Using 8bit-encoded characters (accents etc.) with **M-Tx** and **PMX**

In October 2003, Olivier Vogel had announced on the TEX-music list a method for including in **M-Tx** lyrics that contain accented letters . Here is what he wrote:

> "An obstacle to the diffusion of MusiXTEX in a large audience is the problem of accented letters. The codes for getting them seem esoteric for the beginner: `\=o` for ō and so on.
>
> LATEX solves elegantly this problem with the packages `inputenc` and `fontenc`. I just discovered that it is possible to use them with plain TEX, thus with **M-Tx** and **PMX** too ...

He went on to present an example which, however, due to some subtleties involved in the use of PostScript Type 1 fonts – and the EC fonts in particular – , wasn't quite easy to use.

In the meantime, he smoothed it out, by putting all the necessary TEX code in a file, `musixtex8bits.tex`, to be input in either **M-Tx** or **PMX** — but beware: you need to have the EC fonts installed properly for this to work.

But if all you want is to have the 8bit-coded characters at your disposal, using one of the standard (LATEX$_{2\epsilon}$) input encodings, and let TEX make the actual printed characters for you with its mechanism described by Olivier (`\=o` and the like), things are *much simpler*: it suffices to enable TEX input encoding by `\plainenc` and then indicate a suitable encoding, as in the following **M-Tx** and **PMX** examples:

M-Tx:

```
Pages: 1
Systems: 1
Meter: 2/4
Style: Singer
Title: Poème naïf

%%\input plainenc\relax\inputencoding{cp850}

{lyrics}
Ô po-ème d'é-lève na-ïf sans âme

%%w130m
c4 d | e f D"très lié" | g f D"gefühlvoll" | e d | c2
L: {lyrics}
```

PMX:

```
---
\input plainenc\relax\inputencoding{cp850}\
---
1 1
2 4 2 4
0.0 0
1 1 20 0.0

t
.\
% ARcp850.mod
Ti
Poème naïf
c44 d4 | e4 f4 D"très lié" | g4 f4 D"gefühlvoll" | e4 d4 | c2 | /
% end of PMX input
```

For **PMX** users, it is important to note that this method works also for titles, composer names, and (as the example shows) text coded as dynamic marks.

Two further points should be noted:

1. Depending on the language and the keyboard/display used, you may have to change the argument in the TEX command `\inputencoding{...}` , i.e. switch to the appropriate encoding ("code page"), which may in your case be different from `cp850` (`cp850` is the code page for IBM-type computers, with English language setup).

2. In the **PMX** case, instead of inserting the inline TEX as shown in the example (so that it will appear at the top of the resulting TEX file), you can also insert it at the beginning of the body of the **PMX** input. With the new "include" facility of **PMX** version 2.5, this can be done with an `AR` command that (when uncommented) reads in a "normal" include file, `cp850.mod` in this case. Here, `cp850.mod` would contain just the line

   ```
   \\input plainenc\relax\inputencoding{cp850}\
   ```

   (or else, you could put that into the 'global' file `pmx.mod`).

   Of course, you can put other standard header commands into either file; that is the whole purpose of the new mechanism.

Wed 2004 Mar 11 /ccn