

**NAME**

ot2kpx – extract kerning information from OpenType fonts

**SYNOPSIS**

**ot2kpx** [ *-afm* | *-kpx* | *-lua* ] <fontfile>

**DESCRIPTION**

**ot2kpx** extract the kerning data from OpenType fonts and prints it to `stdout`, either in Adobe's KPX format (for adding to an *afm* file) or as a Luatex custom feature, for use with the `\directlua` command.

**OPTIONS AND ARGUMENTS****-help**

Print a short help text and exit.

**-version**

Print **ot2kpx**'s version and exit.

**-afm, -kpx**

Output the kerning data in Adobe's KPX format, as used in *afm* files. This is the default output format.

**-lua**

Output the kerning data as a Luatex custom font feature, to be included in a `\directlua` command.

**<fontfile>**

The OpenType font (both *otf* and *ttf* format are supported).

**RESTRICTIONS**

- **ot2kpx** doesn't implement all of the OpenType specification. Things that are missing include: support for font files containing multiple fonts, LookupTables with LookupTypes other than 2, "kern" tables with format other than 0 and ValueRecords with other types of data than just XAdvance data.

Most of these limitations won't matter, since the missing features are rare (the only fonts I know of that use them are the non-western fonts that come with Adobe Reader). Furthermore, many of these features define (according to the OpenType specification) "*subtle, device-dependent adjustments at specific font sizes or device resolutions*"; since there's no way to express such adjustments in *afm* format, ignoring them seems to be the only option anyway.

- **ot2kpx** collects kerning data first from the "kern" table, then from all LookupTables associated with the "kern" feature; if a kerning pair occurs multiple times, the first value seen is chosen. There are (or may be) several issues with this approach:
  - The OpenType specification says that fonts in *otf* format shouldn't use the "kern" table at all, just the lookups from the "GPOS" table. Many such fonts do, however, contain a "kern" table, but no "GPOS" table; so we use the "kern" table anyway.
  - Instead of reading all LookupTables, it might be better to let the user specify a script and language and process only the LookupTables for those values. However, at least in the fonts I checked, all script/language combinations eventually point to the *same* "kern" LookupTables, so this approach wouldn't make any difference (apart from further complicating the code).

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**VERSION**

This document describes **ot2kpx** version 20250909.

**RECENT CHANGES**

(See the source code for the rest of the story.)

*2019-05-20* Added the *-version* option.

*2019-04-15* Added the *-lua* command-line option to get output in L<sup>u</sup>atex's custom feature format.