



SignWriter 4.4

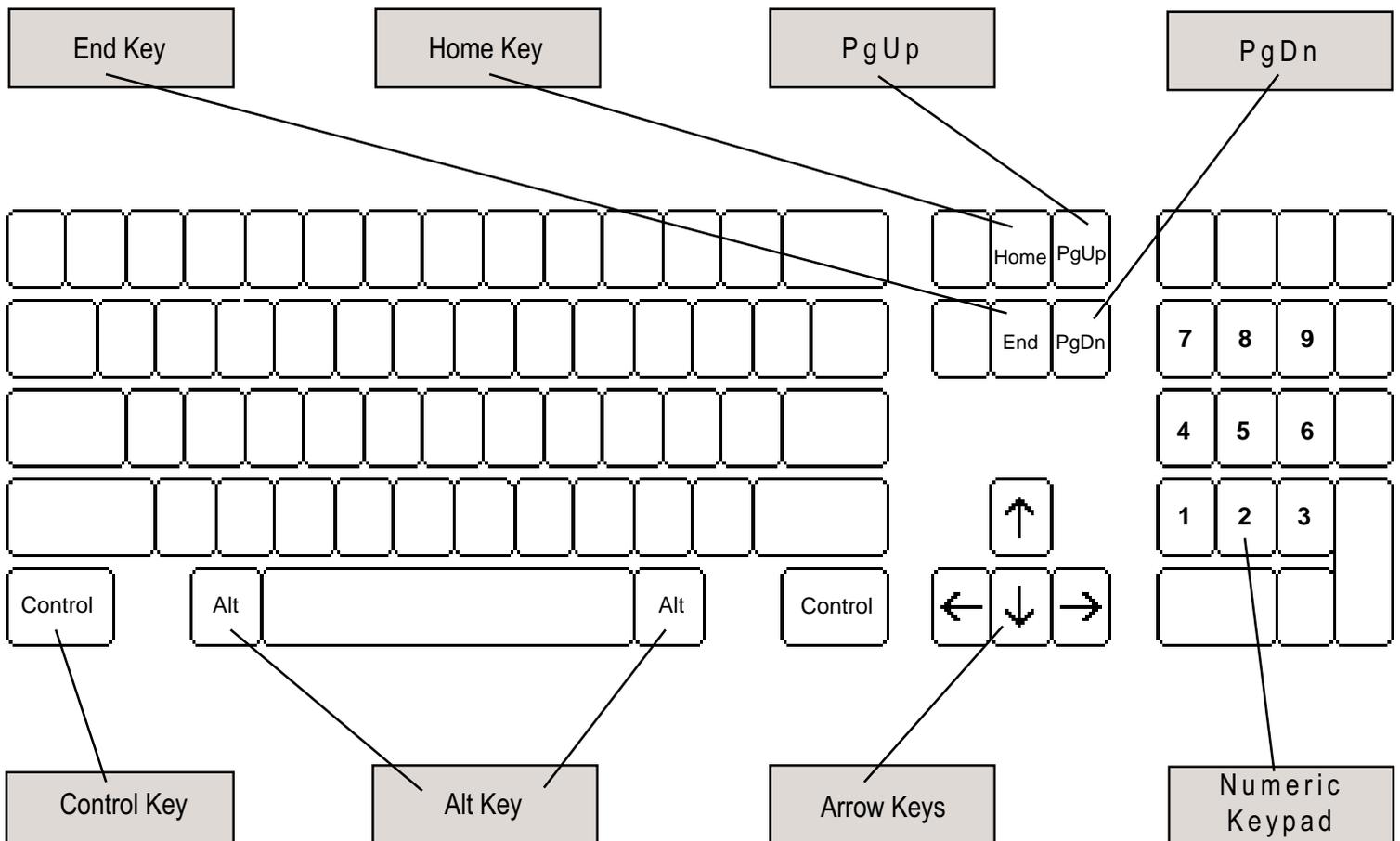
Basic Tasks

Your Keyboard

You should become familiar with your keyboard. SignWriter uses ten commonly-used keys:

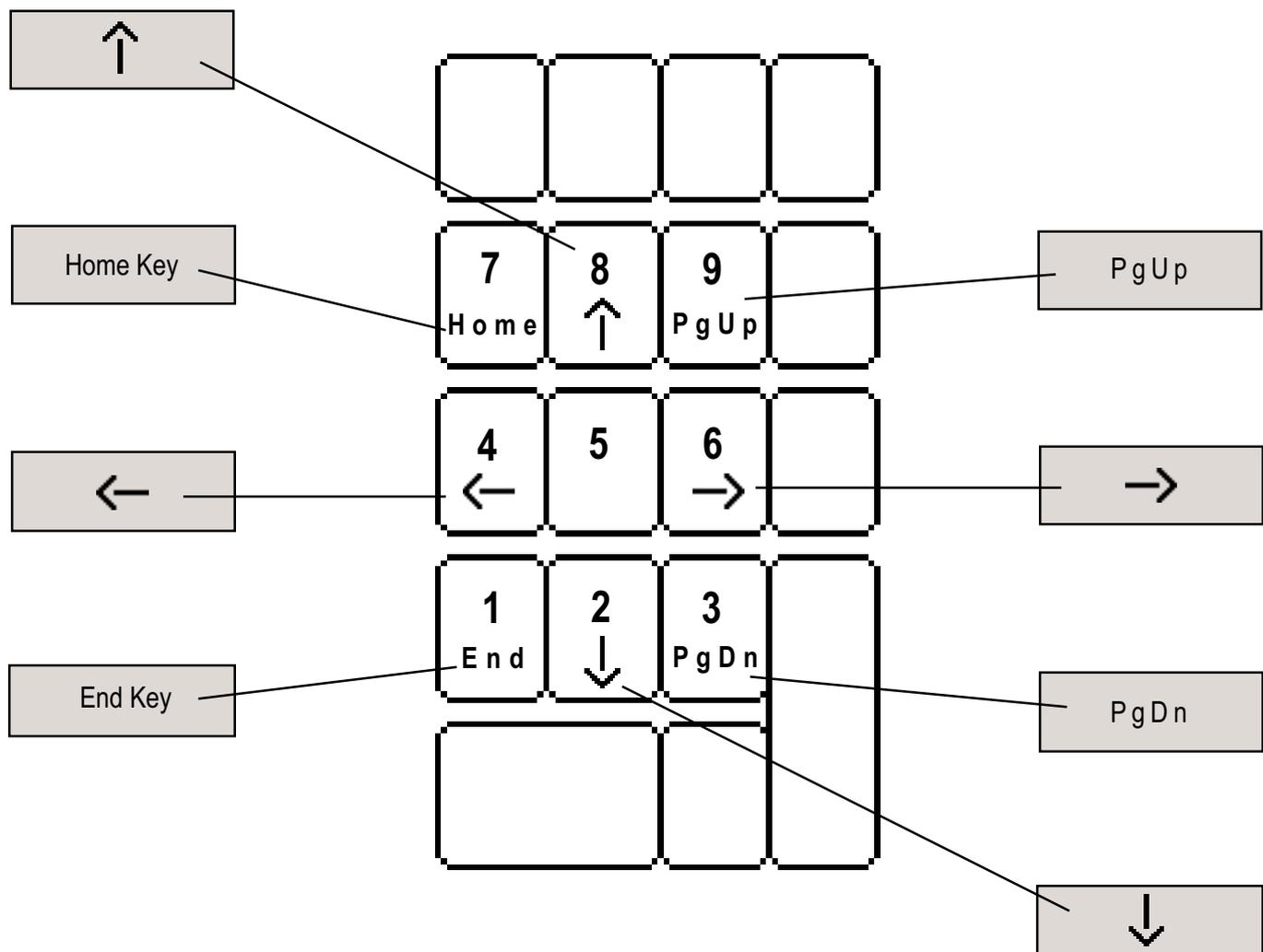
Alt Key
Home Key
End Key
Page Up (PgUp)
Page Down (PgDn)

Control Key
Up Arrow Key
Down Arrow key
Side-Right Arrow Key
Side-Left Arrow Key



The Numeric Keypad

Does your keyboard have a Numeric Keypad? It is the special group of keys designed to act like a calculator, usually on the keyboard's right side. Not all keyboards have a Numeric Keypad...but...if you do...then you can use the Numeric Keypad to access eight of the commonly-used keys:



Attention Laptop Users

If you are using a laptop computer (for example, the Macintosh PowerBook) which does not have a Numeric Keypad, you can possibly turn the number keys on the top row of your keyboard into a Numeric Keypad by changing to Keypad Mode. Instructions on how to change to Keypad Mode are located in the manuals that came with your computer.

The Macintosh Keyboard & The Numeric Keypad

In the year 2001, modern Macintosh keyboards are able to access all the keys necessary to run SignWriter.

On older Macintoshes, it may be necessary to have a Numeric Keypad on your keyboard. Why? Because to run SignWriter on your Macintosh, you are using another piece of software, SoftPC or VirtualPC, and in the past, those programs did not always give older Macintoshes access to certain keys. The Numeric Keypad, on the other hand, works on all Macintoshes, old or new.

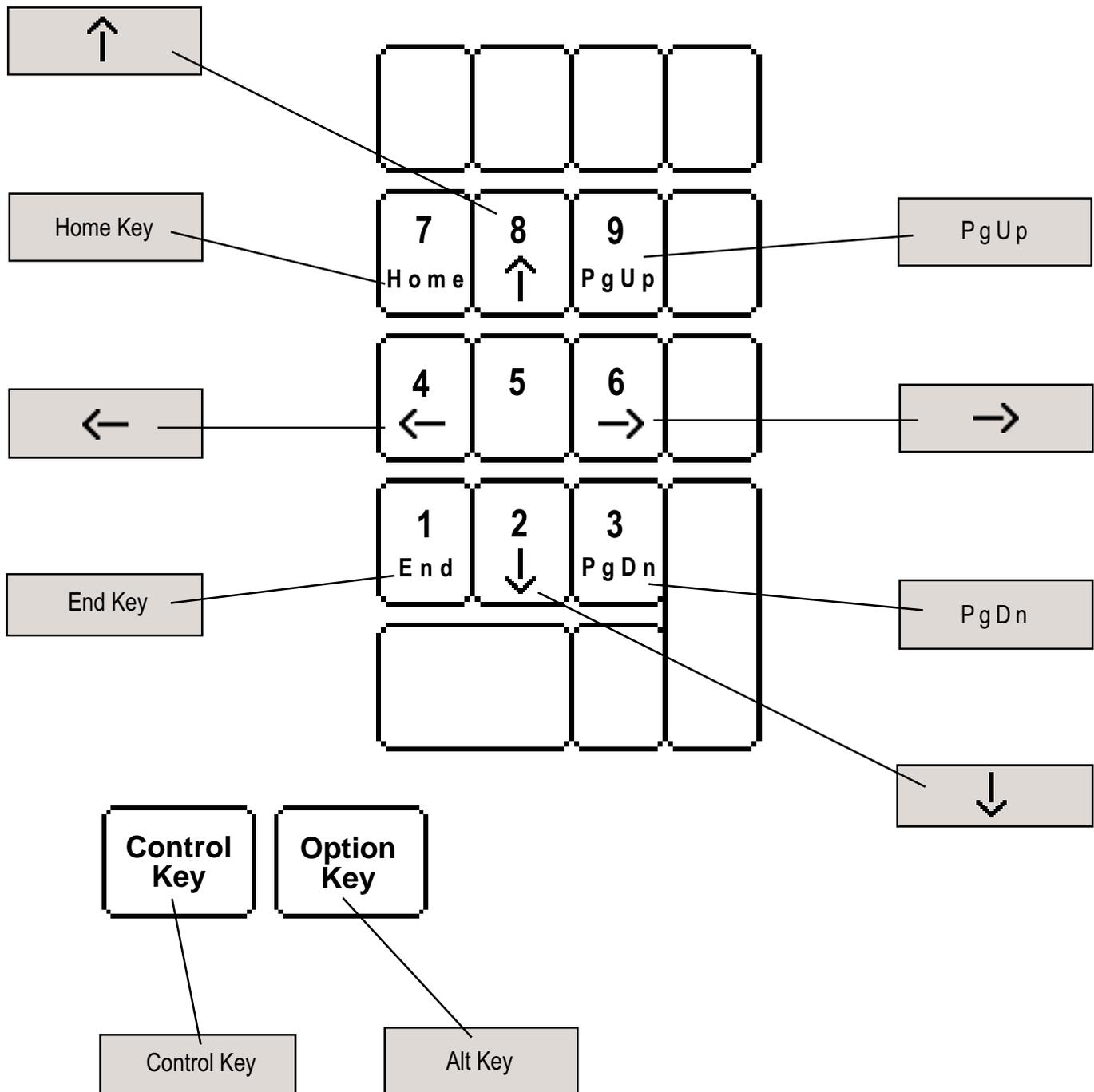
For example, if you are using the Macintosh Extended Keyboard, it has the keys for Home, End, PgUp, PgDn, and the four arrow keys, as well as the Numeric Keypad. Even though all those keys work with SignWriter, there may be times when the Numeric Keypad works the best anyway. Why? Because sometimes there can be software conflicts between computer formats and other software that you might be using simultaneously. The Numeric Keypad is the most problem-free solution in that case.

If you are using a laptop, such as the Powerbook, there is no problem, because the numbers on the top row of your keyboard can turn into a Numeric Keypad by changing to Keypad Mode. Refer to your manuals that came with your computer to learn how to change to Keypad Mode.

The Macintosh Keyboard & The Numeric Keypad

The **Option Key** on the Macintosh keyboard becomes the **Alt Key**.

The Numeric Keypad can be used for all Arrow keys, Home, End, PgUp and PgDn:





SignWriter 4.4

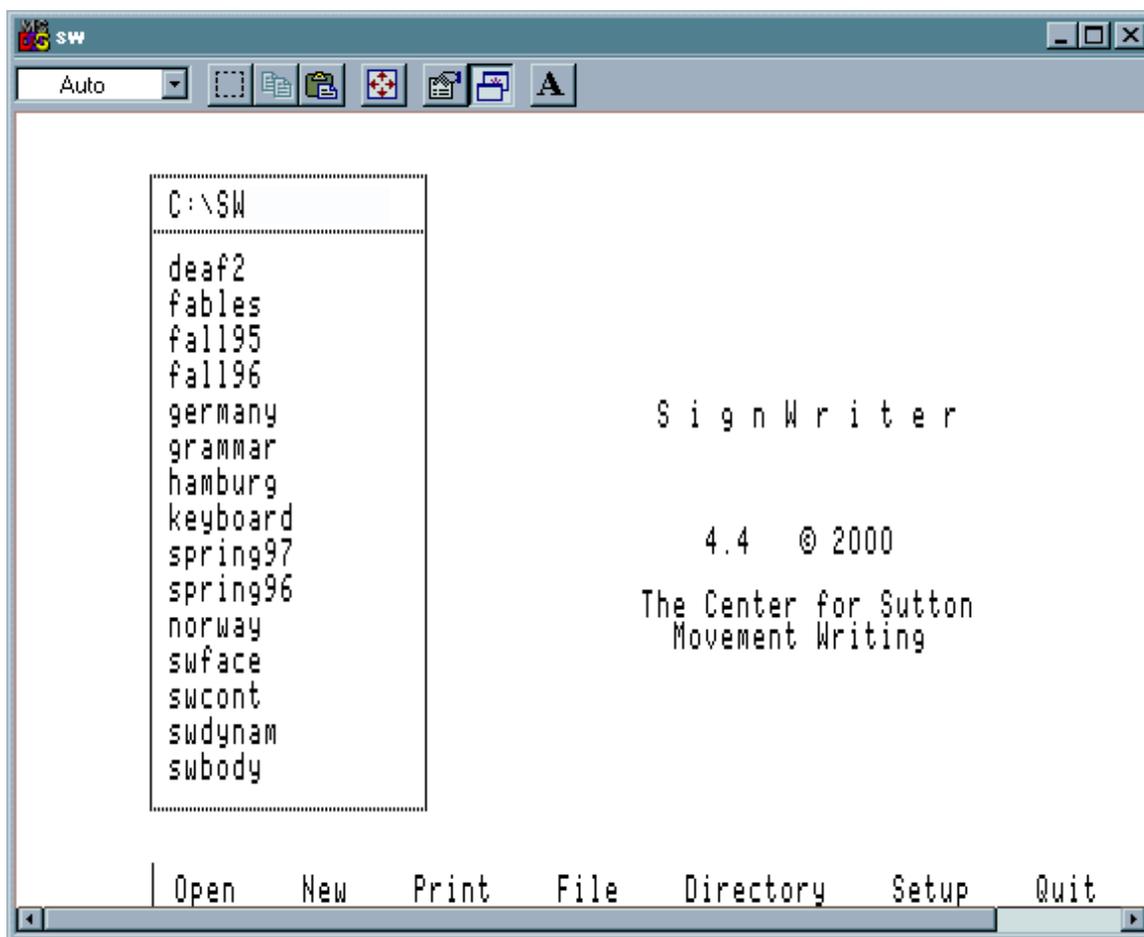
To Start....

Before you begin...

These lessons assume that SignWriter is already installed on your hard disk. If you have not done this, refer to Manual One: Getting Started. It is also assumed that you have exited Windows, and are working in MS-DOS. Be sure you are in the **SW** directory in MS-DOS. Need to know more about MS-DOS? There are several ways to learn: Ask someone who knows. Read the Help Menu in Windows. Refer to the Getting Started Manual, or email us at: DAC@SignWriting.org.

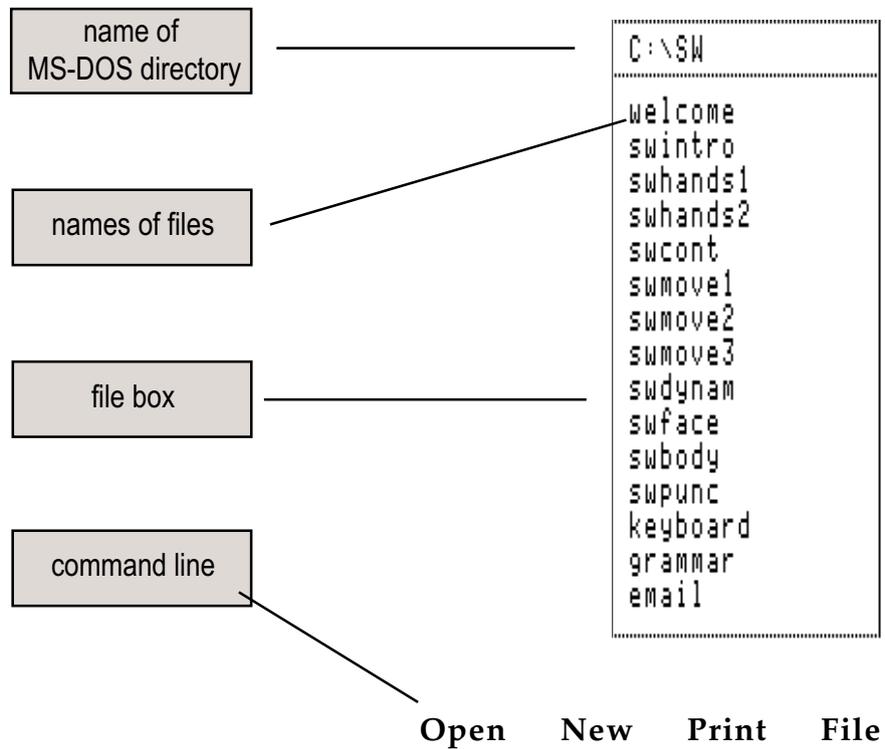
Starting SignWriter

1. Type **sw** and then **Return** (or Enter on some machines). This will start SignWriter.
2. When the program is open, this will appear on your screen:

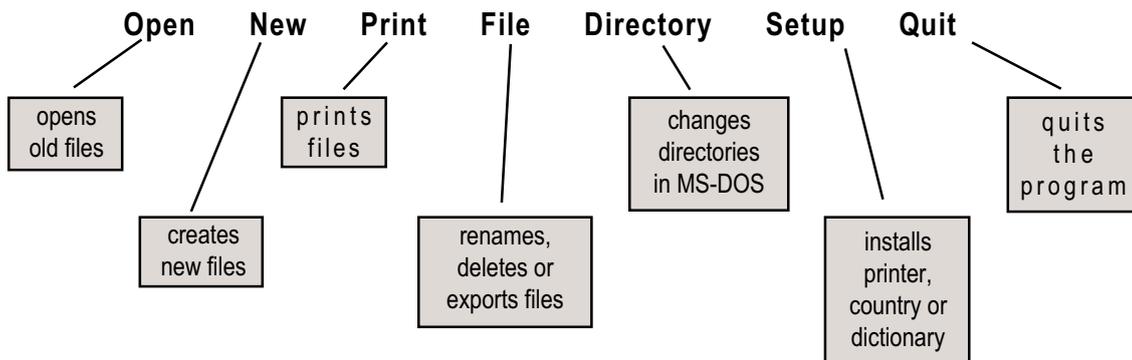


3. Notice the long rectangular box on the screen. This is called the **file box**. The file box lists all of the files you have in SignWriter. As you can see, you have lots of files listed.

4. Notice the line of words at the bottom of the screen. This is called the **command line**:



5. The commands are used for the following:





SignWriter 4.4

Opening a File

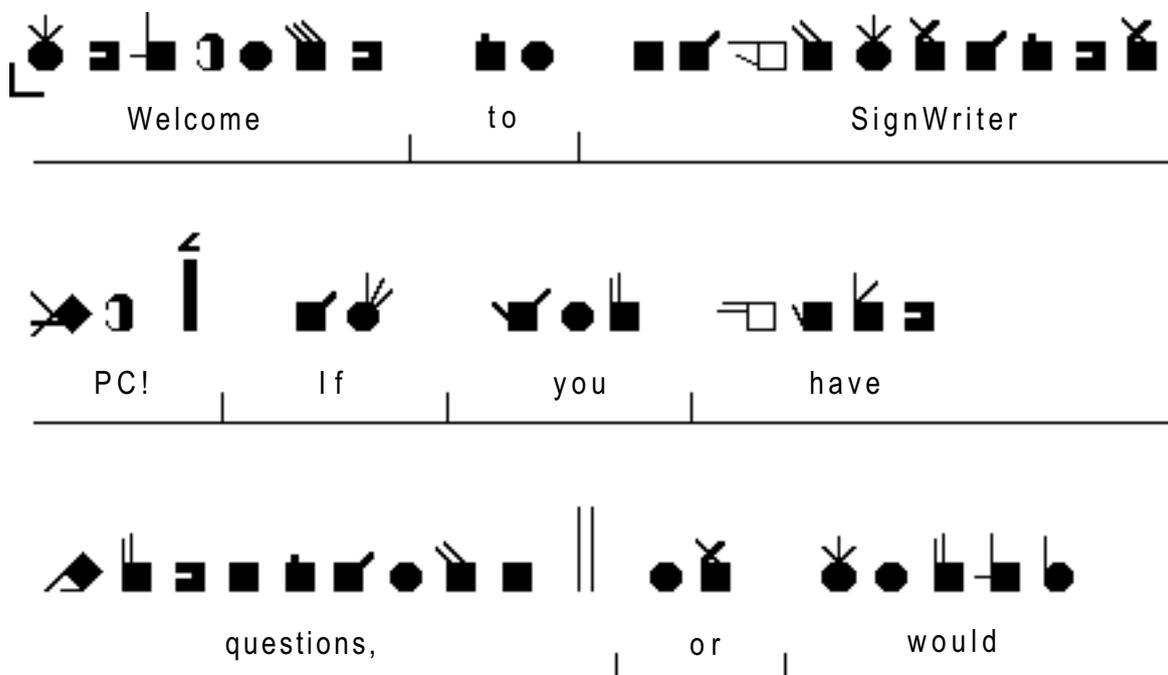
1. Look at your keyboard and find the **Alt** key.
2. To use a command, hold one finger on the **Alt** key, and at the same time press the **first letter** of the command you wish to use. For example, to use the **Open** command, type **Alt-o**:



3. This appears on your screen: **Open what file?**

4. Type the name of the file you wish to open. In this case, type **welcome**. Press **Return**. The file named **welcome** now opens. You see three lines of fingerspelling on the screen:

blinking
cursor





SignWriter 4.4

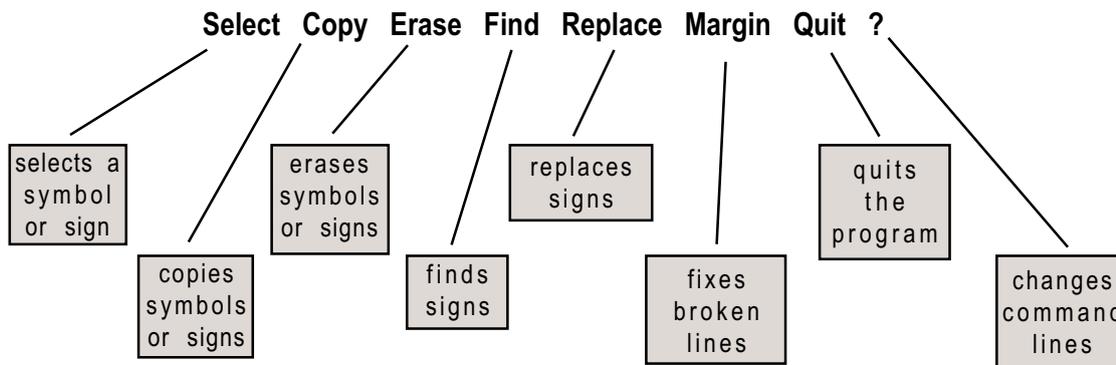
Basic Commands

1. Look at the bottom of your screen. Notice the line of words at the bottom of the screen. This is a new **command line**:

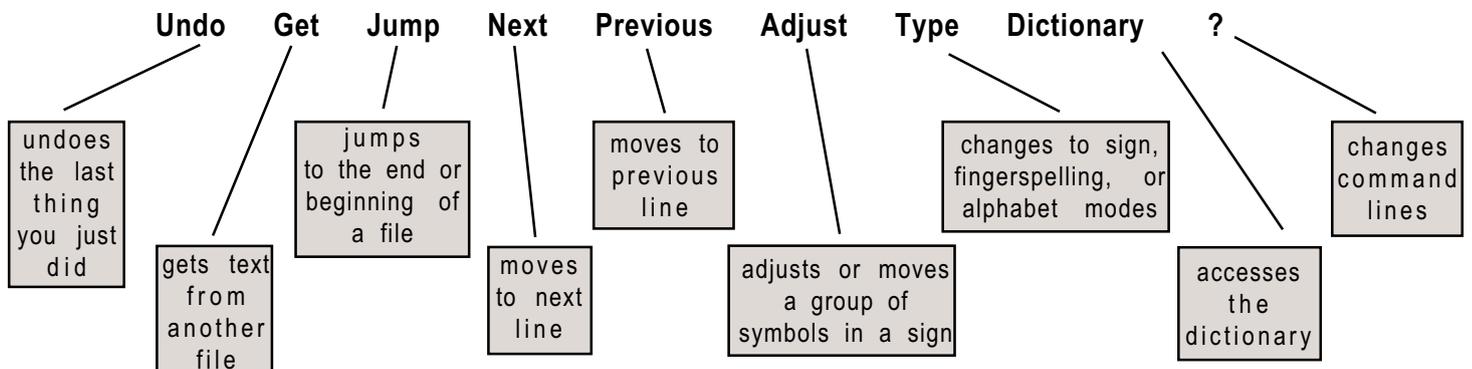
command line

Select Copy Erase Find Replace Margin Quit ?

2. These new commands are used for the following:



3. Type **Alt-?**. This changes the command line to a **second** row of commands. The commands in the second row are used for the following:





SignWriter 4.4

Browsing a File

1. The last lesson finished looking at this command line at the bottom of your screen:

Undo Get Jump Next Previous Adjust Type Dictionary ?

2. Notice the **Next** and **Previous** commands. They can be used to browse through a file.

3. To use a command, hold one finger on the **Alt** key, and at the same time press the **first letter** of the command you wish to use. For example, to use the **Next** command, type **Alt-n**. To use the Previous command, type **Alt-p**:



Next Command



Previous Command

4. The **Next** command moves you forward one line at a time. The **Previous** command moves you back one line at a time. Try this for practice.

5. A faster way to browse through a file is to use the **PgDn** and **PgUp** keys. Find them on your keyboard. PgDn stands for **Page Down**. PgUp stands for **Page Up**:



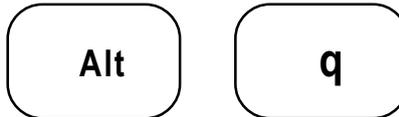
6. The **PgDn** key moves you forward three lines (one whole screen) each time you press the key. The **PgUp** key moves you back three lines. If you hold your finger down, it will scroll very quickly.



SignWriter 4.4

Closing a File

1. To close a file, you must quit the file. To do this, use the **Quit** command. Type **Alt-q** for Quit:



2. This appears on your screen:

Quit | Save Write Backup Exit

3. Since we only browsed through the file, making no changes, we have nothing to save. Type **e** for Exit. This appears on your screen:

Exit without saving changes? (Y/N)

4. If you type **y** for yes, then you will leave the file without saving anything. The file will remain the same as before you opened it. If you type **n** for no, SignWriter will put you back into the file.

5. Since we know we want to leave, type **y**. You are now back at the file box:

```
C:\SW
welcome
swintro
swhands1
swhands2
swcont
swmove1
swmove2
swmove3
swdynam
swface
swbody
swpunc
keyboard
grammar
email
```

Open New Print File Directory Setup Quit



SignWriter 4.4

Printing a File

Before you print...

SignWriter needs to be setup to work with your printer. If you have not done this yet, refer to **Setting Up SignWriter**, in **Getting Started**, the first instruction document.

Printing A File

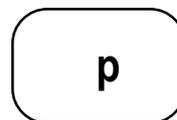
1. Your screen looks like this:

```
C:\SW
welcome
swintro
swhands1
swhands2
swcont
swmove1
swmove2
swmove3
swdynam
swface
swbody
swpunc
keyboard
grammar
email
```

Open New Print File Directory Setup Quit

2. Turn on your printer.

3. Type **Alt-p** for Print:



The program will ask: **Print what file?**

4. Type **welcome** and press **Return**. The file named **welcome** should now print.

Note: For more advanced printing techniques, including different page formats, page numbers, varying lines per page, printing dictionaries, and printing when using the Macintosh, refer to the other manuals that came with SignWriter.

Download Shareware

<http://www.SignWriting.org/forums/software/sw44/download/index.html>



SignWriter 4.4

Download Shareware

SignWriter Shareware includes the files for one country only. Shareware versions for the US, Germany and German-Switzerland can be downloaded below.

To receive the international version of SignWriter, which includes 9 spoken languages and 17 signed languages, along with complete printed documentation, please order the [The SignWriter Computer Program Package](#) from our catalog.

Although SignWriter is an MS-DOS program, it coordinates with other Windows and Macintosh programs, such as Adobe Acrobat and FileMaker. SignWriter prints best on any postscript printer.

Download

...click on a title below to download...

SW 4.4 SGN-US 1	<u>SW44US.EXE</u> <u>SW44US.ZIP</u> SignWriter 4.4 for US and English-Canada American Sign Language and Fingerspelling American-English Keyboard, Prints on US paper
SW 4.4 SGN-DE 2	<u>SW44DE.EXE</u> <u>SW44DE.ZIP</u> SignWriter 4.4 for Germany German Sign Language and Fingerspelling German Keyboard, Prints on A4 paper