

Proposal for the encoding of a banjo glyph

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Proposal

The Unicode Consortium proposes adding 1 UCS character to further the goal of completeness for the set of glyphs represented on the SMP block: Miscellaneous Symbols and Pictographs [2]. The current “emoji” block, set to establish interoperability of existing code-sets with the UCS standard, is incomplete in several key areas. This addition of a banjo glyph to an empty character space in this code block does nothing to disrupt previously established goals of this block, but, rather, extends this block to include a larger community of customers.

There is also a demonstrated demand for the proposed glyph among a community of customers in bluegrass and banjo discussion groups in online communities.

1 Proposed Character: Category and Description

- **Category:** B.1-Specialized (small collection)
- **Category:** Other Symbols (So)
- **Block:** Miscellaneous Symbols and Pictographs
- **Character Name:** ‘BANJO’
- **Glyph:** U+1F3DB

1.1 Description of Usage

Glyph would be used in any place it would be appropriate to represent banjo music or the invocation of what the idea of “banjo” represents. This includes, but is not limited to, representing bluegrass music, the earliest recorded popular music, early American music traditions, or African music traditions (as this is the region from where the banjo is believed to have originated) [1].

2 Justifications: category and name

2.1 Name

As glyph is a banjo, the name ‘BANJO’ accurately represents, and is the accepted name for, that which is shown in the glyph.

2.2 Category

The category to which the symbol is assigned is part of the rationale for adding the glyph–set completeness. The block and general category already house the glyphs for ‘MUSICAL KEYBOARD’, ‘TRUMPET’, ‘SAXOPHONE’ and ‘VIOLIN’. ‘BANJO’ would be added to this block and group for set completeness.

3 Groups and ‘Community of Customers’

1. Banjo Hangout discussion forum

References

- [1] Greg Allen *The Banjo’s Roots, Reconsidered* August 23, 2011: All Things Considered. NPR News. <http://www.npr.org/2011/08/23/139880625/the-banjos-roots-reconsidered>
- [2] Markus Scherer *Proposal for Encoding Emoji Symbols* March 5, 2009. <https://sites.google.com/site/unicodesymbols/Home/emoji-symbols/proposal-text>



Figure 1: Proposed banjo glyph