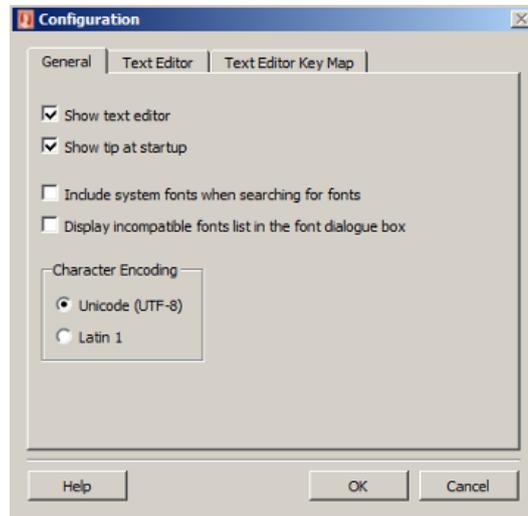
Color	HTML / CSS Color Name	Hex Code #RRGGBB	Decimal Code (R,G,B)
	cornsilk	#FFF8DC	rgb(255,248,220)
	blanchedalmond	#FFEBCD	rgb(255,235,205)
	bisque	#FFE4C4	rgb(255,228,196)
	navajowhite	#FFDEAD	rgb(255,222,173)
	wheat	#F5DEB3	rgb(245,222,179)
	burlywood	#DEB887	rgb(222,184,135)
	tan	#D2B48C	rgb(210,180,140)
	rosybrown	#BC8F8F	rgb(188,143,143)
	sandybrown	#F4A460	rgb(244,164,96)
	goldenrod	#DAA520	rgb(218,165,32)
	peru	#CD853F	rgb(205,133,63)
	chocolate	#D2691E	rgb(210,105,30)
	saddlebrown	#8B4513	rgb(139,69,19)
	sienna	#A0522D	rgb(160,82,45)
	brown	#A52A2A	rgb(165,42,42)
	maroon	#800000	rgb(128,0,0)

9.) CONFIGURATION DIALOGUE BOX

AlbumEasy is configured by means of the Configuration Dialogue Box which is activated from the *Configure* button on the main **toolbar**.

This dialogue box contains three tabbed pages:

Configuration Dialogue - General Tab

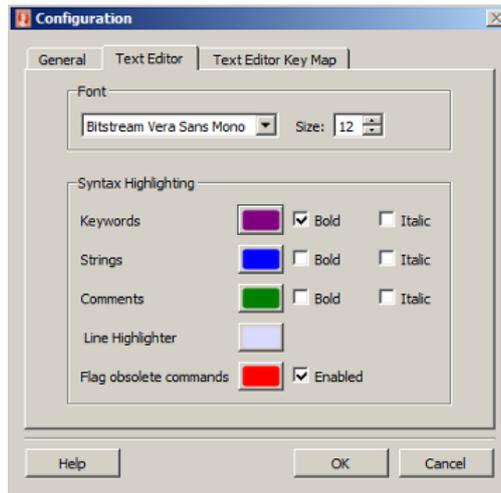


- Show text editor Selected: The integrated text editor is enabled.
 Deselected: The editor is hidden.
- Show tip at startup Selected: A "tip of the day" box will be displayed when AlbumEasy starts up.
 Deselected: The "tip of the day" will not be displayed.
- Include system fonts ..* Selected: AlbumEasy will search the whole system for additional fonts.
 Deselected: Only the local AlbumEasy *fonts* folder will be searched.
- Display incompatible font list ... Selected: Display both the compatible and incompatible font lists in the available fonts dialog box.
 Deselected: Display only the compatible font list.
- Character Encoding ** Unicode (UTF-8): The input file is to be interpreted as containing characters from the Unicode (UTF-8) character set.
 Latin 1: The input file is to be interpreted as containing characters from the Latin 1 character set.

* **NOTE:** Searching the whole system for fonts can be a time consuming operation, so in order to save time, if only a few fonts are in regular use, these can be copied to the local *fonts* folder which is to be found within the AlbumEasy folder and the "*Include system fonts when searching for fonts*" checkbox disabled.

** **NOTE:** It is recommended that Unicode (UTF-8) be used for all new albums as it encompasses character sets used by the majority of world languages. Latin 1 only being retained for legacy purposes to provide support for existing album files. Please refer to the **Character Sets** help topic for further details.

Configuration Dialogue - Text Editor Tab



The font face and size used by the text editor can be selected from the *Font* section of this page.

The *Syntax Highlighting* is configured in this section.

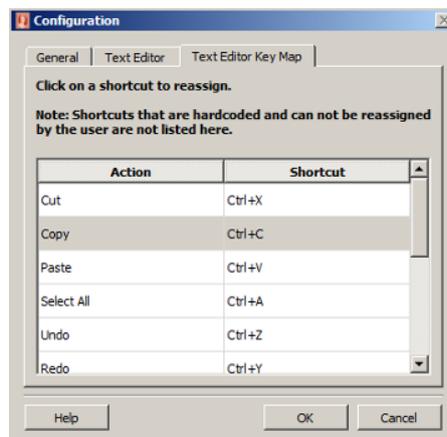
- Keywords** Select the colour and formatting of keywords in the editor text.
- Strings** Select the colour and formatting of text strings the editor text.
- Comments** Select the colour and formatting for displaying comments in the editor text.
- Line Highlighter** The colour used to highlight the line of text containing the cursor.
- Flag obsolete commands** Obsolete commands are commands that are supported for backwards

compatibility but are not recommended for new albums as they have been replaced by newer commands that offer the same functionality. These commands, if this is enabled, are highlighted by means of a dotted underline in the selected colour.

Colours are selected by clicking on the colour swatch buttons.

Configuration Dialogue - Text Editor Key Map Tab

Keyboard shortcuts are assigned to specific text editor functions as listed.



Shortcuts that may be reassigned by the user are listed here. After clicking on a shortcut, the user will be able to enter a new key sequence for the shortcut.

10.) CONSOLE MODE

NOTE: If you have no wish to run AlbumEasy from the command line, you can safely ignore this section of the help file.

AlbumEasy may be run from the console as a command line application by means of the *-c command line argument*.

In order to do so the *-c* command line argument should be followed by the name of the album data file e.g.:
`./AlbumEasy -c examples/AlbumSample.txt`

Error messages are written to stderr, in which case they may be captured to a text file as follows:
`./AlbumEasy -c examples/AlbumSample.txt 2>errs.txt`

For further information on console mode, please refer to `readme-console.txt`

Note 1: AlbumEasy uses the same configuration settings for both console and GUI modes. Therefore to make any changes to the configuration it is necessary to do so in GUI mode by means of the the **configuration dialogue box**.

It is also necessary to run the application in GUI mode in order to access the help files.

Note 2: Console mode is functional on both Windows and Linux.

However when running on Windows, a Windows shortcoming prevents a dual mode application from displaying text in the console. As a result, although the application is functional in console mode on Windows, the user will not see any status or error messages. To get around this, it is suggested that an alternative console such as the one provided by **Cygwin** be installed on Windows.

Sample Script

The script below may serve as the basis for running AlbumEasy from the command line in batch mode. This script has been tested in a Cygwin console on Windows and a Bash shell on Linux. It should also work in most Linux shells.

```
#!/bin/bash
#prevent the shell from expanding any empty result set to the pattern e.g. *.txt

shopt -s nullglob

echo -e "\n">errs.txt
#process all files matching the *.txt pattern, writing errors to the file errs.txt

for f in *.txt
do
  if [ $f != "errs.txt" ]
  then
    AlbumEasy -c $f 2>>errs.txt
  fi
done

#display any errors

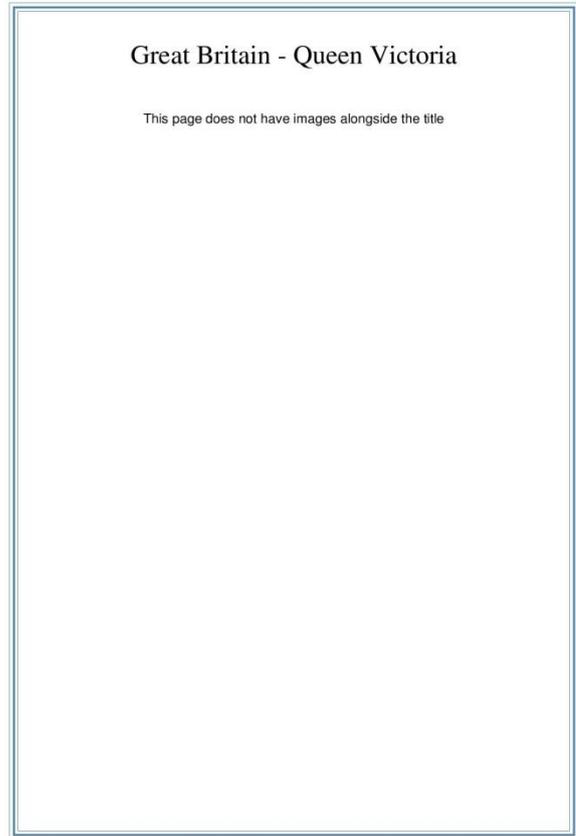
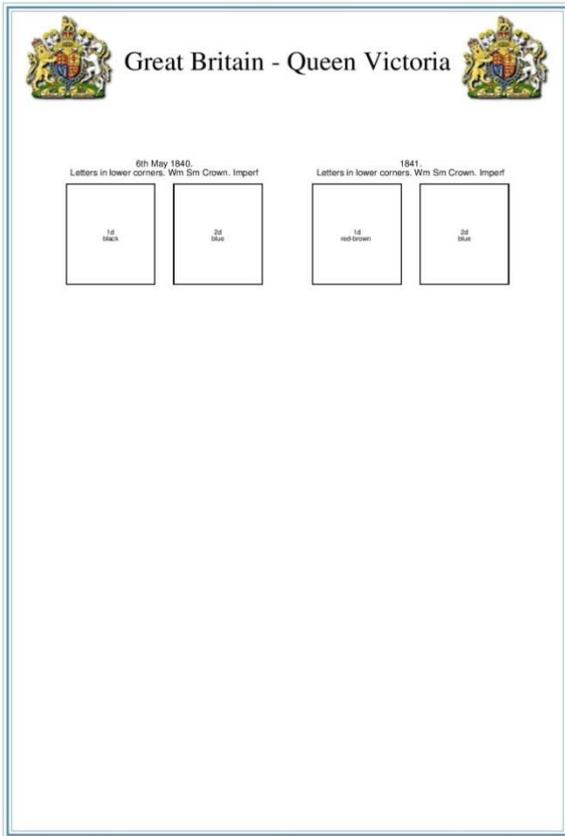
cat errs.txt
```

11.) Hints and Tips

(If you have any hints or tips you would like added please email me on rayking@mweb.co.za)

11.i.) First title page with pictures next to title

To do This



Do This

ALBUM_PAGES_SIZE (210.0 297.0)

ALBUM_PAGES_MARGINS (15.0 15.0 15.0 15.0)

ALBUM_PAGES_BORDER3 (0.1 0.5 0.1 1.0)

ALBUM_PAGES_SPACING (1.0 6.0)

COLOUR_ALBUM_BORDER(steelblue)

#-----

PAGE_START #FIRST PAGE STARTS HERE

use this on each page instead of having a ALBUM_PAGES_TITLE

PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE(HN 12 "") # some vertical spacing

PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE_VSPACE (TN 24 "Great Britain - Queen Victoria" -18.0) # draw the title text with a negative amount of blank space after it

ALBUM_STAMP_IMG_SETTING (0 0 false) # images will be drawn with no space between the frame and the image

ROW_START_FS (HN 6 0.1 110.0) #row of stamps spaced 110mm apart to display the coat of arms

STAMP_ADD_IMG (28.0 28.0 "RoyalCoatOfArms.png" "" "" "" NO_FRAME)

STAMP_ADD_IMG (28.0 28.0 "RoyalCoatOfArms.png" "" "" "" NO_FRAME)

PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE(HB 8 "") # some vertical spacing

ROW_START_FS (HN 6 0.2 6.0)

STAMP_ADD (28.0 32.0 "1d" "black" "" "" "" "")

STAMP_HEADING(HN 8 "6th May 1840.¥nLetters in lower corners. Wm Sm Crown. Imperf" 17.0)

STAMP_ADD (28.0 32.0 "2d" "blue" "" "" "" "")

STAMP_ADD_BLANK (4 32)

STAMP_ADD (28.0 32.0 "1d" "red-brown" "" "" "" "")

STAMP_HEADING(HN 8 "1841.¥nLetters in lower corners. Wm Sm Crown. Imperf" 17.0)

STAMP_ADD (28.0 32.0 "2d" "blue" "" "" "" "")

#-----

PAGE_START #SECOND PAGE STARTS HERE

use this on each page instead of having a ALBUM_PAGES_TITLE

PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE(HN 6 "") # Less vertical spacing required without images

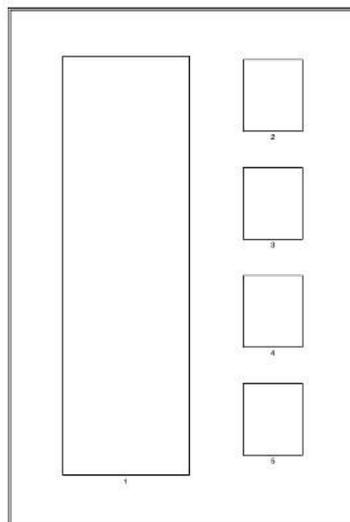
PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE(TN 24 "Great Britain - Queen Victoria") # Don't leave negative blank space after the title

PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE(HB 8 "") # some vertical spacing

PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE (HN 12 "This page does not have images alongside the title")

11.ii.) Large left vertical Block with Small block

To produce this page:



It relies on the PAGE_TEXT_VSPACE command which allows one to set the space after a line of text, even a blank line of text.

PAGE_TEXT_VSPACE (HN 1 "" 10.0) will insert a vertical gap of 10mm.

It can also take a negative value in which case the next item will be printed before the line of text

PAGE_TEXT_VSPACE (HN 1 "" -198) will output the next item 198 mm before the line of text.

Do This

Cut and paste the following into a new album text file:

```
ALBUM_PAGES_SIZE (215.9 279.4)
ALBUM_PAGES_MARGINS (25.0 25.0 15.0 15.0)
```

```
ALBUM_PAGES_BORDER3 (0.1 0.5 0.0 0.8)
ALBUM_PAGES_SPACING (1.0 3.0)
```

```
PAGE_START
PAGE_TEXT_VSPACE (HN 10 "" 20.0)
ROW_ALIGN_MIDDLE
```

Right column top stamp

```
ROW_START_ES (HN 10 0.1)
STAMP_ADD_BLANK (60 34)
STAMP_ADD (28 34 "" "" "" "" "2" "")
PAGE_TEXT_VSPACE (HN 1 "" 10.0)
```

Right column second stamp

```
ROW_START_ES (HN 10 0.1)
STAMP_ADD_BLANK (60 34)
STAMP_ADD (28 34 "" "" "" "" "3" "")
PAGE_TEXT_VSPACE (HN 1 "" 10.0)
```

Right column third stamp

```
ROW_START_ES (HN 10 0.1)
STAMP_ADD_BLANK (60 34)
STAMP_ADD (28 34 "" "" "" "" "4" "")
PAGE_TEXT_VSPACE (HN 1 "" 10.0)
```

Right column fourth stamp

```
ROW_START_ES (HN 10 0.1)
STAMP_ADD_BLANK (60 34)
STAMP_ADD (28 34 "" "" "" "" "5" "")
```

Move next item up 198

```
PAGE_TEXT_VSPACE (HN 1 "" -198)
```

Left column stamp

```
ROW_START_ES (HN 10 0.1)
STAMP_ADD (60 200 "" "" "" "1" "")
STAMP_ADD_BLANK (30 200)
```

How it works is that the stamps in the right column are placed first. Each in its own row padded to the right with a blank stamp using **STAMP_ADD_BLANK (60 34)**.

The rows of stamps are padded vertically with:

PAGE_TEXT_VSPACE (HN 1 "" 10.0)

The four stamps in the right hand column are followed by a **PAGE_TEXT_VSPACE (HN 1 "" -198)** which positions 198 mm up for the tall vertical strip.

In my example I had a page of 4 rows that appeared evenly spaced (possibly by accident), and when I removed the last row, it literally removed the 4th row leaving empty space there, rather than expanding the spaces between the remaining 3 rows so that the page looked "balanced".

Is there a command to auto space between the rows of a page, so that they are evenly distributed vertically, or does one need to do the calculations?

The **ALBUM_PAGES_SPACING** command controls the spacing of items on a page for the whole album (although it can be over-ridden on an individual page basis), it takes both a horizontal and a vertical parameter.

So, for example if the vertical parameter is set to 3mm. Then each row of stamps will be placed 3mm below the preceding row.

To space the rows of stamps further apart, one can use the **PAGE_TEXT_VSPACE** with empty text between the rows.

e.g **PAGE_TEXT_VSPACE (HN 1 "" 10.0)** will add 10mm

This command can also take a negative value so for example

PAGE_TEXT_VSPACE (HN 1 "" -5.0) will move the next row of stamps 5mm closer to the row above.

One can calculate the spacing, but I find it is often easier to do so via trial and error.

12.) EXAMPLES



12.i.) Example of an AlbumEasy .TXT File

```
#####  
# sample AlbumEasy file. (c) 2005 Bundu Technology Ltd.  
# -----  
# Note: the # character is used for comments, any text following the # is  
# ignored.  
#  
# All measurements are in millimetres, except for font sizes which are  
# in points  
#####
```

First setup the page elements that are common to all pages in this album.

Only one of the two following lines can have a # to turn it off, currently set for 6.5 x 11. To set for A4 size paper, put a # in front of the 1st line and remove it from the 2nd.

```
ALBUM_PAGES_SIZE (215.9 279.4) #Set the page to US Letter (8.5 x 11)  
#ALBUM_PAGES_SIZE (210.0 297.0) #Use this for A4
```

Now set margins in mm in order left, right, top and bottom page margins

```
ALBUM_PAGES_MARGINS (25.0 12.0 15.0 15.0)
```

Now set the border. The first number is the width of the outside border line, the 2nd is the distance between the outer and inner line whose width is set by the 3rd number.

```
ALBUM_PAGES_BORDER (0.5 0.1 1.0)
```

Now make the title for the album page.

- TN -Times Roman Normal**
- TB -Times Roman Bold**
- TI -Times Roman Italic**
- TS -Times Roman Bold-Italic**
- HN -Helvetica Normal**
- HB -Helvetica Bold**
- HI -Helvetica Italic**
- HS -Helvetica Bold-Italic**

Here the title in quotes is font Times bold 16 point. Title must be in quotes

```
ALBUM_PAGES_TITLE (TB 16 "Union of South Africa")
```

NOW set the spacings

The first number of below is horizontal spacing of stamps and elements, the second number is the vertical in mm. Smaller number =more compact, larger number=looser

```
ALBUM_PAGES_SPACING (6.0 6.0)
```

Now we actually start planning the page

```
# -----  
# Define the first page of this album  
# -----
```

PAGE_START

needed for each page in this group, so this is page 1

**Page text inserts text as a paragraph, left justified. Font info first and then the paragraph in quotes. For long paragraphs it can be broken as below, with the \ indicating continuation. The last part ends with a) rather than a **

```
PAGE_TEXT (HN 10 "The Cape of Good Hope, Natal, the Orange Free State and "\  
"Transvaal were united on the 31st of May 1910 to form The Union of South Africa, "\  
"The Union existed until the 31st of May 1961 when it left the British"\  
"Commonwealth to become The Republic of South Africa.")
```

below is the way to centre printing. Notice that a \n can be used to begin a new line You can use as many page_text or page_text_centre as you want, like below.

```
PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE (HS 12 "4 November 1910 \n Inauguration of The Union Parliament.");  
PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE (HN 12 "Mint")
```

Now plan your stamp layout, stamps in rows, size, and labelling. Use a separate ROW_START for each row. ROW_START_FS (uses fixed spacing between each stamp, ROW_START_JS gives a justified spacing between stamps, and ROW_START_ES, gives an equal spacing. Read this part of instructions and experiment.

```
ROW_START_FS (HN 6 0.1 6.0)  
            (font type, font size, border size, distance apart in mm)
```

Now that we have added the row, time to add the stamp boxes. Using STAMP_ADD. The 2 numbers are width and height in mm. Each quote set should be separated as a space see the printout of this file to see the location of the boxes. Reduce font if printing overlaps

Each stamp takes 4 text items:

inside - text inside the frame

left - text placed below the stamp to the left

centre - text placed below the stamp in the centre

right - text placed below the stamp to the right

e.g. STAMP_ADD (25.0 28.0 "inside" "below left" "below centre" "below right")

Text items can be placed over multiple lines by using the \n new line indicator.

e.g. STAMP_ADD (25.0 28.0 "inside line 1 \n inside line 2" "left" "centre 1 \n centre 2 \n centre 3" "right")

NB All text items must be specified even if not used.

e.g. STAMP_ADD (50.0 28.0 "" "" "below centre" "")

or STAMP_ADD (50.0 28.0 "" "" "" "") will draw the frame with no text.

```
STAMP_ADD (32.0 37.0 "2 1/2d" "deep blue" "blue surface" "sg 1" "" "sacc 1")  
STAMP_ADD (32.0 37.0 "2 1/2d" "blue" "white surface" "sg 2" "" "sacc 1a")
```

If we want to add any text, we just insert at needed point, using either paragraph or center as above. PAGE_TEXT or PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE

```
PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE (HN 12 "\nUsed")
```

Add as many rows of stamps as desired

```
ROW_START_FS (HN 6 0.1 6.0)
STAMP_ADD (32.0 37.0 "2 1/2d" "deep blue" "blue surface" "sg 1" "" "sacc 1")
STAMP_ADD (32.0 37.0 "2 1/2d" "blue" "white surface" "sg 2" "" "sacc 1a")
```

WHEN FINISHED with first page and want to do a second page, REPEAT as above from the PAGE_START.

```
# -----
# Define the second page of this album
# -----
```

This is a more complicated page, but just repeating commands as on first page.

```
PAGE_START

PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE (HS 12 "King's Heads - George V\nFirst Definitives 1913 - 1921\n");
ROW_START_FS (HN 6 0.1 6.0)
STAMP_ADD (25.0 28.0 "1/2d" "green" "" "sg 3" "" "sacc 2")
STAMP_ADD (25.0 28.0 "1d" "rose red" "" "sg 4" "" "sacc 3")
STAMP_ADD (25.0 28.0 "1 1/2d" "chestnut" "" "sg 5" "" "sacc 4")

ROW_START_FS (HN 6 0.1 6.0)
STAMP_ADD (25.0 28.0 "2d" "dull purple" "" "sg 6" "" "sacc 5")
STAMP_ADD (25.0 28.0 "2 1/2d" "bright blue" "" "sg 7" "" "sacc 6")
STAMP_ADD (25.0 28.0 "3d" "black & orange-red" "" "sg 8" "" "sacc 7")
STAMP_ADD (25.0 28.0 "3d" "ultramarine" "" "sg 9" "" "sacc 8")
STAMP_ADD (25.0 28.0 "4d" "orange-yellow &" "olive-green" "sg 10" "" "sacc 9")
```

**As an example, the below row is equal spaced _ES rather than Fixed spaced _FS
The numbers in the parentheses is (font, font size, border width)**

```
ROW_START_ES (HN 6 0.1)

STAMP_ADD (25.0 28.0 "6d" "black & violet" "" "sg 11" "" "sacc 10")
STAMP_ADD (25.0 28.0 "1s" "orange" "" "sg 12" "" "sacc 11")
STAMP_ADD (25.0 28.0 "1s 3d" "violet" "" "sg 13" "" "sacc 12")
STAMP_ADD (25.0 28.0 "2s 6d" "purple & green" "" "sg 14" "" "sacc 13")
STAMP_ADD (25.0 28.0 "5s" "purple & blue" "" "sg 15" "" "sacc 14")
```

**As an example, the below is a justified spacing _JS rather than _ES, _FS
the numbers in the parentheses (font, fontsize, width of border)**

```
ROW_START_JS (HN 6 0.1)

STAMP_ADD (25.0 28.0 "10s" "deep blue &" "olive-green" "sg 16" "" "sacc 15")
STAMP_ADD (25.0 28.0 "£1" "green & red" "" "sg 17" "" "sacc 16")
```

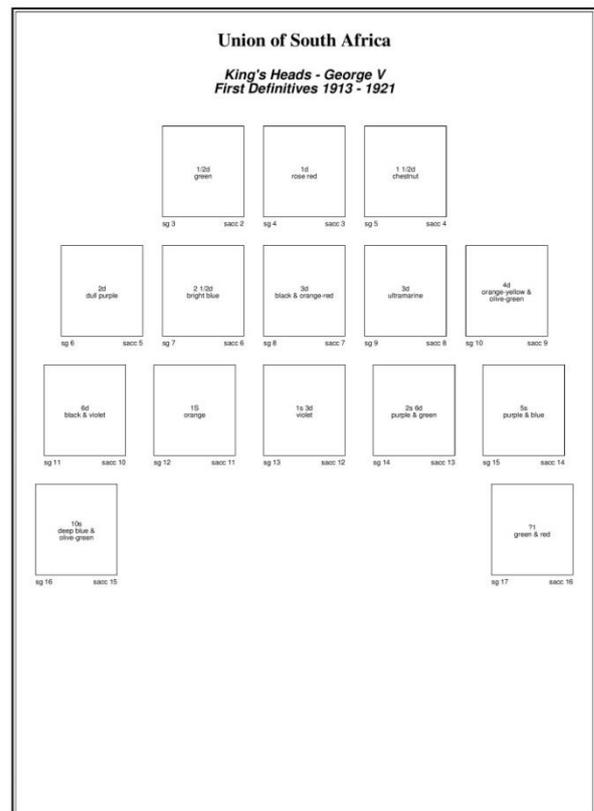
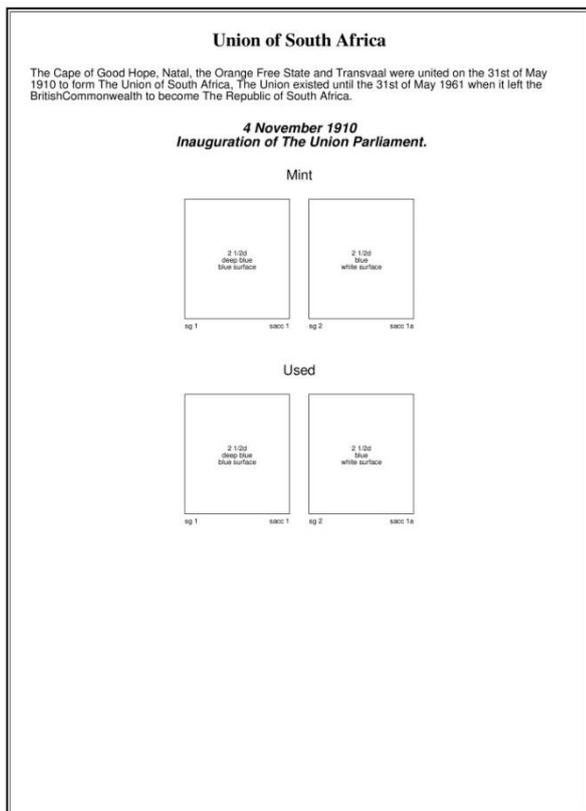
Note: The below has a # in front so it is not processed. Later if you get the pair, you can remove the # and it will print.

```
#STAMP_ADD (50.0 28.0 "1 1/2d" "chestnut" "tete-beche pair" "sg 5a" "" "sacc 4b")
```

Now you can make another page or save with different name than original pattern page
But be sure to save as .txt file or it will give error.

NOTICE THE DIFFERENCE SPACING'S ON SECOND PAGE AS FIRST 2 ROWS are FIXED SPACED
THE THIRD ROW IS EQUAL SPACED, AND THE 4th ROW IS JUSTIFIED SPACED.

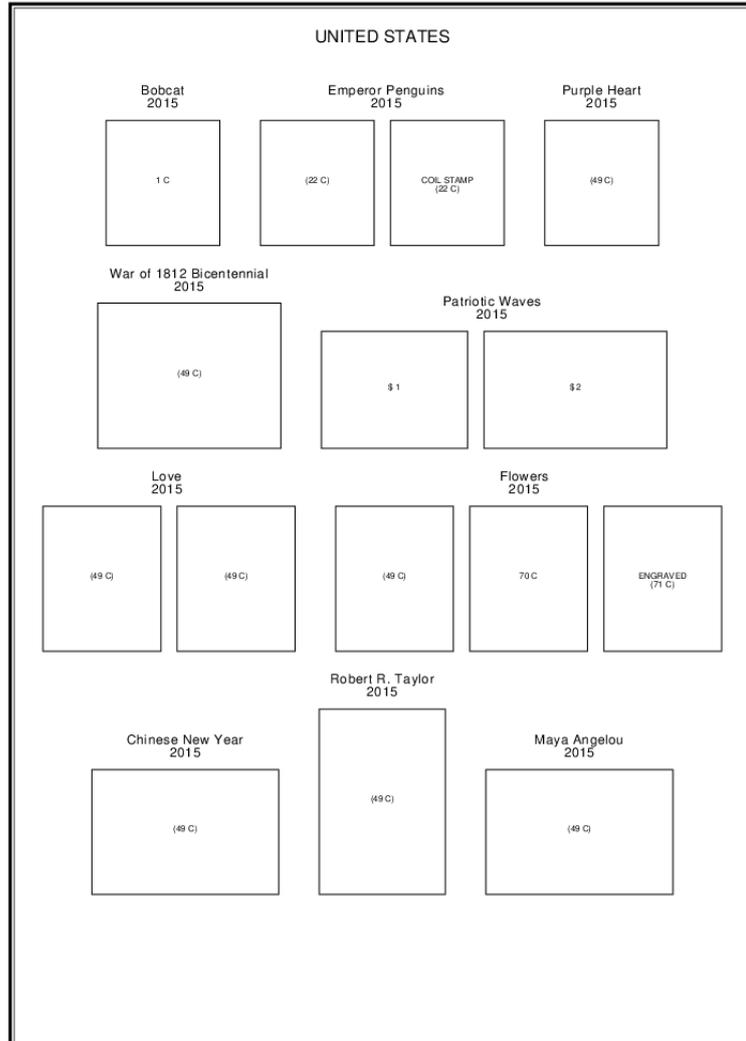
And the PDF generated from the TXT File





12.ii.) Steiner Example

If you wish to emulate the popular Steiner Album Pages, or make A4 page size



Do This

#####

An example AlbumEasy file for producing album pages in a similar style to the

Steiner album pages for those who wish to create pages to supplement their

Steiner albums.

#

12.iii.) Decorative Border examples

The Border definition File used by the Album file

```
# -----  
# ArtDeco.txt  
# AlbumEasy decorative border description file  
# This file may be used as is, or as an example for creating your own decorative borders.  
# -----
```

```
IMAGE_SCALE(0.12)  
IMAGE_CORNER("ArtDeco.png")  
IMAGE_CORNER_PAD(2.1 2.1)  
  
BORDER_LINES(0.3 0.3 0.0 2.0)  
BORDER_PAD(1.95 1.95)  
BORDER_END_OFFSETS(18.0 18.0)
```

The Actual Album definition file

```
# -----  
# Examples of decorative borders  
# -----  
ALBUM_PAGES_SIZE (215.9 279.4)  
ALBUM_PAGES_MARGINS (12.0 12.0 15.0 15.0)  
ALBUM_PAGES_SPACING (6.0 6.0)  
  
ALBUM_PAGES_TITLE (TB 16 "Decorative Borders")  
  
# -----  
# Uncomment one of the lines below for an example of that border type  
# -----  
ALBUM_PAGES_DECORATIVE_BORDER("ArtDeco.txt")  
  
PAGE_START  
  
PAGE_TEXT (HN 10 "AlbumEasy includes seven sample decorative borders, all of which are listed "¥  
"in this file.¥n"¥  
"In order to view these borders remove the comment character from each in turn "¥  
"and then regenerate this album.¥n¥n"¥  
"Although the user is free to use these sample borders as is, they "¥  
"are really intended as examples that can be used as templates for user "¥  
"created borders. Please see the ¥"Decorative Borders¥" help topic for "¥  
"details as to how this may be accomplished.")
```

Decorative Borders

AlbumEasy includes seven sample decorative borders, all of which are listed in this file.
In order to view these borders remove the comment character from each in turn and then regenerate this album.

Although the user is free to use these sample borders as is, they are really intended as examples that can be used as templates for user created borders. Please see the "Decorative Borders" help topic for details as to how this may be accomplished.

13.) HISTORY

Note: Examples of new and updated commands can always be found in the sample album file called *NewExamples.txt*. Located in the examples directory this is updated with each new release.

V4.2.1 (Dec 2020)

- **Bug fix: Text inside the stamp box was not being centred correctly by the STAMP_ADD_IMG command when the box included both text and an image.**

V4.2.0 (Dec 2020)

- New: STAMP_ADD_HEXAGON and STAMP_ADD_OCTAGON commands for hexagonal and octagonal stamp boxes.
- New: PAGE_BACKGROUND_IMG command adds a background image to the page.
- New: PAGE_START_GROUP_BEGIN and PAGE_START_GROUP_END commands to define a group of commands that are output at the start of each new page.
- New: TEXT_LINE_LEADING command to adjust the leading or spacing between the lines of text in a multiline text item such as a paragraph.
- New: PAGE_VSPACE to add vertical spacing between elements on the page.
- New: ALBUM_PAGES_HEADER and associated commands for placing text into the top margin of the page in a similar manner to the existing ALBUM_PAGES_FOOTER commands that operates on the bottom margin.
- New: COLOUR_ALBUM_DECORATIVE_BORDER to set the line colour for decorative borders.
- Enhancement: STAMP_ADD_IMG now supports placing both text and images simultaneously inside stamp boxes.
- Enhancement: Added configuration options to disable the prompt to save the album when generating an album and to also disable the prompt when exiting the application.
- Bug fix: The ALBUM_STAMP_IMG_SETTING command has been replaced by the ALBUM_STAMP_NEW_IMG_SETTING to correct a calculation error. The old command has been retained for backwards compatibility.
- Bug fix: Image file names that included international characters could sometimes generate an error on Linux and Mac operating systems - now fixed.

Bug fix: SaveAs on MacOS was not always functional. Now fixed.

V4.1 (Oct 2019)

- New: Apple MacOS is now a fully supported platform along with Windows and Linux
- New: ALBUM_PAGES_FOOTER_PAD used to adjust the spacing between the page border and text in the page footer.
- New: STAMP_BOXES_ADJUST_SAVE and STAMP_BOXES_ADJUST_RESTORE commands to temporarily disable the STAMP_BOXES_SIZE_ADJUST
- Enhancement: The STAMP_BORDER_STYLE command now accepts a BLANK parameter to create a frameless stamp box.
- Enhancement: As of this release AlbumEasy will automatically detect and convert a range of Unicode formatted text files. This includes the formats supported by Windows Notepad and other text editors.
- Bug fix: Justified text generated by the PAGE_TEXT_PARAGRAPH_START command, that contained some international characters, could lose characters at line beginnings - fixed.
- Bug fix: Truetype font file extensions are no longer case-sensitive. Previously only files ending with .ttf or .ttc extensions were usable. While files with .TTF and .TTC extensions were ignored.
- Bug fix: The ALBUM_AUTHOR and ALBUM_TITLE commands now support internationalised text.

V4.0.1 (June 2019)

- Bug fix: Text paragraphs - Under certain circumstances, the last word on a line was being duplicated and repeated as the first word on the next line.

V4.0 (June 2019)

- New: AlbumEasy now includes a built-in text editor with syntax highlighting. The editor can be disabled for users who prefer to use an external editor.
- Enhancement: Improved language support - Unicode (UTF-8) support has been expanded to now include support for the majority of world languages including Asian languages such as Chinese, Japanese, Korean etc.
- Enhancement: Improved font support - a much wider range of TrueType fonts are now supported by AlbumEasy
- New: PAGE_TEXT_PARAGRAPH_START and PAGE_TEXT_PARAGRAPH_END commands for adding large paragraphs of text. The text can be left or right aligned, centred, or fully justified.
- New: The STAMP_ADD_TRIANGLE and STAMP_ADD_TRIANGLE_INV commands now accept an optional apex parameter to allow for the creation of trapezium (flat top or bottom) shaped stamp boxes.
- New: CORNER style has been added to the STAMP_BORDER_STYLE command. This can place one or more small corner markers in place of a frame.
- New: COLOUR_STAMP_BACKGROUND command to set the background colour inside stamp boxes (rectangular stamp boxes only).
- New: STAMP_INNER_BORDER command add support for double frame-line stamp box borders (rectangular stamp boxes only), along with associated COLOUR_STAMP_INNER_BORDER and STAMP_INNER_BORDER_STYLE commands.
- New: ALBUM_PAGES_FOOTER command has been added for inserting text into the page footers.
- Enhancement: PAGE_COLUMN_START now accepts an optional value which can be used to set the padding between columns.
- Enhancement: Much improved help organisation and text.
- Bug fix: Fixed the incorrect column vertical spacing for a second group of columns if it appeared immediately after the previous group of columns in column mode.
- Bug fix: Previously pressing File Open, and then cancelling would disable the Generate and View-PDF buttons.

V3.9.1 (November 2018)

- Enhancement: The PAGE_TEXT, PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE and PAGE_TEXT_RIGHT commands now accept an optional vertical space parameter.
Obsoleting the PAGE_TEXT_VSPACE, PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE_VSPACE and PAGE_TEXT_RIGHT_VSPACE commands which should no longer be used for new albums, and have only been retained for backwards compatibility.
- Enhancement: The ALBUM_PAGES_BORDER command is now an identical replacement for the ALBUM_PAGES_BORDER3 command which has been obsoleted and only retained for backwards compatibility.

V3.9 (October 2018)

- New: PAGE_COLUMN_START, PAGE_COLUMN_NEXT and PAGE_COLUMN_STOP commands to split a page into vertical columns for added flexibility when laying out pages.
- New: STAMP_ADD_OVAL command for creating oval and circular stamp boxes.
- New: ALBUM_TITLE and ALBUM_AUTHOR commands to set the title and author attributes of the PDF document. These attributes, visible only in the PDF file properties, have no effect on the printed output.

V3.8 (September 2018)

- New: ALBUM_PAGES_DECORATIVE_BORDER command for adding predefined or custom decorative borders around the page.
- New: TEXT_CHAR_SPACING command to adjust the inter-character spacing of text - useful for example to match the spaced text used in the Steiner albums.
- New: STAMP_BORDER_STYLE command to set dotted or dashed stamp box borders.
- Enhancement: The STAMP_ADD command syntax has been simplified and now supports multiple lines of text below as well as inside the stamp box. As a result, the STAMP_ADDX and STAMP_ADDX_IMG commands are no longer required.
These commands, however, as well as the old STAMP_ADD syntax have been retained for backwards compatibility. It is recommended that for new albums the new STAMP_ADD syntax is used instead.
- Bug fixes:
Incorrect command examples in the colour page of this help file have been corrected
The bug that prevented help text from being printed for some Windows users been corrected.

V3.7 (Feb 2018)

- New: Wizard for creating an initial album.
- New: Print button added to the help browser for printing help topics.
- New: STAMP_BOXES_SIZE_ADJUST command to adjust the size of all stamp boxes.
- New: STAMP_HEADING_PADDING command to adjust the space between stamp headings and stamp boxes.
- New: COLOUR_... commands for setting the colours of various elements on a page. Examples can be found in the Colours.txt sample album file.

V3.6 (June 2017)

- Enhancement: STAMP_ADD_IMG & STAMP_ADDX_IMG commands now take an optional NO_FRAME parameter for drawing the images without a frame.
- Enhancement: ALBUM_PAGES_DATE command now takes optional text strings to be output before or after the date.
- Enhancement: ALBUM_PAGES_NUMBER command now takes optional text strings to be output before or after the page number which can also include the total page count.
- Enhancement: Warnings are issued when a non-numeric character is found but a numeric value is expected. For example, when a user inadvertently inserts the letter O instead of the number zero.

V3.5 (Jan 2017)

- New: "Recently used files" toolbar button.
- New: PAGE_RULE_H command for drawing horizontal lines.
- New: ALBUM_PAGES_NUMBER command for inserting the page number in the footer.
- New: ALBUM_PAGES_DATE command for placing a date in the footer.
- New: PAGE_TEXT_RIGHT & PAGE_TEXT_RIGHT_VSPACE commands provide support for right justified text.
- Enhancement: PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE & PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE_VSPACE commands now provide support for multiple lines of text
- Bug fix: The PAGE_TEXT_VSPACE & PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE_VSPACE commands spacing was incorrectly calculated. This has now been fixed.
- A sample file called NewExamples.txt which illustrates the usage of the new commands has been added to the example's directory.

V3.4 (Oct 2016)

- New: STAMP_HEADING and STAMP_HEADING_VA commands for displaying headings above stamps.
- Improved readability of application main and help screens on newer high-DPI (high resolution) displays.

V3.3 (May 2016)

- New: PAGE_TEXT_VSPACE and PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE_VSPACE command.
- New: "View" toolbar button to open the generated file directly in the PDF viewer.

V3.2 (January 2016)

- Added support for running AlbumEasy as a command line application from the console.

V3.1 (January 2016)

- New: STAMP_ADD_IMG, STAMP_ADDX_IMG and ALBUM_STAMP_IMG_SETTING commands add support for stamp images.
- Enhancement: ALBUM_PAGES_BORDER3 replaces ALBUM_PAGES_BORDER to allow for single, double or triple line border around the page. The new command should be used in preference to the existing ALBUM_PAGES_BORDER as it corrects a spacing bug which existed in the older command which has been retained for compatibility with existing album data files.

V3.0 (November 2013)

- Complete rewrite of AlbumEasy to support international character sets and a less restrictive choice of fonts.
- Released as open source.
- New: ROW_ALIGN_MIDDLE, STAMP_ADD_BLANK, STAMP_ADD_DIAMOND and STAMP_ADD_TRIANGLE_INV commands

V2.3 (July 2006)

- New: PAGE_START_VAR and STAMP_ADD_TRIANGLE commands.

V2.2 (April 2006)

- New: ROW_ALIGN_TOP and ROW_ALIGN_BOTTOM commands to specify whether a row of stamps with unequal heights is aligned on the top or bottom edge.

V2.1 (October 2005)

- Enhancement: Improved font encoding to support European characters with accents and diacritical marks.

V2.0 (September 2005)

- New: GUI for both Windows and Linux.
- New: STAMP_ADDX command allowing for two lines of text under each stamp.

V1.0 (May 2005)

- Initial command line version.

AlbumEasy LICENCE

AlbumEasy

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Clive Levinson - Bundu Technology Ltd.

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For his annotated example of an AlbumEasy.txt file

INDEX

A	
Acrobat.....	8
Adobe Acrobat.....	8
ADVANCED – USING FONTS.....	9
album definition file.....	5
ALBUM_AUTHOR.....	74, 75
ALBUM_DEFINE_FONT.....	40
ALBUM_PAGES_BORDER.....	15, 41, 65, 75, 76
ALBUM_PAGES_DATE.....	35, 76
ALBUM_PAGES_DECORATIVE_BORDER.....	15, 43, 72, 75
ALBUM_PAGES_FOOTER.....	16, 74, 75
ALBUM_PAGES_FOOTER_PAD.....	74
ALBUM_PAGES_MARGINS.....	43, 61, 63, 65, 72
ALBUM_PAGES_NUMBER.....	35, 76
ALBUM_PAGES_SIZE.....	14, 61, 63, 65, 72
ALBUM_PAGES_SPACING.....	14, 19, 20, 21, 22, 61, 63, 64, 65, 72
ALBUM_PAGES_TITLE.....	14, 35, 61, 62, 65, 72
ALBUM_STAMP_IMG_SETTING.....	30, 31, 61, 76
ALBUM_TITLE.....	74, 75
apex parameter.....	75
B	
BORDER DEFINITION FILE.....	44
BORDER_END_OFFSETS.....	72
BORDER_LINES.....	72
C	
COLOR.....	48
COLOUR.....	35, 48, 61, 75, 76
COLOUR_ALBUM_BORDER.....	61
COLOUR_PAGE_TEXT.....	48
COLOUR_STAMP_INNER_BORDER.....	35, 75
COMMENTS.....	13
Configuration Dialogue.....	6, 8, 58, 59
CREATING A CUSTOM ALBUM.....	9
Custom fonts.....	40
E	
EXAMPLES.....	65
I	
IMAGE_CORNER.....	72
IMAGE_SCALE.....	72
K	
Keyboard Controls.....	7
Keyboard shortcuts.....	59
L	
Latin 1.....	9, 40, 47, 58
M	
Main Window.....	5, 6
Mandatory.....	14
message area.....	5
N	
NO_FRAME.....	30, 41, 61, 62, 76
O	
OPTIONAL PARAMETERS.....	13
P	
PAGE_COLUMN_NEXT.....	19, 75
PAGE_COLUMN_START.....	19, 75
PAGE_COLUMN_STOP.....	19, 75
PAGE_RULE_H.....	22, 76
PAGE_START.....	19, 61, 62, 63, 66, 67, 72, 76
PAGE_TEXT.....	20
PAGE_TEXT_CENTRE.....	20
PAGE_TEXT_PARAGRAPH_END.....	21, 22, 75
PAGE_TEXT_PARAGRAPH_START.....	13, 21, 22, 74, 75
PAGE_TEXT_RIGHT.....	20
PDF.....	4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 68, 75, 76
print dialog box.....	8
R	
ROW_ALIGN_BOTTOM.....	27, 77
ROW_ALIGN_MIDDLE.....	27, 63, 76
ROW_ALIGN_TOP.....	27, 77
ROW_START_ES.....	27, 63, 66, 67
ROW_START_FS.....	27, 61, 62, 66, 67
ROW_START_JS.....	27, 66, 67
S	
Special Characters.....	13
STAMP_ADD_BLANK.....	30, 62, 63, 64, 76
STAMP_ADD_DIAMOND.....	76
STAMP_ADD_IMG.....	30, 37, 41, 61, 62, 76
STAMP_ADD_OVAL.....	75
STAMP_ADD_TRIANGLE.....	75, 76

STAMP_ADD_TRIANGLE_INV.....	75, 76
STAMP_BOXES_ADJUST_RESTORE.....	37, 74
STAMP_BOXES_ADJUST_SAVE.....	37, 74
STAMP_BOXES_SIZE_ADJUST.....	37, 74, 76
STAMP_HEADING.....	32, 33, 62, 76
STAMP_HEADING_PADDING.....	33, 76
STAMP_HEADING_VA.....	32, 33, 76
STAMP_INNER_BORDER.....	35
STAMP_INNER_BORDER_STYLE.....	35, 36, 75
Standard Fonts.....	40
status bar.....	5, 6
<i>Syntax Highlighting</i>	6, 59

T

Text Continuation	13
--------------------------------	-----------

text editor.....	5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 58, 59, 75
Text Editor Key Map Tab	59
Text Editor Keymap Page	8
Text Editor Page	7
Text Editor Tab	59
TEXT_CHAR_SPACING	34, 35, 75
The toolbar.....	5

U

Unicode	9, 47, 58, 74, 75
----------------------	--------------------------

V

<i>vspace</i>	13, 20, 21, 22, 41
---------------------	--------------------