

# **Guide to the Charmap application**

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for version 0.2

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This manual is for Charmap (version 0.2), a powerful character map.  
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# Table of Contents

<b>Acknowledgements</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>1 News</b> .....	<b>3</b>
1.1 Noteworthy changes in version '0.2' .....	3
1.2 Noteworthy changes in version '0.1' .....	3
<b>2 Installing Charmap</b> .....	<b>5</b>
2.0.1 Required software .....	5
2.0.2 CJK Support .....	5
2.0.3 Build and Install .....	5
<b>3 Using Charmap</b> .....	<b>7</b>
3.1 Main Window .....	7
3.1.1 Blocks Browser .....	7
3.1.2 Character Map Matrix .....	7
3.1.3 Selection Field .....	7
3.1.4 Copy Button .....	8
3.2 Character Inspector .....	8
<b>Appendix A GNU Free Documentation License</b> .....	<b>11</b>
ADDENDUM: How to use this License for your documents.....	17



## Acknowledgements

Charmap was inspired by Noah Levitt's `gucharmap` (<http://gucharmap.sourceforge.net/>), a character map for the GNOME desktop. As developer of Charmap, I can only hope to succeed in implementing all the features of `gucharmap`.

Charmap was my first application and I am grateful to the GNUstep developer community for the enthusiastic help it provided, especially Alex Malmberg (improvements to `charmmap`'s Unicode support), Helge Hess (various conversions in the Inspector) and Greg Casamento (UI improvements).



# 1 News

## 1.1 Noteworthy changes in version ‘0.2’

- Displays more Unicode data in the Inspector
- Unicode-positions not assigned are grayed-out.
- More documentation

## 1.2 Noteworthy changes in version ‘0.1’

- Font selection
- Will show definition of CJK ideograph in the Inspector if UniHan.txt is in the directory Charmap is launched from.
- Documentation





## 2 Installing Charmap

### 2.0.1 Required software

You need to have the GNUstep core libraries installed in order to compile and use Charmap. The core packages are, at a minimum:

- gnustep-make
- gnustep-base
- gnustep-gui
- gnustep-back

See <http://www.gnustep.org/> for further information.

### 2.0.2 CJK Support

In order to view CJK information (at this time this means the definition of a CJK ideograph), you must have the file Unihan.txt in the same directory that Charmap is launched from. Unihan.txt can be obtained from:

<http://www.unicode.org/Public/UNIDATA/Unihan.zip>

Unihan.txt is a hefty file, 25MB when uncompressed. I'd like to keep Charmap lightweight so this file is not included with the source.

### 2.0.3 Build and Install

Steps to build:

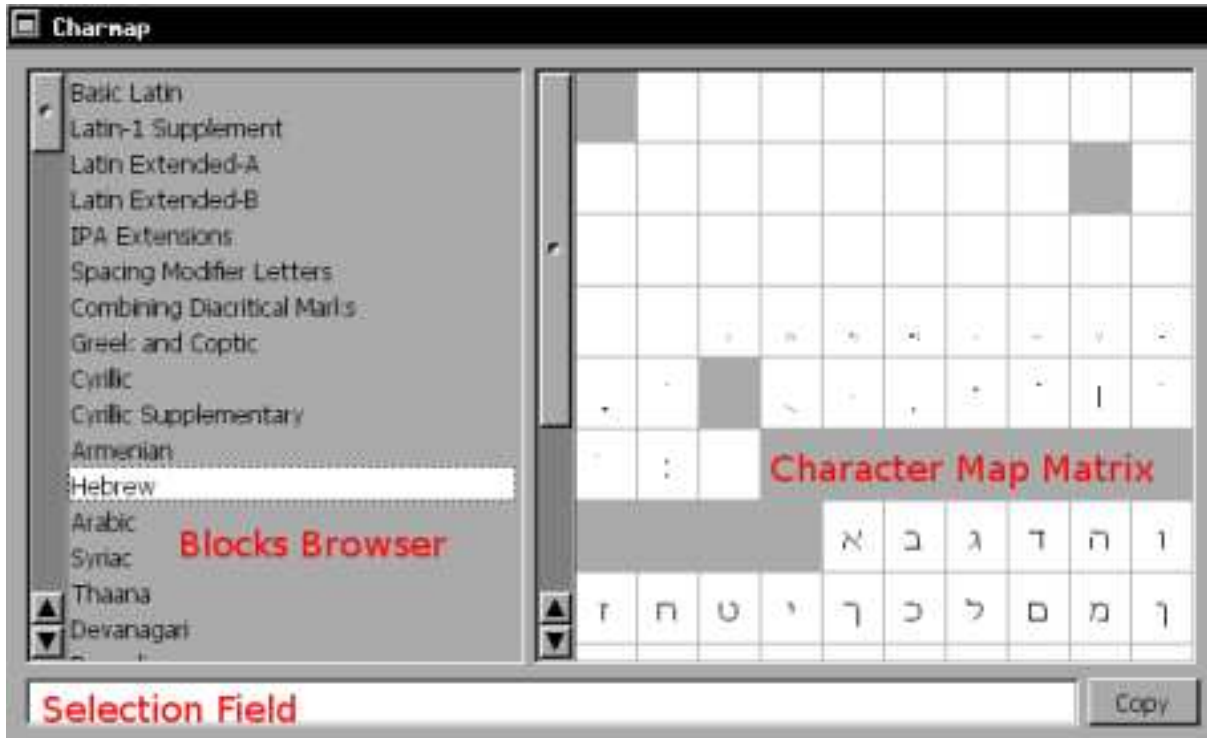
```
make && make install
```



## 3 Using Charmap

### 3.1 Main Window

Charmap's main window consists of four parts.



#### 3.1.1 Blocks Browser

The Blocks Browser (top left) provides a selection of Unicode blocks.

#### 3.1.2 Character Map Matrix

The Character Map Matrix (top right) shows all characters in the Unicode block selected. Cells that are grayed-out represent positions not yet assigned a character in Unicode.

Selecting a character and double-clicking it will place it in the selection field (bottom left).

### 3.1.3 Selection Field

The Selection Field holds all characters selected from the Character Map Matrix as well as any directly typed in by the user.

### 3.1.4 Copy Button

Clicking the Copy button (bottom right) will copy the text in the selection to the pasteboard.

## 3.2 Character Inspector

The Character Inspector, accessible from the menu item “Inspector...” provides detailed information on the character currently selected in the Character Map Matrix.

- Name  
The name of the character as presented in the Unicode standard version 4.0.
- Alias  
The name of the character as presented in the Unicode standard version 1.0
- Unicode Category  
The category of the character, such as “Letter, Uppercase” or “Mark, Non-spacing”.
- Canonical Decomposition  
When a precomposed character is selected, shows how the same character can be constructed using a base and added combining characters.
- Various Useful Representations  
Numerical representations of a Unicode character that might be used when the character can not be directly typed.
  - UTF-8: The character as a series of 8-bit hexadecimal values.

- Octal-escaped UTF-8: The character as a series of 8-bit octal values.
- Decimal entity reference: The representation of the character which can be used in HTML and XML.



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