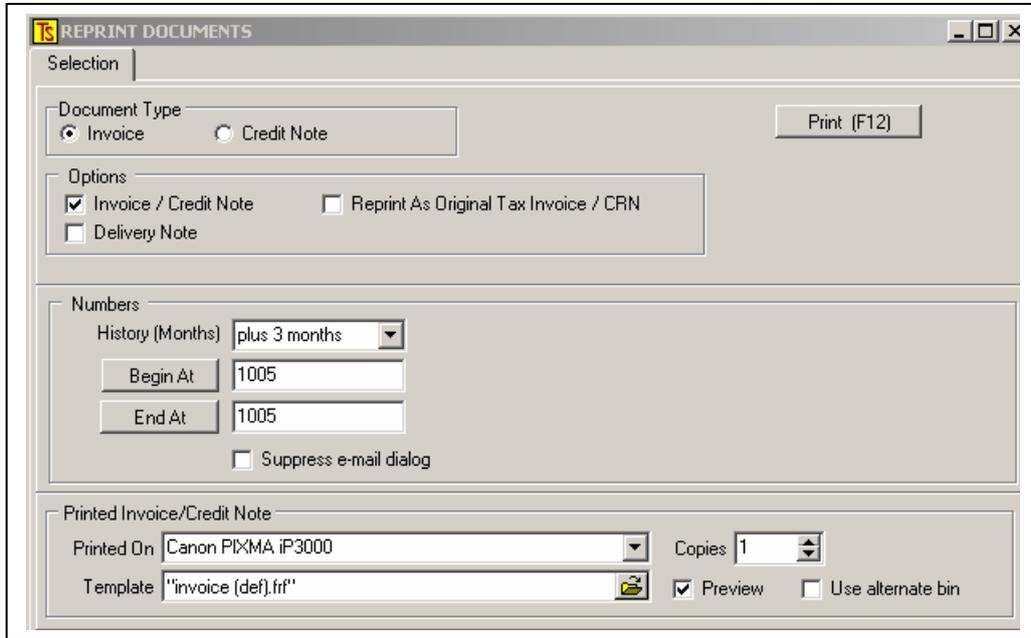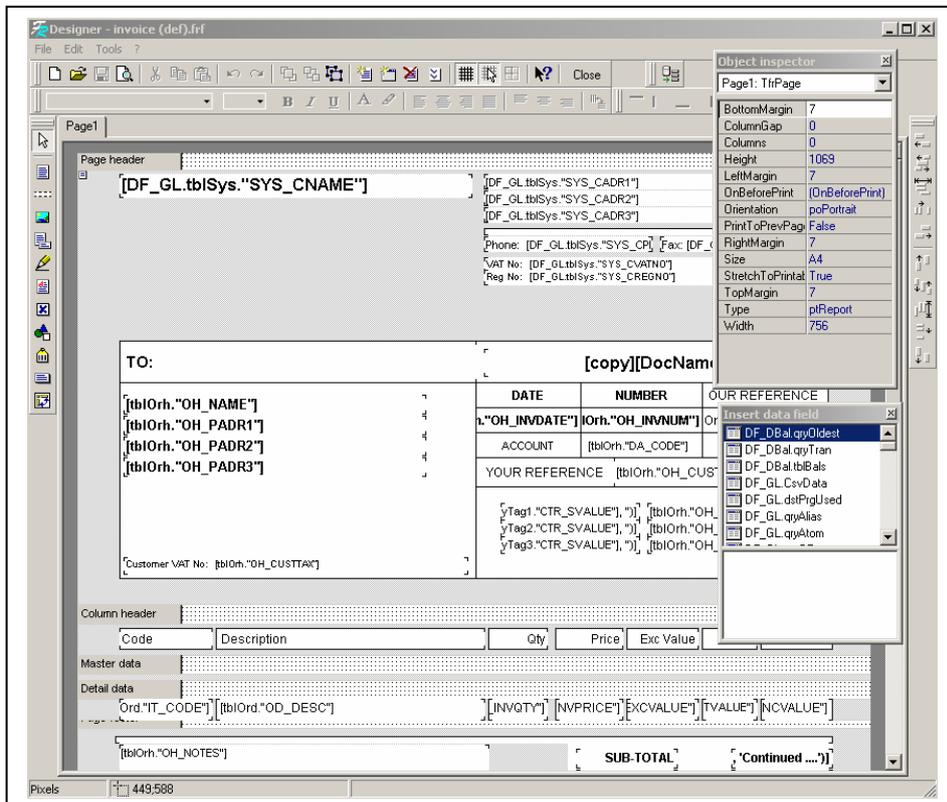# Upgrading FastReport 2 templates To FastReport 3

We recommend that this work is done on a monitor that has the greatest display area possible. You may find it advantageous to change the screen display before starting this work.
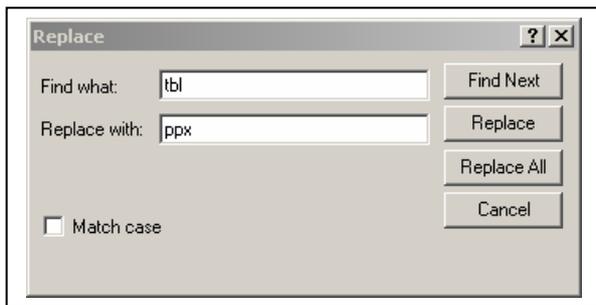
Phase 1

From within EXACT / ALCHEMIST Select template

Open FR2 template (frf extension) by clicking on the [Print] button while holding the [Ctrl] key on the keyboard down. A screen looking similar to this will open.

On the [File] menus select [Save As] and change the "Save as type" to 'FastReport3 from (*.fr3)' We also recommend that you add one or more characters in front of the 'File name' to make the working template easily identifiable. We used the undescore/underline character which has the further advantage that the template will appear at the beginning of the list.

Click on [Save]
Close the Save As windows and close the FR2 editor. This completes phase 1 of the process.

Phase 2

Use the Windows Notepad program to open the template. Use [File – Open] and navigate to the template folder. This is always:

{ApplicationDrive}:{ApplicationFolder}\fastreport2\templates\customer\invoice

On a single-user system it is most likely to be

C:\Technisoft\fastreport2\templates\customer\invoice

On a network is is most likely to be

Z:\Technisoft\fastreport2\templates\customer\invoice

Make sure that the "Files of type" setting is changed to "All Files" and select the saved template.

You will then see something similar to this. Please note that you do not need to understand what it means.

From the menu options Select [Edit – Replace]

Find: DF_GL.tbl   Replace with: ppx   Click on [Replace All]
Find: DF_GL.qry   Replace with: ppx   Click on [Replace All]

repeat this with:
Find: tbl   Replace with: ppx   Click on [Replace All]
Find: qry   Replace with: ppx   Click on [Replace All]
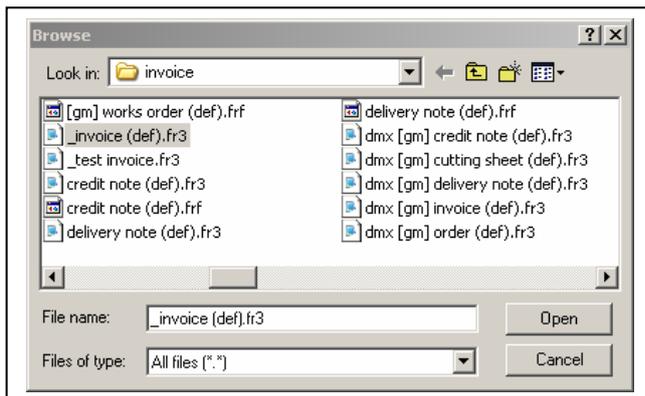Find: dst   Replace with: ppx   Click on [Replace All]

'ppx' stands for 'pipe to the frxReport component'.

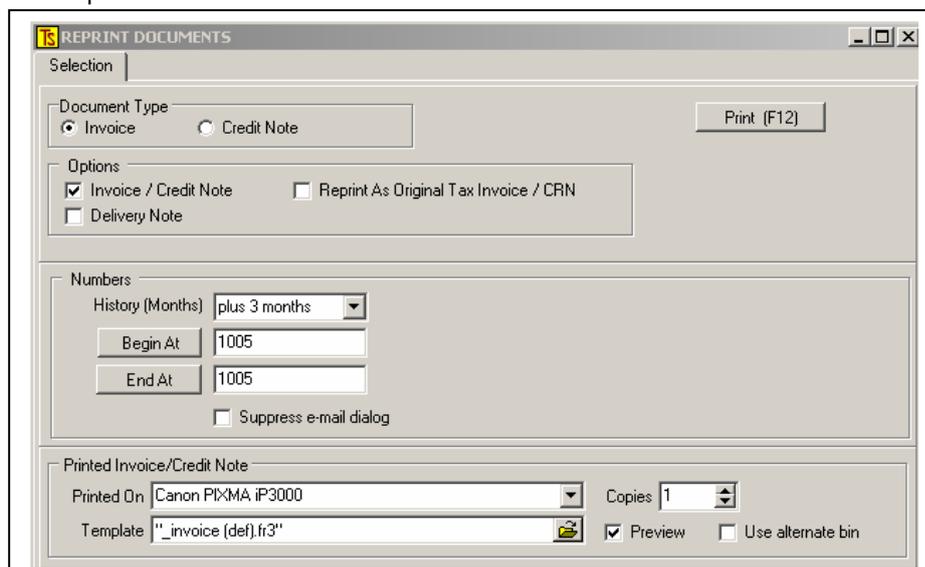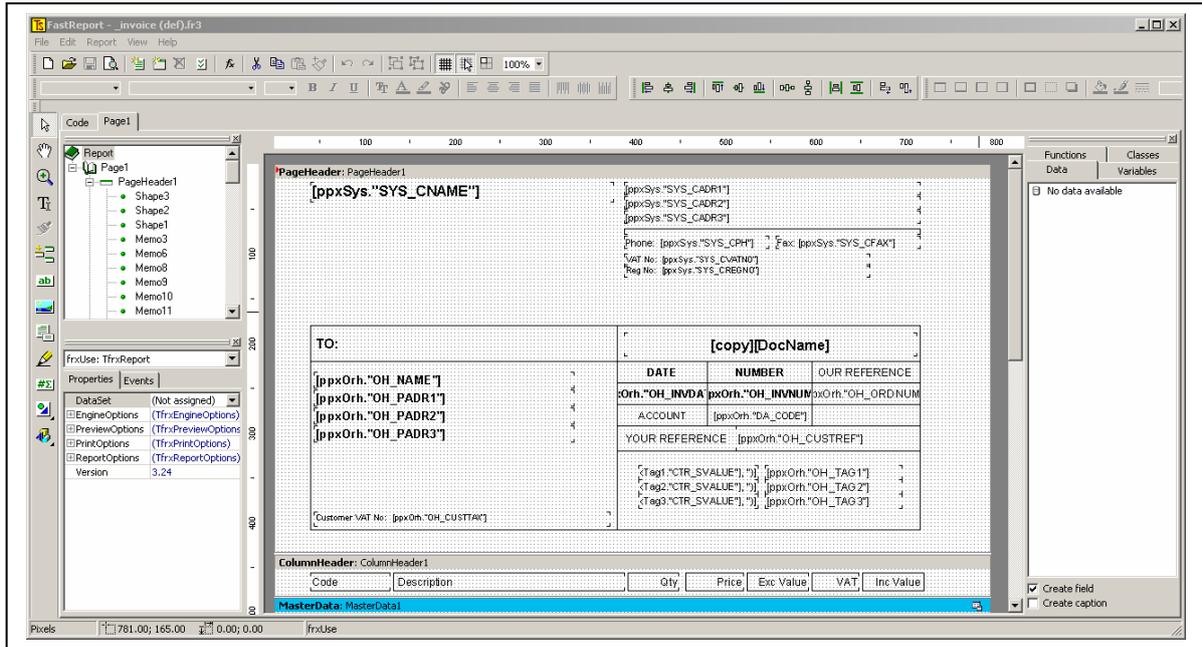Close the Replace windows and save the file using [File – Save]

This completes Phase 2 of the process.

Phase 3

Click on the [Browse button] at the end of the Template field. Select the FR3 template you saved in Phase 1.

The reprint screen will now look like this:

Click on the [Print] button while holding the [Ctrl] key on the keyboard down. A screen looking similar to this will open.


When doing this the first you need to set up the FastReport 3 settings. We deal with them at the end of this article so as not to detract from the conversion process.

Click on menu option [Report – Data].

Check all the dataset in the list except for the specialist module ones identified by 2 upper case letters at the end. Click the [OK] button. This creates a link between the programs data access components and the report template.
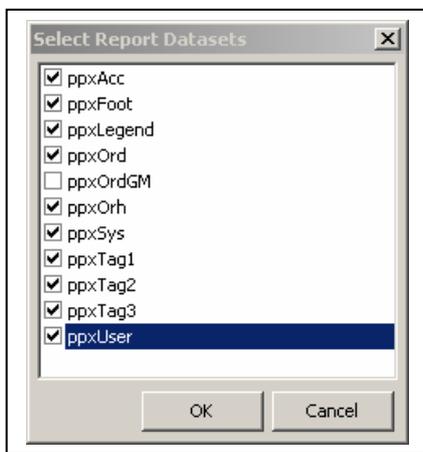
Click on menu option [Report – Variables].
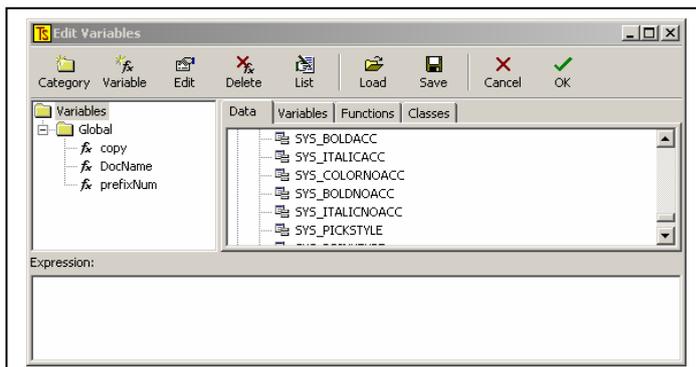
Click on the [Category] button. A "New Category 1" appears in the list. Highlight it by clicking and then click again so that it switches to 'Rename' mode. Note that even on fast computers there may be a noticeable delay before the second click has an effect.
Give the new category a name. We uses "Global" in the above example but could be anything.

Click on the [Variable] button. . A "New Variable x" appears in the list. Highlight it by clicking and then click again so that it switches to 'Rename' mode. Note that even on fast computers there may be a noticeable delay before the second click has an effect.

Create the following variable:
copy
DocName
prefixNum

Click the [OK] button. This has now created a link for the programs to interact with the report template which is not based on any database access. Variables also facilitate report-script based calculations.

Use [File – Save] to save the template.

We now need to find where the script and expressions need to be changed. One way of doing that is to click on the preview button, which will most likely result in an error message with a location indication, fix the problem and then try again.
The alternative is to know what to look for and change it.

Change to the report script by clicking on the [Code] tab
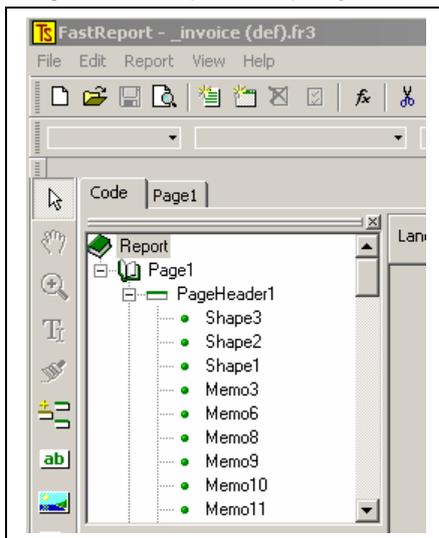
The main windows will then display something like this:

```
procedure PageHeader1OnBeforePrint(Sender: TfrxComponent);
begin
  with PageHeader1, Engine do
  begin
  if [DocType]='CN' then
  begin
     dadrtitle.Enabled := FALSE;
     dadr1.Visible := FALSE;
     dadr2.Visible := FALSE;
     dadr3.Visible := FALSE;
  end;
  if length([ppxSys."SYS_CVATNO"])=0 then
    vatNo.Visible := FALSE;
  if length([ppxSys."SYS_CREGNO"])=0 then
    regNo.Visible := FALSE;
  if LENGTH(TRIM([ppxOrh."OH_DADR1"]))=0 then
    ReportSummary1.visible := FALSE;
  end
```

We need to replace all the [] pairs with <> pairs. We have also removed part of the script code. Whereas the FastReport2 engine simply ignored references to non-existing components, the FastReport3 engine throws up an error.

```
procedure PageHeader1OnBeforePrint(Sender: TfrxComponent);
begin
  with PageHeader1, Engine do
  begin
    if length( <ppxSys."SYS_CVATNO"> )=0 then
      vatNo.Visible := FALSE;
    if length( <ppxSys."SYS_CREGNO"> )=0 then
      regNo.Visible := FALSE;
    if LENGTH(TRIM( <ppxOrh."OH_DADR1"> ))=0 then
      ReportSummary1.visible := FALSE;
  end
end;
```

Click on the [Preview] button. Most likely you will get an error similar to:

The script code seems to pass but we still have an error in the expression of the Memo25 component on the report.

Change to the report template layout by clicking on the [Page 1] tab, and highlight Memo25 in the list. Memo25 will be highlighted by black dots in the components corners.
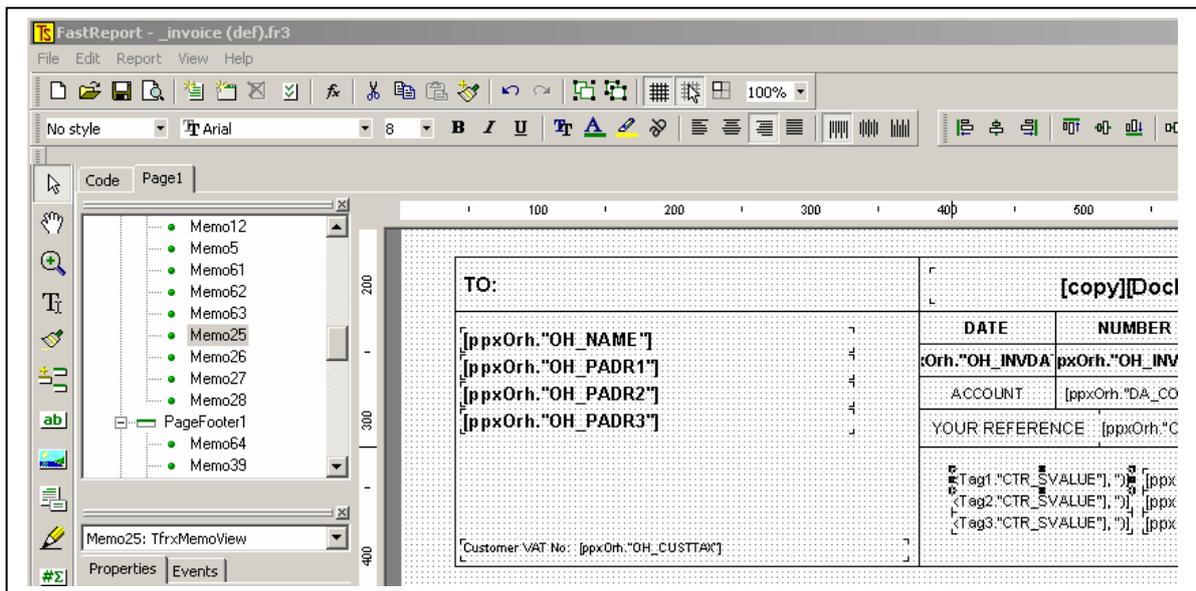
Right-click the component and select [Edit]
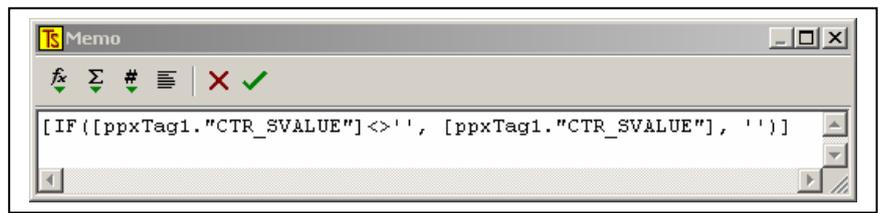
The following changes need to be made:

IF must be changed to read IIF

There must only be ONE [] pair and they must be the outermost one. Therefore replace the inner [] pairs with <> pairs.
This applies to all expressions.
At the same time we inserted some spaces to make it more readable.
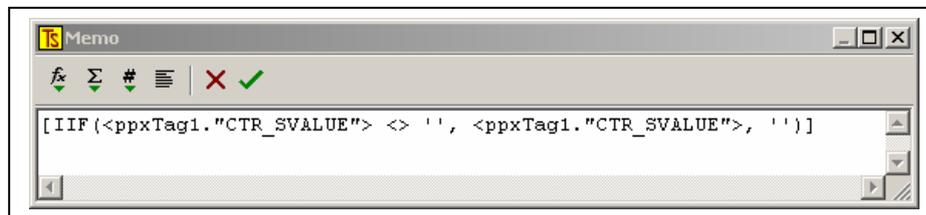
Click on the [Tick] to save.

Click on [Preview] to locate the next problem expression and fix it. Proceed until the preview displays.

Some formulations in the page footer totals have been simplified. E.g.

[IIF(<PAGE#>=<TOTALPAGES>, <ppxOrh."OH_VATVALUE">, <IIF(<PAGE#><><TOTALPAGES>, '', 0)>)]

is now

[IIF(<PAGE#>=<TOTALPAGES>, <ppxOrh."OH_VATVALUE">, '')]

When you get past the errors with a preview on the screen there won't be any line items. This is because the conversion process preserves the 'component connections' but does not preserve the 'band connections'.

Click on the MasterData band (or select MasterData1 in the components list). In the Properties window the Dataset property to 'ppxOrh' (ORder Header PiPe).
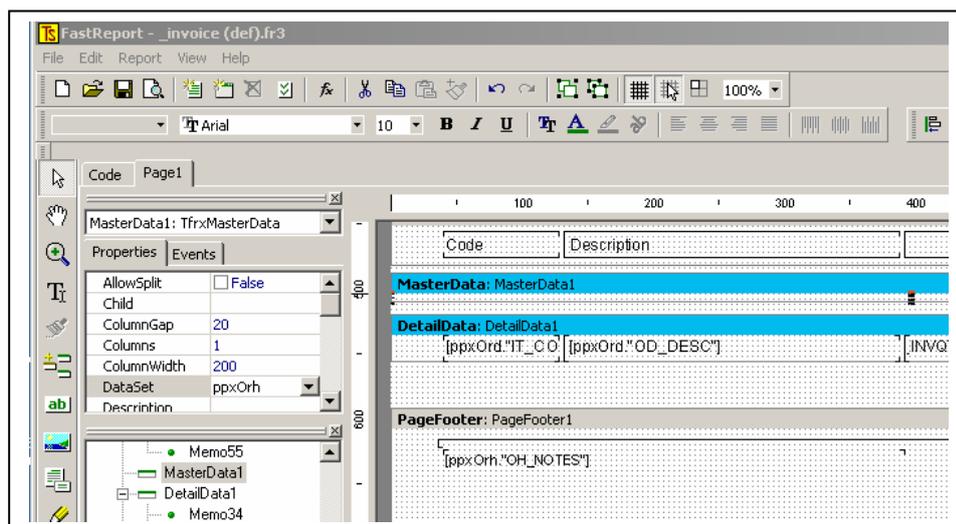
Click on the DetailData band. In the Properties window the Dataset property to 'ppxOrd' (ORder Details PiPe).
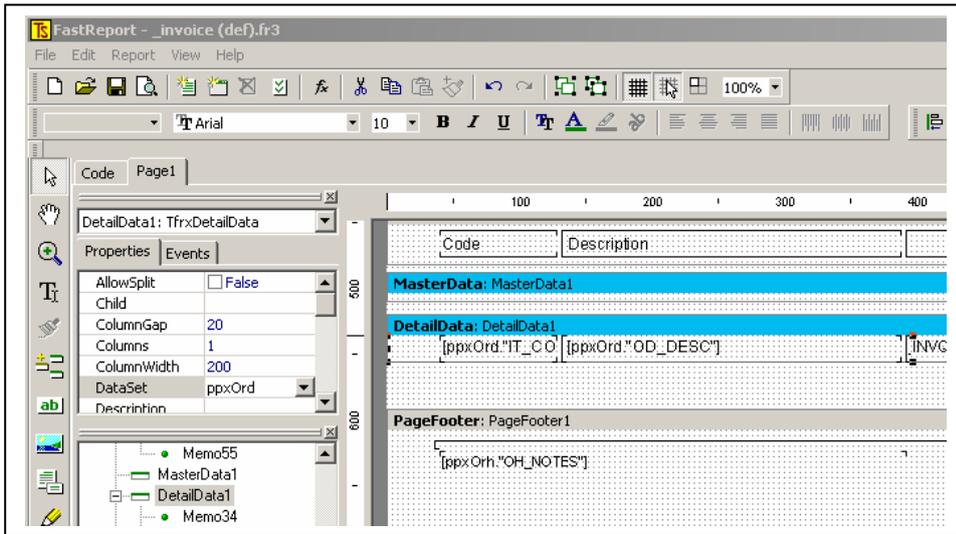
You should now be able to get a preview although it may look scrambled.
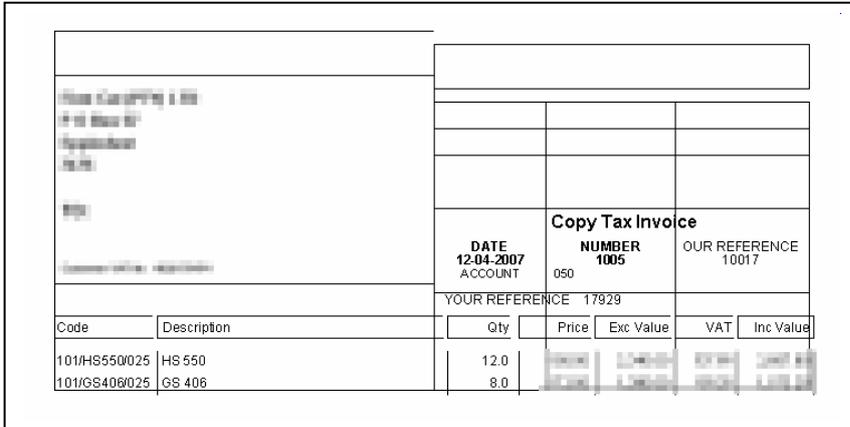
In order to fix this close the preview. Select the PageHeader band. Select all the memo components on it (the easiest way is to identify the Shape components, press Ctrl-A to select all, and the deselect the shape components by Shift-Clicking them).

Right-click on any of the selected components and uncheck the 'Stretch to Max Height' option.
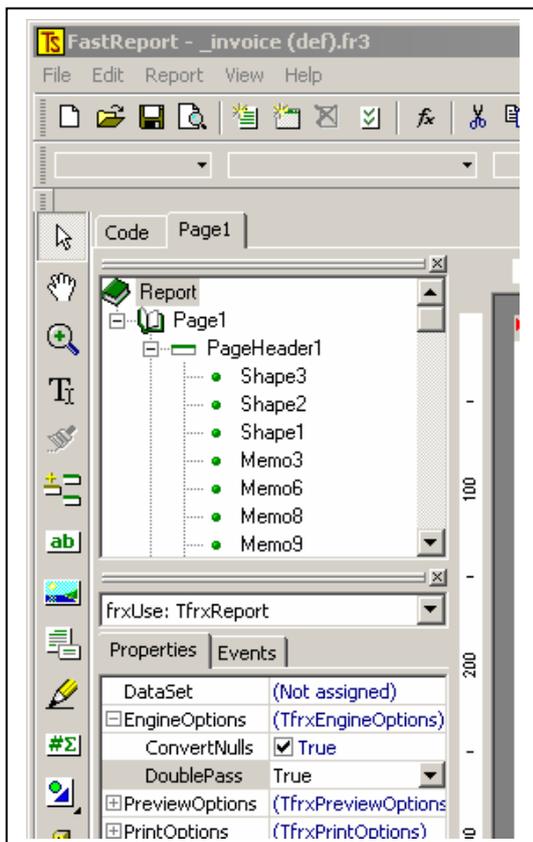
Preview and check, if it looks good then we are almost done.
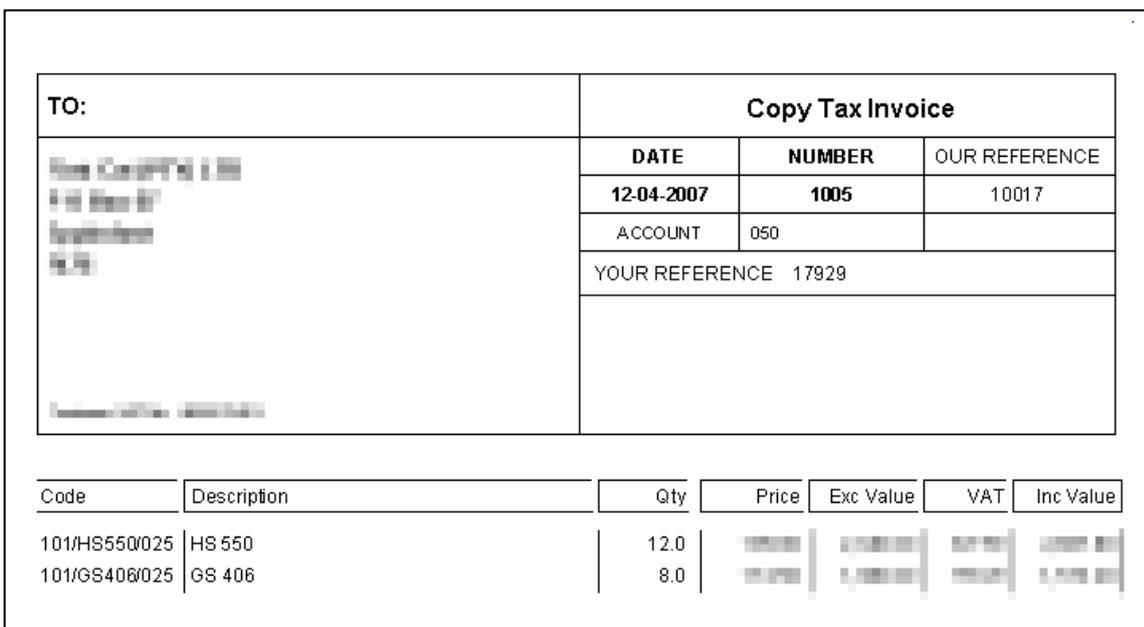
Select Page1 in the report components list and set the desired print margins, Bottom, Top, Left and Right.
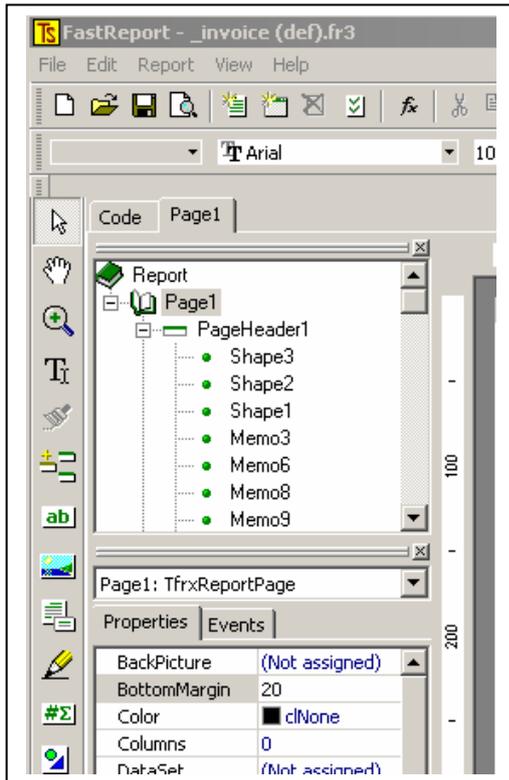
Select Report in the report components list and make sure that 'Double Pass' is set to True. If this setting is 'False' then .the total page count of multi-page invoices/reports will not be correct.

Save the template.
This completes the conversion.

Report writer settings

Open an existing template. Select [View-Options]. Below are out standard settings. For the conversion process it is **important** that the "Free bands placement" option is checked.