

# Manual for Fen2eps v1.0

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**Abstract:**

This manual gives a short introduction to the various options of the program *Fen2eps*.

**1. Requirements**

Basically, *Fen2eps* doesn't have any dependencies. It should run out-of-the-box, when compiled with a decent C++ compiler. The Windows executable was prepared under Windows XP, and should work under Windows Vista/7 as well.

**2. Starting the program**

Starting *Fen2eps* is as simple as saying

```
fen2eps < a.fen > a.eps
```

where the file `a.fen` contains a single FEN string in one line and `a.eps` is the resulting *EPS* file. This *EPS* file contains all necessary graphic symbols for displaying the chess diagram, you don't have to install any fonts! Since *Fen2eps* reads each line only to the first "space" character you can also input EPD (Extended Position Description) strings...

If you call *Fen2eps* with one of the command-line arguments `--h`, `--?` or `--help`, a small usage message appears. It provides a short overview of the additional options, which are explained in detail in the following sections.

**3. Selecting fonts**

The current version 1.0 of *Fen2eps* provides 19 different chess fonts for creating board diagrams. The outlines of the chess pieces are stored in special definition files, which have the extension `*.fed` and can be found in the `fed` directory. These files also contain information about the different heights and widths of the single "characters".

The fonts were downloaded from [www.enpassant.dk](http://www.enpassant.dk) in TrueType format and then converted to Postscript outlines with the help of [FontForge](#) (formerly known as [Pfaedit](#)). Please, regard that the copyright is still with their authors *Armando Hernandez Marroquin*, *Eric Bentzen* and *Egon Madsen*. All fonts are freeware and may be used for non-commercial purposes only!

*Fen2eps* does not have something like a built-in font. For maximum flexibility it always needs an external `*.fed` file where it can extract the piece outlines from. If nothing else is specified, *Fen2eps* looks for the font file `default.fed` which is present in the same directory as the executable. Right after unZIPing the archive, this default font file is a copy of the font `Chess Merida` (filename: `merida.fed`).

If you don't like it, all you have to do is to overwrite the file ``default.fed'` with one of the other ``*.fed'` files. For an overview you can take a look at the [list of fonts](#). Afterwards, the new font is used for creating the *EPS* diagrams.

As an alternative, you can use the option ```-f"`, followed by the name of the font definition file that should be used instead of ``default.fed'`.

So, replacing

```
cp fed/marroq.fed default.fed
fen2eps < a.fen > a.eps
```

you could also say

```
fen2eps -f fed/marroq.fed < a.fen > a.eps
```

which leaves the default font file untouched.

## 4. Additional options

### 4.1. No notation

If you don't want to provide a notation for the chess diagram, you can specify the option ```-n"` while calling *Fen2eps*. The board is output without notation letters and digits then.

### 4.2. Reverse board

You might want to display a board from Blacks perspective. In this case, use the option ```-r"` which creates a diagram that is drawn reverse.

### 4.3. Exporting several FEN strings at once

Exporting several FEN strings with the same settings is a tedious task. *Fen2eps* can help if you prepare a file, let's name it ``many.fen'`, that contains all the chess positions you want to convert. By specifying the ```-p"` option you give *Fen2eps* a file prefix it can use for generating single *EPS* diagrams automatically. You can say

```
fen2eps -p diag/dg < many.fen
```

for example. What you get is one *EPS* file for each FEN string in ``many.fen'`. These *EPS* files are created in the directory ``diag'` and have the prefix ``dg'` followed by a unique number.

If the ```-p"` option is given, *Fen2eps* does **NOT** write to ``stdout'` but to the created files directly. So redirecting the output by appending a

```
> isempty.eps
```

to the program call does not have any effect (except that you get an empty file named `isempty.eps`...).

Of course, you can mix all these options and after the call

```
fen2eps -n -r -p diag/dg -f fed/lucena.fed < many.fen
```

(let's assume the file `many.fen' contains 7 FEN strings...) you can find the files `dg1.eps' to `dg7.eps' in the directory `diag'. All boards are displayed reverse, without notation and use the font ``*Chess Lucena*".