

# About Meslo LG

Version 1.21

Meslo LG is a customized version of Apple's Menlo-Regular font (which is a customized Bitstream Vera Sans Mono).

In Snow Leopard, Menlo-Regular is now the preferred and default font for Apple's developer tools and also the Terminal (unless you changed the font settings for these apps yourself before upgrading to SL – your changes will stay in place).

I really like Menlo, but I had my nitpicky gripes with it:

1. The default vertical (line) spacing is just way to cramped for me, and also
2. I am not particularly fond of the horizontal baseline alignment of the asterisk.

That's why I decided to customize Menlo, regarding these "issues". The tricky part is keeping all the custom tables, hints, etc. intact when you adjust the globally very affecting stuff that results in vertical spacing.

The LG in Meslo LG stands for Line Gap. The idea behind it is to allow the user to have some control over vertical spacing by choosing one of three line gap variants: small, medium and large (Meslo LG S, Meslo LG M and Meslo LG L respectively).

If you're interested you can find screenshots showing Menlo and Meslo in comparison below.

This font is a derivative work of an existing font set. I left copyright and trademark information completely untouched. If I it is allowed I'll make it public domain in the sense that you can do what you want with it. However, I can't make it open source, because I don't own any sources. I just tweaked a few settings, glyph positions and hintings here and there.

And of course it doesn't come with any warranty whatsoever. If you need to have a license find one below. Also at this point, as often required by Apple, Inc., I want to make it clear that I am not affiliated with Apple in any way and any customizations happened purely on my own thought out of personal non-profit interest.

Have Fun!

André Berg

## Comparison To Apple's Menlo

### Xcode Editor View

This code snippet is taken from Apple's "AnimatedTableView" sample code. The method is shown cut off in order to keep the example text short.

You can find the full code sample at: [AnimatedTableView](#)

*Menlo Regular 11pt (Apple)*

```
- (void)editColor:(NSColor *)color locatedAtScreenRect:(NSRect)rect {
    [self _createWindowIfNeeded];
    [self _selectColor:color];
    NSPoint origin = rect.origin;
    NSRect windowFrame = [_window frame];
    // The origin is the lower left; subtract the window's height
    origin.y -= NSHeight(windowFrame);
    // Center the popup window under the rect
    origin.y += floor(NSHeight(rect) / 3.0);
    origin.x += floor(NSWidth(windowFrame) / 2.0);

    [_window setFrameOrigin:origin];
    [_window popup];
}
```

*Meslo LG L 11pt*

```
- (void)editColor:(NSColor *)color locatedAtScreenRect:(NSRect)rect {
    [self _createWindowIfNeeded];
    [self _selectColor:color];
    NSPoint origin = rect.origin;
    NSRect windowFrame = [_window frame];
    // The origin is the lower left; subtract the window's height
    origin.y -= NSHeight(windowFrame);
    // Center the popup window under the rect
    origin.y += floor(NSHeight(rect) / 3.0);
    origin.x += floor(NSWidth(windowFrame) / 2.0);

    [_window setFrameOrigin:origin];
    [_window popup];
}
```

*Note the vertical line spacing changes and the re-positioned and re-hinted asterisk.*

You can view a comparison between all three Meslo LG variants at the end.

## Terminal

These comparisons just show a simple terminal printout. If you think the vertical spacing is a bit too much in the second screenshot, remember: Meslo LG has multiple variants for vertical line spacing. Note: If the images appear a bit blurry, that should come from printing the TextEdit text view to PDF.

*Menlo Regular 11pt (Apple)*

```
Terminal — less — 105x31
Last login: Mon Oct 19 17:03:17 on ttys010
1730:andre@mac-pro: ~ $ cd
1731:andre@mac-pro: ~ $ pwd
/Users/andre
1732:andre@mac-pro: ~ $ cd source/GitX
1733:andre@mac-pro: GitX $ cd gitx/
1734:andre@mac-pro: gitx $ lss
total 2008
drwxr-xr-x  139 andre  staff -          4726 19 Okt 15:09:19 2009 .
drwxr-xr-x   5 andre  staff -          170 19 Okt 15:19:13 2009 ..
-rw-r--r--@  1 andre  staff hidden    6148 19 Okt 15:19:25 2009 .DS_Store
drwxr-xr-x  15 andre  staff -          510 19 Okt 15:35:29 2009 .git
-rw-r--r--   1 andre  staff -           28 18 Okt 21:24:53 2009 .gitattributes
-rw-r--r--@  1 andre  staff -          148 18 Okt 21:24:53 2009 .gitignore
-rw-r--r--   1 andre  staff -           81 18 Okt 21:24:53 2009 .gitmodules
-rw-r--r--@  1 andre  staff -         1001 19 Okt 10:11:56 2009 ApplicationCont
-rw-r--r--@  1 andre  staff -        11930 19 Okt 11:37:05 2009 ApplicationCont
```

*Meslo LG M 11pt*

```
Terminal — less — 105x31
Last login: Mon Oct 19 17:03:17 on ttys010
1730:andre@mac-pro: ~ $ cd
1731:andre@mac-pro: ~ $ pwd
/Users/andre
1732:andre@mac-pro: ~ $ cd source/GitX
1733:andre@mac-pro: GitX $ cd gitx/
1734:andre@mac-pro: gitx $ lss
total 2008
drwxr-xr-x  139 andre  staff -          4726 19 Okt 15:09:19 2009 .
drwxr-xr-x   5 andre  staff -          170 19 Okt 15:19:13 2009 ..
-rw-r--r--@  1 andre  staff hidden    6148 19 Okt 15:19:25 2009 .DS_Store
drwxr-xr-x  15 andre  staff -          510 19 Okt 15:35:29 2009 .git
-rw-r--r--   1 andre  staff -           28 18 Okt 21:24:53 2009 .gitattributes
-rw-r--r--@  1 andre  staff -          148 18 Okt 21:24:53 2009 .gitignore
-rw-r--r--   1 andre  staff -           81 18 Okt 21:24:53 2009 .gitmodules
-rw-r--r--@  1 andre  staff -         1001 19 Okt 10:11:56 2009 ApplicationCont
```

## Using Meslo LG with the Windows Console

If you want to use Meslo LG fonts with the Windows console (cmd.exe) you will have to follow a specific procedure to set a registry value that allows Meslo LG to appear in the Font Settings section of a console window's Properties dialog.

Microsoft has an [article](#) about it in it's knowledge base.

I recommend that you follow the instructions outlined in that article, but here's a quick overview of what to do (in case the web page becomes unavailable in the future):

### Requirements:

You need a TrueType font which classifies itself as modern.

As required by that article I have set the MS font identification bit to FF\_MODERN for all Meslo LG variants.

### Procedure:

Using regedit.exe go to the following registry key

HKLM\Software\Microsoft\WindowsNT\CurrentVersion\Console\TrueTypeFont

Add a REG\_SZ entry with the following contents:

Name = "00"

Value = "Meslo LG M"

*the double quotes should not to be entered — they are just for clarification*

NOTE: if there is already an entry for "00" you don't need to change it. Simply use "000" instead. You can also add multiple Meslo LG variants that way, e.g.

"000" => Meslo LG M

"0000" => Meslo LG S

...

Actually, the exact font name to enter for the Value still needs to be determined. It could be **Meslo LG M**, **MesloLGM** or **MesloLGM-Regular** (in order of probability).

After you're finished making the Registry changes you need to (at least) log out and back in. Then fire up a console window and right-click in the title bar and from the context menu choose Properties.

In the dialog that opens find the font settings tab and change the raster font to Meslo LG 11pt.

NOTE: on my Windows 7 system I actually didn't need to log out, I just needed to spawn a new cmd window by closing all instances. Also the target font size is usually higher on later systems. I am using 14 pt or 16 pt now.

## History

v0.1

Initial release.

v1.0

Meslo has changed it's name to Meslo LG which now includes three variants: small, medium and large.

LG stands for Line Gap, so there's one variant for smaller vertical line spacing, more towards Apple's Menlo, a normal line gap (which equals Meslo v0.1) and a large gap, which is more than twice the space of Apple's Menlo.

In addition to Regular, there's Italic, Bold and Bold Italic font styles included for each LG variant.

Tweaked the ascender/descender/line gap relationship a bit for better layout at smaller font sizes and prominent font styles. Things like underlines should be better to perceive now for the Bold and Bold Italic font styles.

The asterisk (\*) was tweaked for all font styles. This includes making it line up with all alignment zones for similar height symbol characters and fixing Menlo's absence of a slanting angle for the italic and bold italic font styles while maintaining the same readability at all sizes.

v1.2

– reworked all OS/2 metrics to perform uniformly across platforms...

– ...which should fix issues with monospace layout and line height on Windows.  
(tests in Notepad, Eclipse and Visual Studio 2012 Express on Windows 7 x64 SP1 look promising).

v1.2.1

– improved ClearType and DirectWrite hinting on Windows 7+ systems.

– fixed a hinting issue on Windows making the 0 (zero) glyph appear taller for some PPEM sizes.

*Note: if you are on OS X and are currently happy with Meslo v1.0 there is no need to upgrade to v1.2 since this version is just fixes for Windows mostly. Also, sorry, no Arabic support yet since I haven't found a Bitstream like font that allows extracting portions of arabic code pages to be used in another font.*

## Comparison Between LG Small, Medium and Large

*Menlo Regular 11pt (Apple) - Baseline*

```
- (void)editColor:(NSColor *)color locatedAtScreenRect:(NSRect)rect {
    [self _createWindowIfNeeded];
    [self _selectColor:color];
    NSPoint origin = rect.origin;
    NSRect windowFrame = [_window frame];
    // The origin is the lower left; subtract the window's height
    origin.y -= NSHeight(windowFrame);
    // Center the popup window under the rect
    origin.y += floor(NSHeight(rect) / 3.0);
    origin.x -= floor(NSWidth(windowFrame) / 2.0);
    origin.x += floor(NSWidth(rect) / 2.0);

    [_window setFrameOrigin:origin];
    [_window popup];
}
```

*Meslo LG S 11pt*

```
- (void)editColor:(NSColor *)color locatedAtScreenRect:(NSRect)rect {
    [self _createWindowIfNeeded];
    [self _selectColor:color];
    NSPoint origin = rect.origin;
    NSRect windowFrame = [_window frame];
    // The origin is the lower left; subtract the window's height
    origin.y -= NSHeight(windowFrame);
    // Center the popup window under the rect
    origin.y += floor(NSHeight(rect) / 3.0);
    origin.x -= floor(NSWidth(windowFrame) / 2.0);
    origin.x += floor(NSWidth(rect) / 2.0);

    [_window setFrameOrigin:origin];
    [_window popup];
}
```

*Meslo LG M 11pt*

```
- (void)editColor:(NSColor *)color locatedAtScreenRect:(NSRect)rect {
    [self _createWindowIfNeeded];
    [self _selectColor:color];
    NSPoint origin = rect.origin;
    NSRect windowFrame = [_window frame];
    // The origin is the lower left; subtract the window's height
    origin.y -= NSHeight(windowFrame);
    // Center the popup window under the rect
    origin.y += floor(NSHeight(rect) / 3.0);
    origin.x -= floor(NSWidth(windowFrame) / 2.0);
    origin.x += floor(NSWidth(rect) / 2.0);

    [_window setFrameOrigin:origin];
    [_window popup];
}
```

*Meslo LG L 11pt*

```
- (void)editColor:(NSColor *)color locatedAtScreenRect:(NSRect)rect {
    [self _createWindowIfNeeded];
    [self _selectColor:color];
    NSPoint origin = rect.origin;
    NSRect windowFrame = [_window frame];
    // The origin is the lower left; subtract the window's height
    origin.y -= NSHeight(windowFrame);
    // Center the popup window under the rect
    origin.y += floor(NSHeight(rect) / 3.0);
    origin.x -= floor(NSWidth(windowFrame) / 2.0);
    origin.x += floor(NSWidth(rect) / 2.0);

    [_window setFrameOrigin:origin];
    [_window popup];
}
```

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Bitstream Vera is a trademark of Bitstream, Inc., designed by Jim Lyles.

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