NAME
mpost – MetaPost, a system for creating graphics

SYNOPSIS
mpost [*options*] [*commands*]

mpost --dvitomp *dvifile*[.dvi] [*mpxfile*[.mpx]]

DESCRIPTION
MetaPost interprets the MetaPost language and produces PostScript (EPS) or Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG) pictures. The MetaPost language is similar to Knuth's METAFONT with additional features for including **tex**(1) or **troff**(1) commands and accessing features of PostScript not found in METAFONT.

Like TEX and METAFONT, MetaPost is normally used with a large body of precompiled macros. When the **--ini** option is given, it can be used to precompile macros into a *.mem* file. When called without that option, MetaPost will use its executable name as the name of the mem to use. For example, when called as **mpost** the *mpost* mem is used, which is identical to the *plain* mem.

The *commands* given on the command line to the MetaPost program are passed to it as the first input line. (But it is often easier to type extended arguments as the first input line, since UNIX shells tend to gobble up or misinterpret MetaPost's favorite symbols, like semicolons, unless you quote them.) The normal usage is to say *mpost figs* to process the file *figs.mp*. The basename of *figs* becomes the ''jobname'', and is used in forming output file names. If no file is named, the jobname becomes *mpout*. The default extension, *.mp*, can be overridden by specifying an extension explicitly.

When the **--dvitomp** option is given, MetaPost acts as DVI-to-MPX converter only. See dvitomp (1) for details.

This manual page is not meant to be exhaustive. The complete documentation for this version of MetaPost can be found in the User Manual that should have been installed along with the program and is also available from http://tug.org/metapost. See the FILES section below.

The MetaPost language is similar to METAFONT, but the manual assumes no knowledge of META-FONT. MetaPost does not have bitmap output commands or METAFONT's online display mechanism.

FILES
*.mem   Predigested MetaPost mem files.

plain.mp
    The standard mem file.

mfplain.mp
    The METAFONT-compatible mem file.

$TEXMFMAIN/metapost/base/*.mp
    The standard MetaPost macros included in the original distribution.

$TEXMFMAIN/metapost/support/*
    Various tables for handling included *tex* and *troff*.

$TEXMFMAIN/metapost/support/trfonts.map
> Table of corresponding font names for *troff* and PostScript.

psfonts.map
> Table of corresponding font names for *tex* and PostScript.

$TEXMFMAIN/doc/metapost/*
> The MetaPost manual and tutorial source, also including sample figures

SUGGESTED READING

Donald E. Knuth, *The METAFONTbook* (Volume C of *Computers and Typesetting*), Addison-Wesley, 1986, ISBN 0-201-13445-4.
TUGboat (the journal of the TEX Users Group).

SEE ALSO

dvitomp(1), **epstopdf**(1), **mf**(1), **mptopdf**(1), **tex**(1),

AUTHORS

MetaPost was designed by John D. Hobby, incorporating algorithms from METAFONT by Donald E. Knuth. It was originally implemented on Unix, incorporating system-dependent routines from **web2c**, while not relying on it except for the actual WEB-to-C translator.

Ulrik Vieth adapted MetaPost to take advantage of the advanced path searching features in more recent versions of **web2c** and worked towards fully integrating MetaPost into the canonical Unix TEX distribution.

The current, CWEB based version of MetaPost is maintained by Taco Hoekwater.

The manual and tutorial are maintained by Stephan Hennig and Troy Henderson.

BUGS

Email bug reports to metapost@tug.org.