



BlitzTools - Make Your Own Barcodes

It's easy - saves time and money, too!

Barcode Plugin for Adobe Indesign CS 3 / CS 4

Introduction

Welcome to the manual for the **Barcode Plugin for Adobe Indesign CS 3 / CS 4**. Please take a few minutes to read this document and make yourself familiar with the product.

All screenshots in this manual show the Mac version of the plug-in. However, appearance and handling of the Windows version are identical.

Features

The result of more than 18 years of experience in the creation and development of barcode software, the **Barcode Plugin for Adobe Indesign CS 3 / CS 4** is very easy to use and will assist you in creating standards compliant barcodes in seconds.

The plugin supports the following barcode symbologies:

- Code EAN 8 / EAN 13
- Code ISBN 10 / ISBN 13 w/ Add-On
- Code UPC-A / UPC-E
- Code 128 / 128 GS1 (formerly called 128 EAN or 128 UCC)
- Code 39 / 39 Extended.
- Code 2/5 Interleaved / 2/5 Industrial
- Codabar

- Datamatrix (2D area code)
- PDF417 (2D area code)
- QR Quick Response (2D area code, "cellphone barcode")

Further features include automatic checksum generation, support for EAN family SC sizes with height reduction, bar width reduction to compensate for dot gain, support for human readable text under the generated code with free font selection and much more.

System Requirements

Mac: Adobe Indesign CS 3 / CS 4, Mac OS X 10.4 ("Tiger") or higher.

Windows: Adobe Indesign CS 3 / CS 4, Windows XP, Vista, Windows 7.



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Installation Mac

1. Please close Adobe Indesign CS 3 / CS 4 before installing the plugin.
2. Locate the Indesign plugin folder on your computer. Usually this will be:

`/Application/Adobe/Adobe Indesign CSx/Plug-Ins`

3. Copy the plugin **BlitztoolsBarcodePlugin.IndesignPlugin** into this location (you may be prompted for your password).
4. Restart Adobe Indesign CS 3 / CS 4

Installation Windows

1. Please close Adobe Indesign CS 3 / CS 4 before installing the plugin.
2. Locate the Indesign plugin folder on your computer. Usually this will be:

`C:\Program Files\Adobe\Adobe InDesign CSx\Plug-Ins`

3. Copy the plugin **BlitztoolsBarcodePlugin.pln** into this location (you may be prompted for your password).
4. Restart Adobe Indesign CS 3 / CS 4

Folder layout of the plugin ZIP archive

English / Deutsch

CS3

Mac

Windows

CS4

Mac

Windows

Note: Use the CS3 version of the plugin for Indesogn CS3, the CS4 version of the plugin for Indesign CS4.



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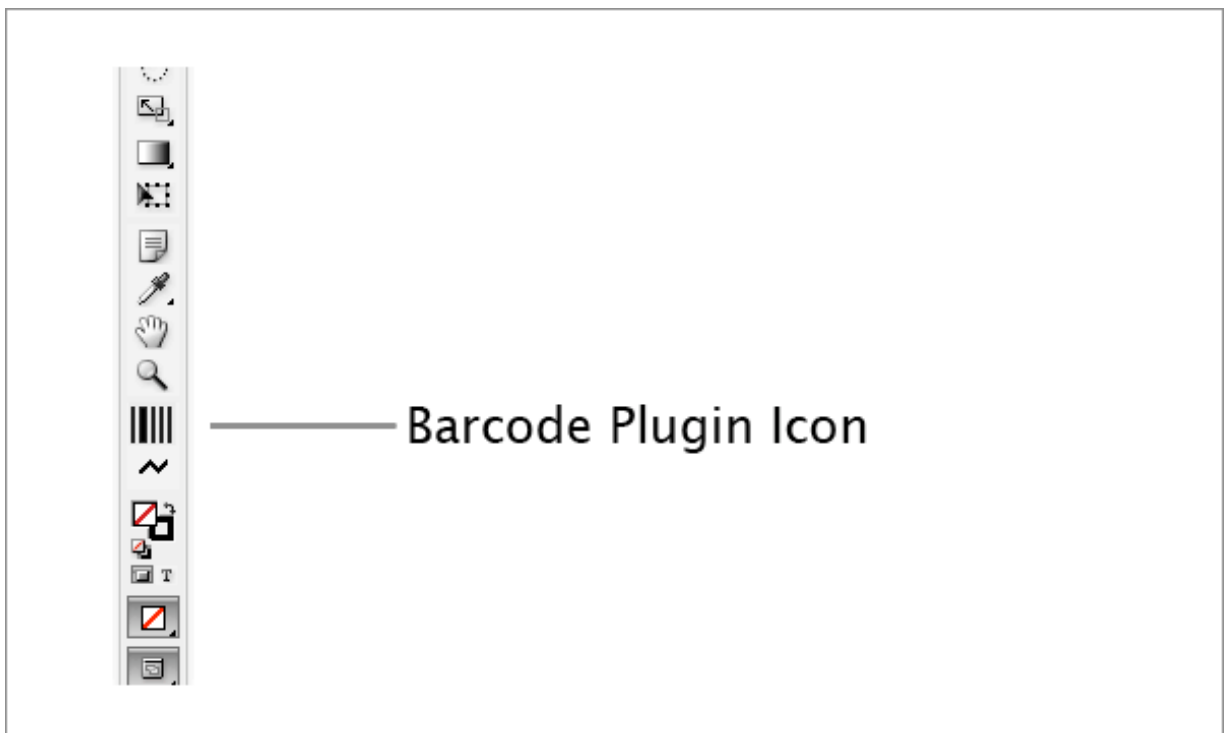
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Creating your first barcode

To see how easy it is to create a barcode with this plugin, we will now create an ISBN 13 barcode.

First, create a new empty document (**Mac:** Cmd-N - **Windows:** Ctrl-N).

Then, locate the Barcode Plugin icon in your toolbar:



Select the tool by clicking on it. (If you hover your mouse above the tool, you'll see a little tooltip with the name of the plugin.)

Click-drag an empty frame on the current layer somewhere to bring up the barcode settings dialog (the exact size and position of the frame do not matter.)

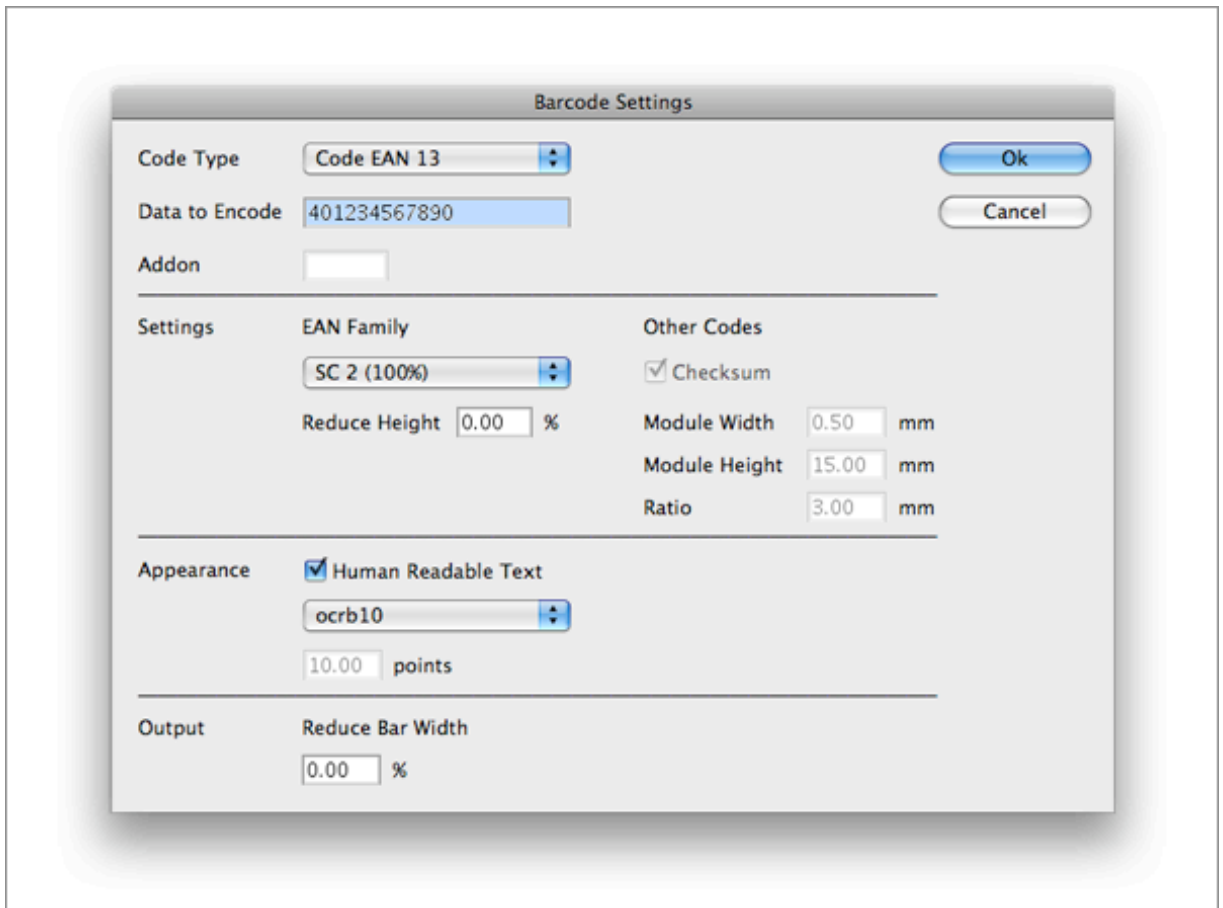


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The Barcode Settings Dialog



Always start with choosing the desired barcode type (ISBN 13) followed by entering the data to encode. For ISBN 13 the plugin will expect a string that starts with “978”, followed by 10 more digits. For this example we’ll choose “978-1-12345-123-8”.

EAN family barcodes (like ISBN) work best if you use an OCR B font for the human readable text. If you don’t have one installed on your system, you can choose *Helvetica* or some font like this.

Tip: For the screenshots we used the free OCR B font here:

<http://ansuz.sooke.bc.ca/software/ocrb.php>

Enter “12345” for the addon code, leave all other settings on the factory defaults.

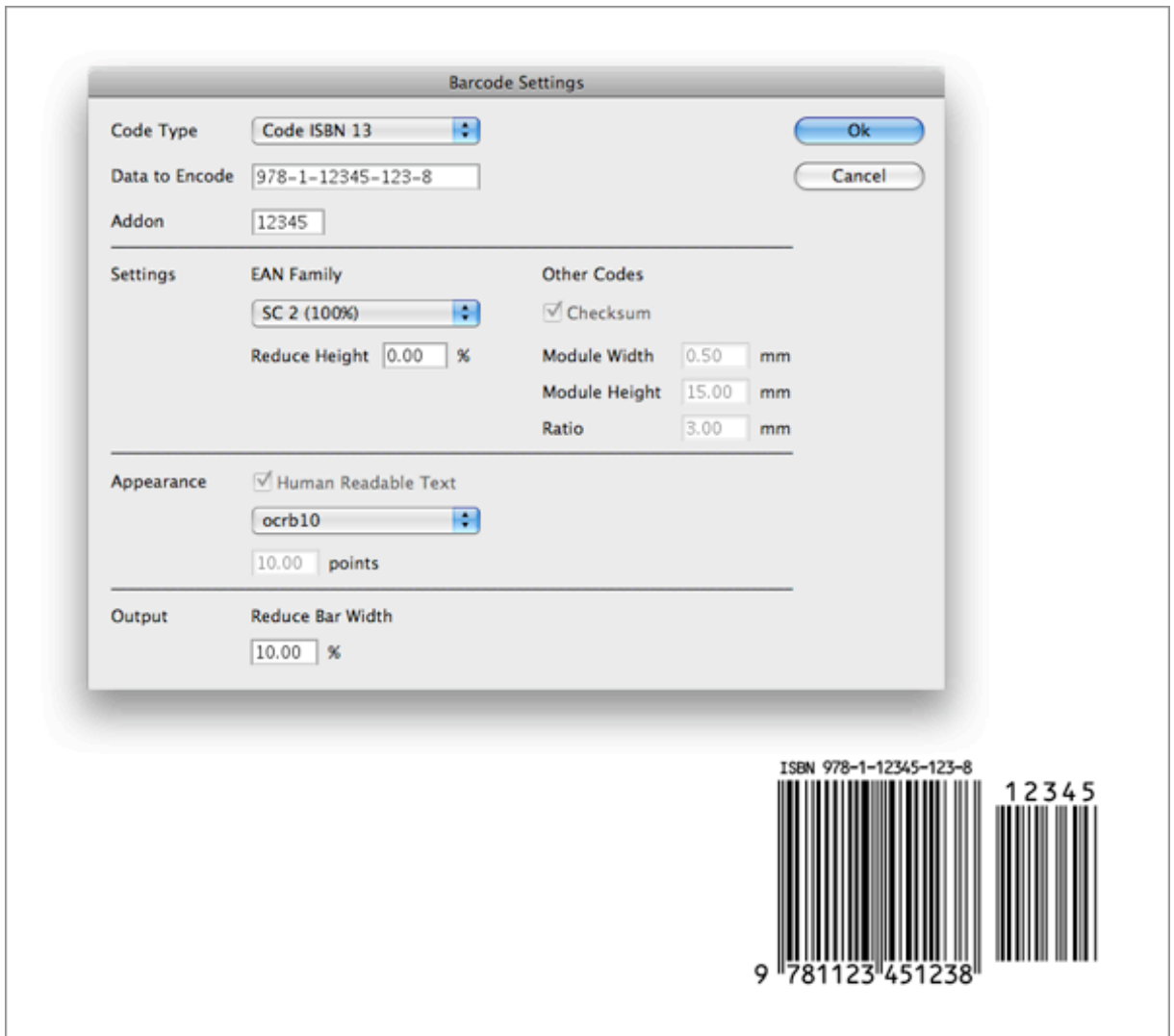
The dialog box should now look like this:



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Click “Ok” to have the barcode created.

For this test we also set the bar width reduction to 10%, which reduces the width of every bar by 10%. This will compensate so called “dot gain” which causes ink or toner to soak into the paper, resulting in larger than desired bars.

The created code is a group of ordinary Indesign artwork (rectangles and text) which can be edited, moved around, exported etc.

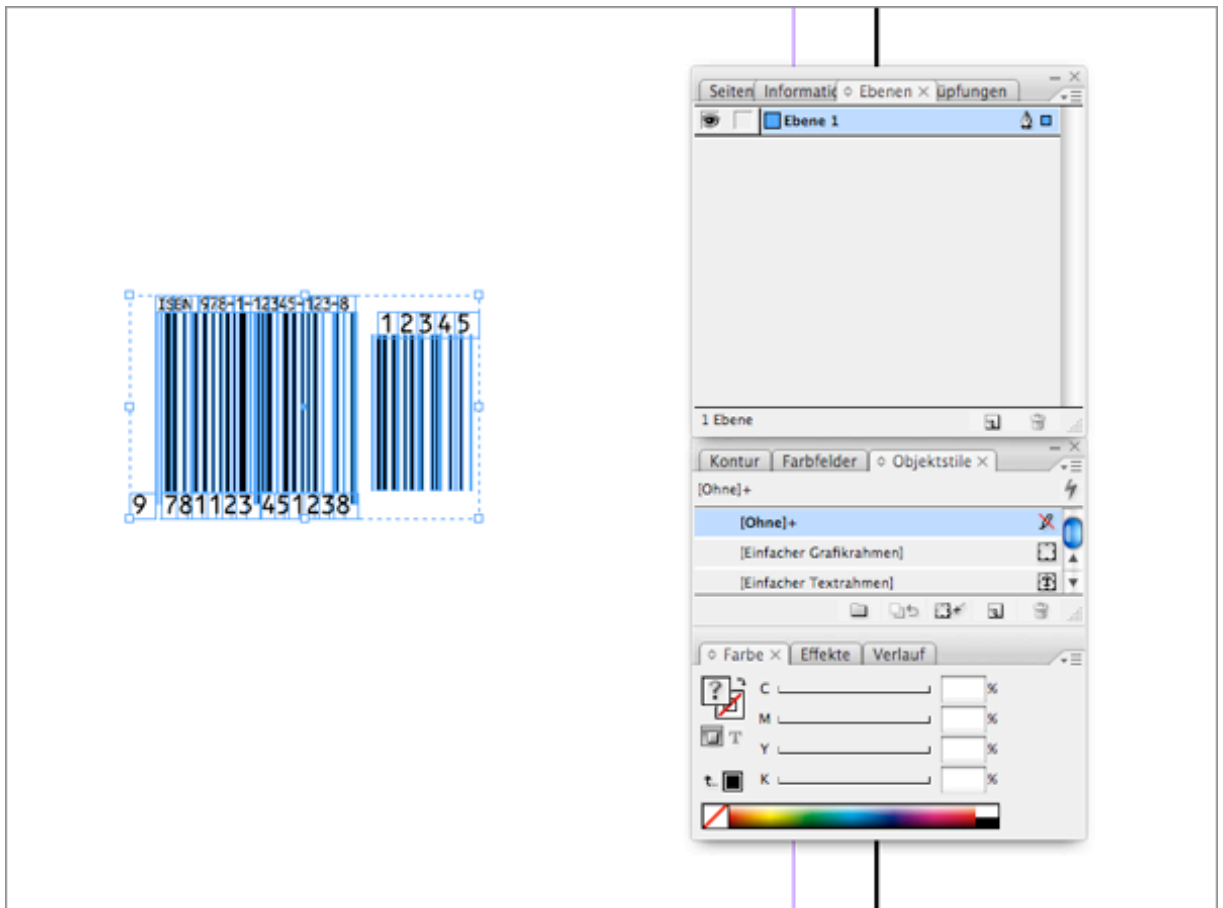
Click the “Selection” tool from the toolbar and select the code. Have a look in the properties palette:



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Since the created code is regular Indesign artwork, selecting it and invoking the barcode settings dialog will *not* modify the code (which is just a collection of lines and text from the plugin's perspective). Instead you would create a new code.

A note of caution: It might be tempting to adjust the code if it's too large or too small. We strongly advise against this. Only via the barcode settings dialog will the created code comply to the respective standard. If in doubt, simply delete a code and have the plugin create a new one.

It's good practice to lock the created code to prevent you from accidentally modifying the barcode.



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More about the Barcode Settings Dialog

Depending on the selected code type, some properties of the dialog may be disabled, either because the settings doesn't make sense for the respective code (e.g. setting a "Ratio" for Code 128) or because the property is determined from other code parameters (e.g. the size of the human readable text with EAN is solely determined from the actual code size).

Intentionally, the software is very strict with regard to EAN family codes (includes UPC / ISBN) to prevent you from creating invalid codes.

In particular the following restrictions apply:

EAN Family (EAN 8 / EAN 13 / UPC-A / UPC-E)

Disables the following properties: Checksum calculation, module width, module height, human readable font size.

ISBN Code (ISBN 10 / ISBN 13)

Disables the following properties: Like EAN family plus human readable text. The appearance of ISBN codes is strictly regulated so all you can set here is the required size and height reduction. While you could edit the barcode after creation, we strongly advise against it.

Code 128 / 128 GS1

Disables the following properties: EAN size and height reduction, checksum calculation, ratio. Code 128 / 128 GS1 is always used with a checksum, also since it is not a two-width barcode, setting a value for the ratio is meaningless.

Code 39, 2/5 Interleaved, 2/5 Industrial

Disables the following properties: EAN size and height reduction. See next section for recommended values for module width, height and ratio.

Codabar

Disables the following properties: EAN size and height reduction. Checksum calculation (Codabar doesn't use a check digit.)



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2D Barcodes

Disables the following properties: EAN size and height reduction, checksum calculation, module height, ratio, human readable text, font and size.

All 2D codes are always used with checksum calculation and error correction.

Datamatrix, QR Code: Individual modules are square, i.e. module height = module width.

PDF 417: Per the standard modules are created with a 3 : 1 ratio (module height : module width).

2D codes can encode up to 2000 characters, Human readable text is usually not desired or sensible with these symbologies.

The resulting barcode symbols are square with Datamatrix and QR Code, rectilinear (width : height ~ 2 : 1) with PDF 417.



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Recommended Settings

This section lists the recommended values for the properties in the barcode settings dialog.

Data to Encode

EAN 8: Enter 7 or 8 digits, the plugin will always create a checksum, discarding the 8th digit if necessary.

EAN 13: Enter 12 or 13 digits, the plugin will always create a checksum, discarding the 13th digit if necessary.

UPC-A: Enter 11 or 12 digits, the plugin will always create a checksum, discarding the 12th digit if necessary.

UPC-E: Enter 7 or 8 digits, the plugin will always create a checksum, discarding the 8th digit if necessary. The number must start with a "0" or "1".

ISBN-10: Enter 10 digits, e.g. 1-12345-123-X. The software will prepend 978 and calculate the proper checksum.

ISBN-13: Enter 13 digits, e.g. 978-1-12345-123-8. The software will in any case recalculate the proper checksum.

Code 128: Enter up to 40 characters, the full ASCII set is permitted. Encode non-printable characters (e.g. a TAB) by a tilde, followed by the three-digit ASCII code, e.g. "~009".

Code 128 GS1: Enter up to 40 characters, the full ASCII set is permitted. Encode non-printable characters (e.g. a TAB) by a tilde, followed by the three-digit ASCII code, e.g. "~009". Indicate field identifiers by parentheses, e.g. "(00)1234(10)123". The software knows all fixed and variable length identifiers and will append an FNC1 to variable fields as required.

Code 39: Enter up to 40 characters, the full ASCII set is permitted. Encode non-printable characters (e.g. a TAB) by a tilde, followed by the three-digit ASCII code, e.g. "~009".

Code 2/5: Enter up to 40 digits 0-9.



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Data to Encode *cont.*

Codabar: Enter up to 40 characters, digits 0-9, special characters “-”, “\$”, “:”, “/”, “.”, “+”. Use “A”, “B”, “C”, or “D” as start stop characters, e.g. “A12345D”.

2D Barcodes: Enter up to 2,000 characters (numbers and letters). Encode non-printable characters (e.g. a TAB) by a tilde, followed by the three-digit ASCII code, e.g. “~009”.

All supported 2D code symbolgies will also encode binary data and accented characters, like german “Umlauts”. **Please make sure that your scanner will indeed scan and transmit such data; in most cases this will require a serial (RS 232C) connection.**

Tip: Please see the FAQ section of our website for more info on 2D barcodes. There you'll also find sample barcodes with binary content so that you can test your setup and equipment.

Addon

ISBN 10/13: Enter 5 digits

Settings

EAN Family: Select the required size (SC 2 corresponds to 100%) and height reduction (between 0% and 80%).

Other Codes: Specify the required module width (the width of the smallest bar), between 0.1 mm and 2.0 mm.

Specify the required module height (the height of the code not counting the human readable text), between 5.0 mm and 50.0 mm.

Specify the required ratio, i.e. the ratio of the width of a wide element to the width of the narrow element, between 2.0 and 3.0. (Applies to 2-width codes only: Code 2/5, Code 39, Codabar. A ratio of 2.0 results in a “high density” code, a ratio of 3.0 in a “normal density” code. If you are unsure what to use, stick with 3.0)



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Appearance

Specify if you only want the bars of a code but no text (not available for ISBN codes).

Specify the desired font. For EAN family codes an OCR B font works best. You can purchase such a font from most font foundries, e.g. Linotype, Bitstream etc. You can also use this freeware font:

<http://ansuz.sooke.bc.ca/software/ocrb.php>

Specify the desired text size, between 1 and 144 points. For EAN family codes the text size is determined from the overall code size and calculated automatically by the plugin.

The font is preset to *Helvetica* on Macs, to *Arial* on Windows computers.

Output

Depending on the print technology used you may want to specify a bar width reduction to compensate for dot gain, between 0 and 50%. If in doubt what to use here, consult your print shop. For office laser or ink jet printers, between 0% and 10% will be ok.



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Support

Please refer to our website

<http://www.BlitzTools.com>

for contact info and support options.

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