

# Text Toolbox I

Name: **Text Toolbox I**

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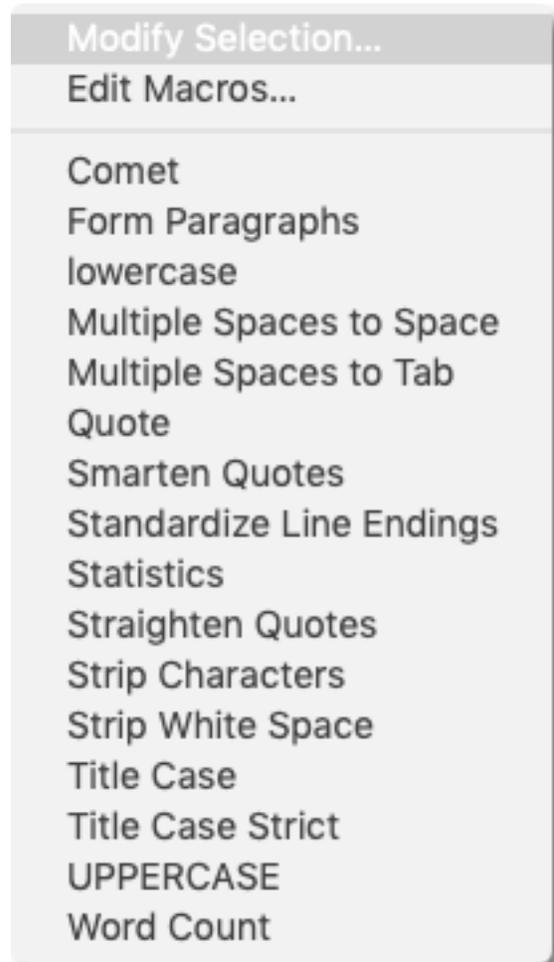
Version: **1.0a**

Last Update: **4 December 2021**

- Utilities to modify text for publication
- Modifies and converts selected text
- Replaces all of Spell Catcher's Modify commands
- Adds common weight, distance, volume conversions
- Strips HTML tags, converts plain text to HTML
- Redacts text
- Translates text

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This macro is dedicated to the memory of Evan Goss. It was inspired by the Modify options in Goss's Spell Catcher:



As a 32-bit application, Spell Catcher is not compatible with macOS versions after Mojave. But this Keyboard Maestro palette provides all of these functions plus a few more.

# INSTALLATION

The macro is installed in its own macro group. You will have to enable it, however.

You may have to enable it in your particular text editing applications as well. A number of common ones are already listed.

## **v10 vs. V9**

With Keyboard Maestro v10, palettes can appear in the menu bar. I've found this particular useful for this palette, saving me the trouble of remembering yet another hot key.

At the same time, the distribution includes a non-menu bar version for those using Keyboard Maestro v9.

## **Default Hot Keys**

The default hot key for the non-menu bar version is **Shift-F10** to complement Literary Toolbox's F10.

None of the macros have any dependencies outside the macro itself. They are primarily Perl scripts acting on a selection.

## **Literary Toolbox Link**

The last option in the palette runs the Literary Toolbox macro so I don't have to remember its hot key either.

# CUSTOMIZATION

You can change the way this macro operates in several ways.

## Hot Key

You can change the hot key, of course. I choose the **Shift-F10** key to match the F10 hot key that calls up Literary Toolbox.

## Triggers

None of the macros have Hot Key triggers assigned to them. If you use some of them frequently and tire of using the menu bar to access them, you can certainly add a Hot Key trigger. The menu bar will provide a handy reminder of the triggers, too.

## HTML Quoting Style

The **Quote Paragraphs...** option embeds an HTML style for that option in the last action:

```
<blockquote style=\"border-left:2px dotted  
darkturquoise;padding-left:12px;width:${len}%\">
```

You may prefer some other style of line than dotted or color than turquoise. Or indent, for that matter.

## AP Style Starter

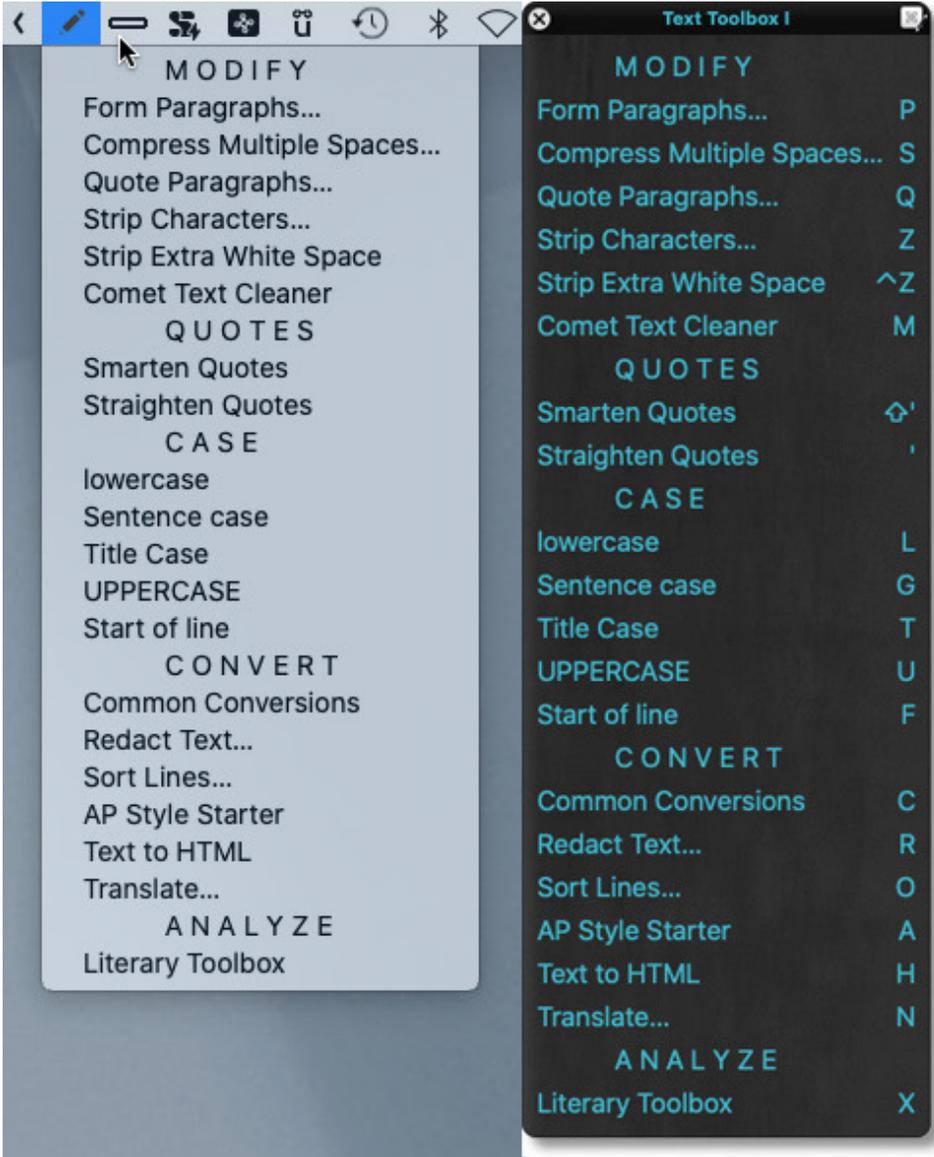
The **AP Style Starter** option automates copy editing but only for a small subset of AP style. You can greatly expand the substitutions in the Perl code to include your organization's style rules.

## Translation Languages

I've set up the **Translate...** option to work efficiently for me but you may have other languages you prefer and a different default. **The Prompt for User Input** action in that macro shows how to do that.

# USAGE

Select some text in an application for which **Text Toolbox I** has been enabled and either use the menu bar or type the hot key to call up the palette.



There are four sections representing different options:

**Modify:** You can form paragraphs, compressing spaces, quote paragraphs, strip characters or strip extra white space.

**Quotes:** You can smarten or straighten quotes and apostrophes. You can also convert other typographical characters like dashes.

**Case:** You can convert the selection to lowercase, sentence case, title case, uppercase or initial caps at the start of a line.

**Convert:** You can change one measure into another (like grams into ounces or ounces into grams, meters into feet or feet into meters, etc.) and vice versa. You can also redact text and sort lines. And a starter set of AP style corrections is also included.

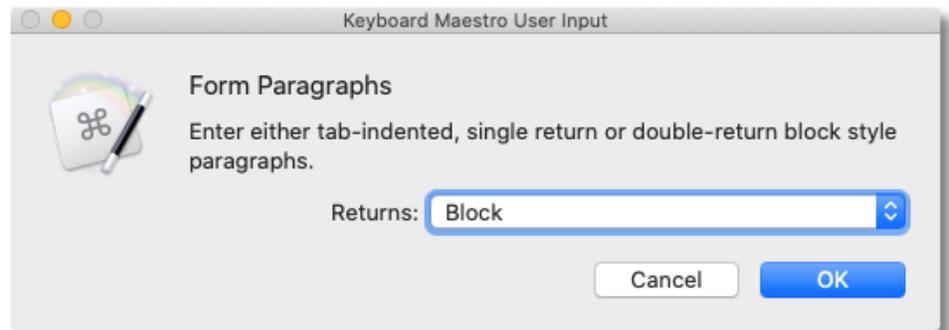
**Analyze:** This option links to the Literary Toolbox palette, available separately.

Let's look at each option in detail.

## Modify

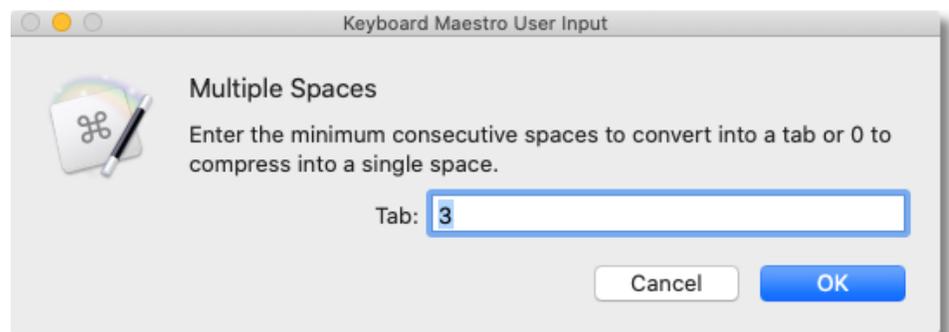
You can form paragraphs, compressing spaces, quote paragraphs, strip characters or strip extra white space.

### Form Paragraphs...



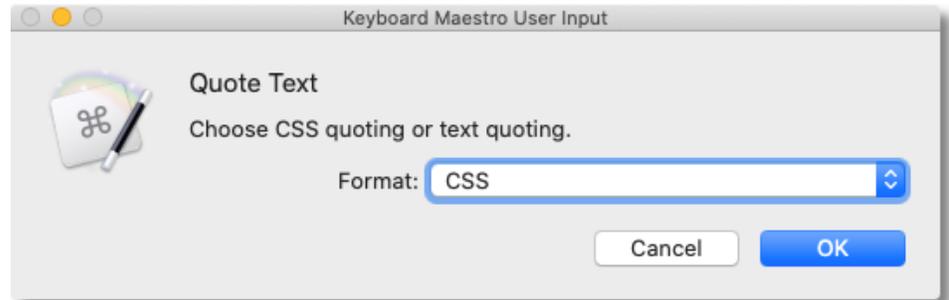
You are prompted for either **Block** or **Tab-Indented** paragraph styles. Press **OK** and the selected text will be reformatted.

### Compress Multiple Spaces...



You are prompted for the number of spaces to convert into a **tab** character (typically 3 or 4). If you enter zero, runs of multiple spaces (like two after a sentence) will be compressed into a single space.

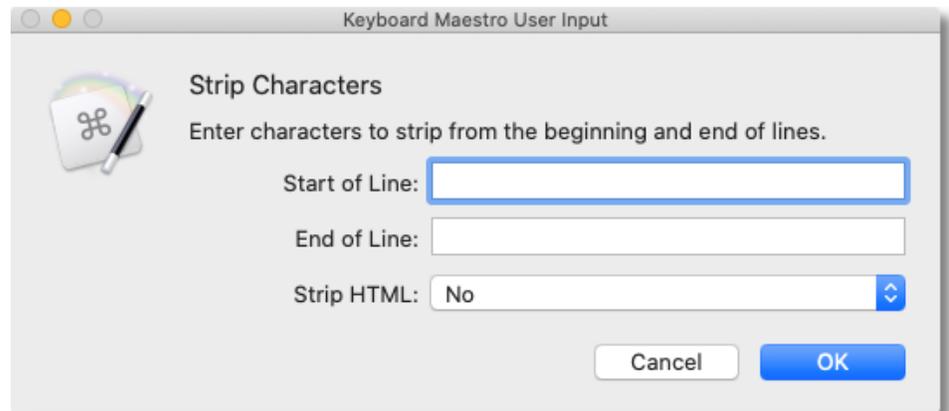
### Quote Paragraphs...



Text quoting is useful in email correspondence when referencing original text in a reply. You are prompted for either CSS quoting using a Dark Turquoise dotted left border or the tradition **>** character for text quoting.

You can edit the macro to change the appearance of either option suit your own taste, of course.

### Strip Characters...



You are prompted for the characters you want to strip from the beginning and/or end of lines (paragraphs). These can be regexes so if you want to remove line numbers, you might enter `\d+[. ]\s+` in the first field. And if you want to remove trailing space, you might enter `\s+` in the second field.

There is also an option to strip HTML tags. It's not foolproof, but will save a good deal of time cleaning up text from HTML files.

### **Strip Extra White Space**

This option is a more automated form of the Multiple Spaces and the Strip Characters options, eliminating white space at the beginning and end of paragraphs and compressing spaces within a paragraph.

### **Comet Cleaner**

This option performs several of the above optimizations at the same time. It forms block style paragraphs, compresses multiple spaces and strips extraneous white space from before and after paragraphs. Try this first on problematic text.

## **Quotes**

### **Smarten Quotes**

Converts straight double and single quotes as well as apostrophes into typographer's marks. It also converts two hyphens into an em dash, leaving surrounding characters alone.

### **Straighten Quotes**

Converts typographer's marks into the appropriate double or single quote characters. Em dashes are converted into two hyphens and en dashes into a single hyphen.

## **Case**

### **Lowercase**

Drops the selection to lower case using Keyboard Maestro's built-in filter.

### **Sentence Case**

Capitalizes the first word of a sentence while preserving any acronyms identified in the **Execute Shell Script** action. Add your own.

### **Title Case**

Capitalizes the selection without capitalizing small words (like “in of on,” etc.) while preserving other odd usage like camel case and Twitter handles. Intended primarily for headlines. It’s a little more aggressive than Keyboard Maestro v10’s new algorithm but it’s based on exactly the same code.

### **Uppercase**

Capitalizes the selection using Keyboard Maestro’s built-in filter.

### **Start of Line**

Capitalizes the first letter of each line whether it begins with a letter, a number, a bullet or any other list item.

## **Convert**

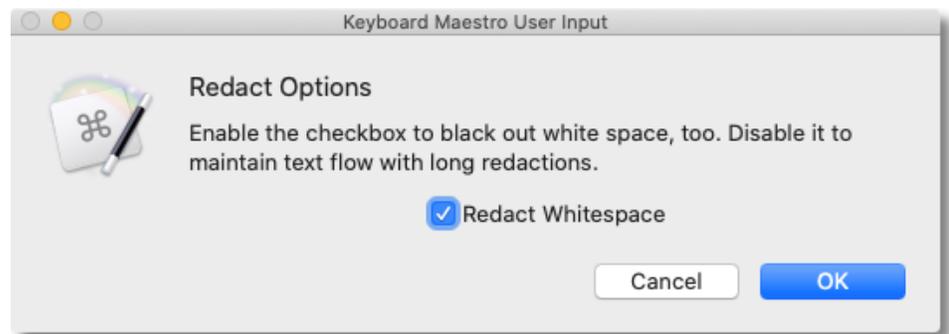
### **Common Conversions**

If a mathematical operator (+ - \* /) is included in the selection, this macro will perform the math.

If it finds the degree sign and FC immediately following it, it converts to the Fahrenheit or Celsius equivalent.

It also converts back and forth between centimeters and inches, millimeters and inches, kilograms and ounces or pounds, meters or kilometers and feet or yards

### **Redact Text...**



Prompts for redacting whitespace in addition to the characters in words themselves. That makes it harder to decode the redacted text but may interfere with text flow.

## Sort Lines...



Prompts to sort the selected lines in either ascending or descending order.

## AP Style Starter

Every publication has its own house style, watched over by its copy editors. Text Tools can give them a head start by applying some of the simpler rules to the text.

You can use this macro as a starting point for your own house style. It converts the errors of the following paragraph into what follows:

On Nov. 1, 2021, this half-baked macro was released irregardless to grownup Grown ups with a frig that was 20% alright but, as its past history would testify, almost never worked as well as the easy going cooler kept towards the basement for passerbies or residents of room 201. Twelve attorney generals who thought it was malarky brought the Case versus the cooler but two who are pretty easy-going and just wear t-shirts thought it fell in a grey area. The whole thing was decided on Veteran's Day.

Corrected:

On Nov. 1, this half-baked macro was released regardless to grown-up grown-ups with a fridge that was 20 percent all right but, as its history would testify, seldom worked as well as the easygoing cooler kept toward the basement for passers-by or residents of Room 201. Twelve

attorneys general who thought it was marlarkey brought the Case vs. the Cooler but two who are pretty easygoing and just wear T-shirts thought it fell in a gray area. The whole thing was decided on Veterans Day.

### **Text to HTML**

This option simply puts HTML paragraph tags around paragraphs and converts bullets, bold, italics, quotes and dashes to HTML. It also converts Markdown links in the format `[text](URL)` to HTML links.

### **Translate...**



This option uses Google's translation service to translate the selection into one of the languages available in the prompt. You can add more languages, of course.

## **Analyze**

### **Literary Toolbox**

This option links to the Literary Toolbox III palette compatible with 64-bit macOS. It is not included in this distribution, however.

# NOTES

Following are a few further if random notes on using [Text Toolbox](#).

## History

While based on Spell Catcher's Modify options, these tools are more properly described as evolved from them.

They provide text cleaning and conversion tools that are sometimes best used in concert. And, in fact, I use a much more complicated Perl program to clean up text for publication that also applies AP style.

There is enough Perl here to put your own such macro together. The Comet Cleaner option shows how.

## Modifications

I haven't isolated variables like the CSS style for quoting text so you can easily modify it on the fly. Instead, it's a constant in the code itself. Which you can easily change to suite your own preferences.

## Feedback

While this collection itself has its roots in some time-tested code and has undergone comprehensive if not complete testing, I haven't been using this version very long, so I'm happy to hear about any issues and promise a prompt fix.

You can reach me on the Keyboard Maestro forum as [@mrpasini](#).

# RELEASE NOTES

**1.0a** on 22 November 2020

Initial release