

Fontlab → VOLT workflow guide

These notes presume you are using different production and final glyph names;
if you are using only final glyph names, you can skip steps 1–3.

For TrueType flavour fonts

- 1 From FontLab, generate a TrueType font using production glyph names. Open this font in VOLT. In VOLT, click the [Edit Glyphs] button to open the Glyph Editor window. Check that all glyphs are present and that Unicode values are correctly assigned. Glyphs will have generic names, e.g. ‘Glyph 1’. Make a note of the glyph ID of the last glyph in the font.
- 2 In the main VOLT window, select ‘Import PostScript Names’ from the {Import} menu. A dialogue box will open. Choose to import names for glyphs from 0 (zero) to the last glyph ID in the font. Click okay. Go back to the Glyph Editor window and check that all glyph names have been correctly imported, replacing the generic names.
- 3 In the {Export} menu, select ‘Export Glyph Data’. Again, in the dialogue box choose to export all glyph data, from 0 (zero) to the last glyph ID in the font. You will be prompted for a file name and save location. When you have exported the glyph data to a .vtd file, you can close VOLT. You may wish to save this TrueType source, but you should not need it again.
- 4 In FontLab, switch to final glyph names, e.g. by using Adam Twardoch’s ‘Rename glyphs by scheme’ Python script. Generate a new TrueType font. This will be your VOLT source file, so you might want to call it something like <myfont.volt.ttf>.
- 5 Open the new source font in VOLT. In the {Import} menu, choose ‘Import Glyph Data’. In the dialogue, select the glyph data .vtd you exported from the first font. This will overwrite the glyph data in the current font with the production names from the first font. *Note that the ‘post’ table names are not changed by VOLT, only the names used internally by the programme.* What you now have is a source with final glyph names in the ‘post’ table and production names to work with in VOLT.
- 5 Do your OpenType Layout development work. Be sure to save regularly, and for backup purposes use the {Export} menu to export a VOLT project file (.vtp). The project file contains all the working data for your source, including glyph data, the script, language and feature tree, all lookups and glyph groups, as well as preference settings.
- 6 When you have finished your OpenType Layout development work, select ‘Ship Font’ from the {File} menu. Be careful to ship the font under a different name from the VOLT source; if you do not, you will overwrite all your work data.

(Postprocessing) Note that VOLT does not update the |usMaxContext| field in the ‘OS/2’ table. Font Validator will report the correct value, and this can be edited e.g. in a dump of the table from TTX.

For CFF (PostScript) flavour fonts

- 1 From FontLab, generate a TrueType font using production glyph names. Open this font in VOLT. In VOLT, click the [Edit Glyphs] button to open the Glyph Editor window. Check that all glyphs are present and that Unicode values are correctly assigned. Glyphs will have generic names, e.g. ‘Glyph 1’. Make a note of the glyph ID of the last glyph in the font.
- 2 In the main VOLT window, select ‘Import PostScript Names’ from the {Import} menu. A dialogue box will open. Choose to import names for glyphs from 0 (zero) to the last glyph ID in the font. Click okay. Go back to the Glyph Editor window and check that all glyph names have been correctly imported, replacing the generic names.
- 3 In the {Export} menu, select ‘Export Glyph Data’. Again, in the dialogue box choose to export all glyph data, from 0 (zero) to the last glyph ID in the font. You will be prompted for a file name and save location. When you have exported the glyph data to a .vtd file, you can close VOLT. You may wish to save this TrueType source, but you should not need it again.
- 4 In FontLab, switch to final glyph names, e.g. by using Adam Twardoch’s ‘Rename glyphs by scheme’ Python script. Generate a new TrueType font. This will be your VOLT source file, so you might want to call it something like <myfont.volt.ttf>.
- 5 Open the new source font in VOLT. In the {Import} menu, choose ‘Import Glyph Data’. In the dialogue, select the glyph data .vtd you exported from the first font. This will overwrite the glyph data in the current font with the production names from the first font. *Note that the ‘post’ table names are not changed by VOLT, only the names used internally by the programme.* What you now have is a source with final glyph names in the ‘post’ table and production names to work with in VOLT.
- 5 Do your OpenType Layout development work. Be sure to save regularly.
- 6 When you have finished your OpenType Layout development work, select ‘Export Project’ in the {Export} menu to export a VOLT project file (.vtp). The project file contains all the working data for your source, including glyph data, the script, language and feature tree, all lookups and glyph groups, as well as preference settings. After you have exported the project file, you can close VOLT. Keep the TrueType source file safe, as it is still your VOLT work file.
- 7 From FontLab, generate a CFF OpenType .otf font. Open this font in VOLT. Note that you will not be able to see any glyphs rendered within VOLT if you open the Glyph Editor or another window other than the main VOLT window. Don’t worry about this. From the {Import} menu, select ‘Import Project’. In the dialogue, select the project file .vtp you exported from the TrueType work file.
- 8 Select ‘Ship Font’ from the {File} menu. Be careful to ship the font under a different name from the VOLT source; if you do not, you will overwrite all your work data.