
Subject: Re: Object Graphics Printing
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Tue, 29 Oct 2002 15:32:59 GMT
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On Mon, 28 Oct 2002 20:22:47 -0700, David Fanning wrote:

```
> Ben Tupper (btupper@bigelow.org) writes:
>
>> ;+
>> ; NAME:
>> ; FITASPECT
>
> And then,
>
>> FUNCTION Fit_Aspect, view, dest, $
>>   margin = margin, Location = Location, $ Units = Units
```

> Apparently the distinction hinged on whether it is better to use capital
> letters in a natural and eye- pleasing way, or to sprinkle underscores
> all over God's creation. We'll let Ben have it both ways, since we don't
> want to confuse him. But what say the rest of you?

Interestingly, almost all contemporary coding style suggestions for modern languages I could find specify visually segregating function calls from variables by using MixedCasePascalStyle for one and lower_case_underscore for the other. I've rarely seen an advocate of both styles throughout. That said, I think the overuse of capitalization is a grievance not to be taken lightly, one which most net users have learned, often by harsh rebuke, is TANTAMOUNT TO SHOUTING. Purveyors of this false truth can usually be excused as having been damaged early on by over-exposure to FORTRAN (ditto for GOTO). None of the coding style guidelines I've found recommend significant use of ALL-CAPS.

I weigh in on the side of the quieter, less visually obstreperous use of lower case variables and identifiers, saving upper case for spare and special purposes like certain comparisons (AND, OR, EQ, NOT) and keywords (device,/COLOR), which might otherwise get lost in the line noise. I like MixedCase (but not uppercase) Methods, and lower-case for most functions (except those associated with methods, or OO-like bundles of code). And I use syntax coloring, which both IDLDE and IDLWAVE do with aplomb, to provide additional visual differentiation.

Just the opinion of one,

JD

P.S. A comparison of the styles remains at:

