# Text Formatter - Manual

Text Formatter is a software program for formatting chord/lyrics text files to suit smaller displays, e.g. displays at keyboards.

The background for creating this software program was that some of these chord/lyrics text files were formatted in text processors (e.g. MS Word) using proportional font.

This formatting will result in alignment problems between chord symbols and the corresponding text when the files were save in pure text format as shown at the following illustrations.

A chord/lyrics text file using a proportional font. Created and shown in MS Word.

If this file is saved in pure text format (.txt) and opened in Note Pad – or copied and pasted into Note Pad it will look like this:

As you may notice the alignment of chords and lyrics is vanished. And it will be a very tedious work to align these again – and to break the lines into shorter lines for a small display.

Using Text Formatter will reduce the time consumption converting the text files.

## Introduction

Basically Text Formatter looks like – and can be used like – any other text processor. But besides this it has some effective editing features designed especially for editing chord/lyrics text files.

In the Menu line:

- File Menu for opening and saving files
- Edit Menu for copying, cutting, pasting and selecting all text
- Font Menu for selecting font type, size and appearance
- Help Menu for getting help etc.

In the middle: The text area.

In the bottom:

| Settings | Formatting | Text Processing | Chord/Text Mover | Misc. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Text files have a header and a number of chord/text/ (blank line) text groups. The settings will be explained in the examples below. | Maximum text line length is defined – and optionally interleaved blank lines. | Clear: Clears text area.<br>Reload: Reloads the file (not when pasted).<br>Undo: One step back.<br>Format Head: Formats the head section.<br>Format Selection: Formats selected text.<br>Format All: Formats the entire text. | Ln Up: Cursor one line up<br>Ln Dn: Cursor one line down<br>Next Chord/Text: Selects next chord or text block<br>< 1: Moves block one step backwards<br>< Back: Moves block backwards and aligns the block<br>Fwd >: Moves block forwards and aligns the block<br>1 >: Moves block one step forwards<br>Start from Top: Restarts the selection<br>Start Line over: Start from the left side | Shows cursor posi-tion<br><br>Exits the pro-gram |

## Example 1:

## About the settings

In this file the "Chord/Text start at Line" is **5** as the group of text/chord lines start at line 5.
"Number of tied Lines" is **3** as each group have 3 lines: Chord – Lyrics – Blank line
"Chord line is no." is **1** as the chord line is the first line of the tied lines in the group.
"Text line is no." is **2** as the text line is the second line of the tied lines in the group.

The function of the program **relies on this format of text**.
In Example 2 we will show how to handle the situation if the format is not the same throughout the file.

Notice that you might not see all text in very long lines as word wrapping is disabled. The text area can be as wide as the computer screen by drawing the right border of the program window – or by maximizing the program.

## Adjusting chord alignment

Click the "Next Chord/Text" button which will move the cursor to the first chord.

If required, move Chord to next syllable by clicking the “Fwd >” button - or in small steps by clicking the “1 >” button.

Now click the “Next Chord/Text” button again to select the next chord.

This C chord has to be aligned with the first “choo”. Now click the “< Back” button repeatedly.

While the selected chord is at a position outside the length of the corresponding line below, this will move the chord one position for each click.
While the selected chord is at a position smaller than the length of the corresponding line below, this will move the chord to the beginning of the next word/syllable to the left for each click.

If you move the chord too much to the left; click the “Undo” button. Ore use one of the right moving buttons.

Now it should look like this:

Now click the “Next Chord/Text” button again to select the next chord.

This G chord has to be aligned with the second “choo”.

Now click the “< Back” button repeatedly until this is done.

Now click the “Next Chord/Text” button again to select the next chord.

Notice that the cursor automatically jumps 3 lines down (= “Number of tied Lines”) and highlights the first chord in this line.

Continue with the remaining chords.

The “< 1” button moves the chords one step backwards.

## Formatting the file

When the chords all have been moved the file should look like this (only the first 4 lines shown):

As the format is stable (chord – text – blank) – (chord – text – blank) from line 5 throughout the file the “Format All” method can be used to format the file.

First check that the “Maximum line Length” and “Keep/Add blank Lines” settings are correct.

Now click the “Format All” button.

Maximum line Length = 38
Keep/Add blank Lines = unchecked

Maximum line Length = 45
Keep/Add blank Lines = checked

Now do any additional manual editing.

Now save the file! (Menu File -> Save File)

## Example 2:

In this file notice that there are some interleaved lines:

- Line 5: Intro Verse
- Line 15: Melody
- Line 28: Interlude Verse

This means that the format is **NOT** stable throughout the file.
The (chord – text – blank) – (chord – text – blank) sequence is broken in line 15 and 28.

## About the settings

We treat line 5 as a part of the Header.
Therefore the “Chord/Text start at Line” is **6**
“Number of tied Lines” is **3** as each group have 3 lines: Chord – Lyrics – Blank line
“Chord line is no.” is **1** as the chord line is the first line in the group.
“Text line is no.” is **2** as the text line is the second line in the group.

## Adjusting chord alignment

Basically the same method as described in Example 1.

Click the “Next Chord/Text” button to move the cursor to the chords.

Use the “< 1” button, the “< Back” button, the “Fwd >” button, and the “1 >” button until the chords are aligned correctly.

When line 15 is reached the screen will look like this:

Now click the “Line Dn” button to move the cursor one line downwards.

Continue following the same procedure until line 28 is reached.
Then click the “Line Dn” button to move the cursor to line 29.

The “Line Up” button can be used to move the cursor upwards.

When moving chords, **do not move the cursor manually** as this will disturb the internal line counting method. Always use the “Line Up” and “Line Dn” buttons.

## Formatting the file

As the format is **NOT** stable throughout the file the “Format All” button can not be used to format the file.

First click “Format Header” – and the header will be formatted like this:

Now select from the line below “Intro Verse” to – and including – the line above “Melody” as shown in this image:

Click the “Format Selection” button; and the text will turn into this:

Continue with the same procedure in the remaining sections.

Now do any additional manual editing.

Now save the file! (Menu File -> Save File)

## Tips and Tricks

It is a good idea to shorten the text lines - if necessary - before moving the chords; otherwise this has to be done twice!

When moving chords remember the two buttons:

- Start from Top: Restarts the selection
- Start Line over: Start from the left side

Notice that when reaching the last chord clicking the “Next Chord/Text” button will move the cursor to the first chord.