Unicode Snippets for Textexpander
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What are Unicode Textexpander Snippets?
These are Snippet groups to be used with TextExpander by ~~Peter Maurer~~ Smile on my Mac Software. They might work with other text input enhancing utilities but I have only tested them in TextExpander.
You can download TextExpander from http://www.smileonmymac.com/TextExpander/
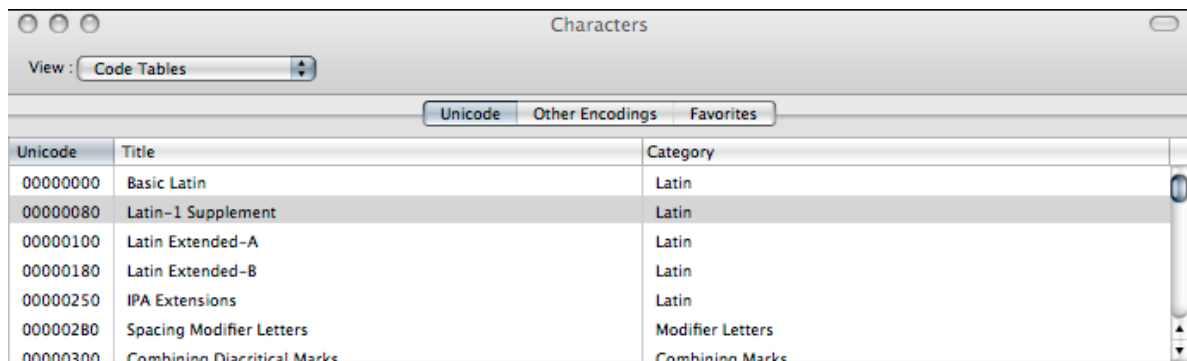

How do I install them?
Open the TextExpander Preference Panel which you can find in System Preferences under the menu. In the *Snippets* section

klick on the + button [+ ▾] to *Add Snippet Group from file….* Then select the .textexpander file you want to use and klick Ok. Importing these as an editable copy is recommended.

How do I use them?
Like you would use any other TextEpander snippet. Type the desired abbrevation, and let TextExpander replace it by the desired content. In the case of these Unicode TextExpander Snippets the Unicode character you wanted to enter. All the Snippets follow a simple scheme. Each abbrevation stats with the letter *u* followed with the four-digit hexcode of the character.


**Is there an easy way to find my most needed characters?**
You can look up the code you need in the *Special Characters…* Palette from the *Edit* menu. In the *Characters* palette select *Code Tables* from the *View* pop-up menu at the top.
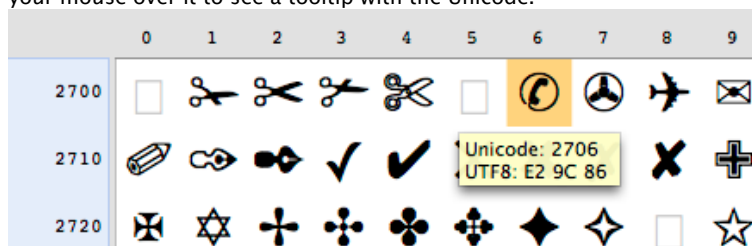

The *Title* column tells you in which of the many .textexpander files you will get the desired expansion. The files are like named, so you should easily recognize them.

Klick on the desired character of which you want to know the code. For example the generic *CURRENCY SIGN* ¤.
To get this character expansion you would need to load the file *Unicode Latin-1 Supplement.textexpander* into TextExpander.
Whenever you want to type it you just enter *u00A4* and TextExpander will replace that with ¤.

You can do the same for any character in any unicode Range. Be that typographically correct vulgar fractions like ¼½¾ or the CHEROKEE LETTER MA ꭺ, interesting punctuation like the INTERROBANG ‽ or mathematical stuff like the VOLUME INTEGRAL ∰. Of course you can look the codes and characters up in TextExpander itself and also search for their standardizes Unicode name.

If you want to know the code for the TELEPHONE LOCATION SIGN ✆ you can simply click on the character and then hover your mouse over it to see a tooltip with the Unicode.

So get this character you would type *u2706*.

You can ind out more about a character in the *Character Info* Section right below the characer list.
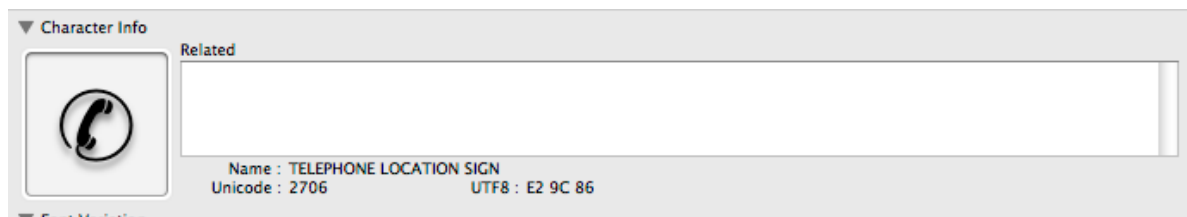
Isn't this a lot likt the alt-numpad entry method for ASCII characters in DOS?
Gotcha. Yes, that is what inspired me to create these expansion Snippets. I always found this method quite convenient even if the Mac has a vastly superior keyboard layout with the option/alt key. You can get many common diacritic characters that way. Like the EURO SIGN, by pressing alt-e to get €. If you have the *Currency Symbols* Snippets active you could also type *u20ac*. Of course this works for all Unicode characters from 0000 to FFFF, and not only (low) ASCII characters.

Are the expansion case sensitive? Do I need to type u266B or u266b?
Abbrevations are set to be case insensitive so it doesn't matter whether you use capital letters or not. In this example typing u266B or u266b will get you the BEAMED EIGHTH NOTES ♫ provided you have the *Misellaneous Symbols* expansions active.

How many Snippets are there in total?
These Snippets cover the Unicode range from 0000 to FFFF which makes 65536 (decimal) Snippets in 160 sections.

I'm Unicode addicted. Can I activate them all at once?
Of course you can, but I heavily recommend against doing so. Having that many Snippets active all the time is likely to heavily impact the performance of TextExpander in particular and your Mac in general. I recommend you only import the Snippets you really need.

Did you really create all these expansions manually?
No, it would take you about 23 work days to create these manually if you could sustain a rate of 1 Snippet every 10 seconds. Of course nobody could do that. I've written software that automatically creates these snippets files. It takes about 4 hours for my old PowerBook G4 to create all of the 65.536 Unicode character expansions.

Can I give them to my friends so they can start typing funny characters with ease as well?
Of course you can copy these as often as you like. Please keep this documentation and credits with the files. After all I did all the work. (My PowerBook insists that I did not actually *do* all the work, but only told it how to do the work. My PowerBook *actually* did all the fancy XML work then.)

What does that mean in licensing term?
That means that I release these Snippets under GPL for free (as in beer) and free (as in freedom).