MD Thermo-chrome

Specimen

There are a lot of ways to get text onto a substrate. The first writers used a reed to make notches in clay; later, it became common to paint or carve into stone, to scratch wax with a stylus, or to anoint parchment with ink from a pen or feather.

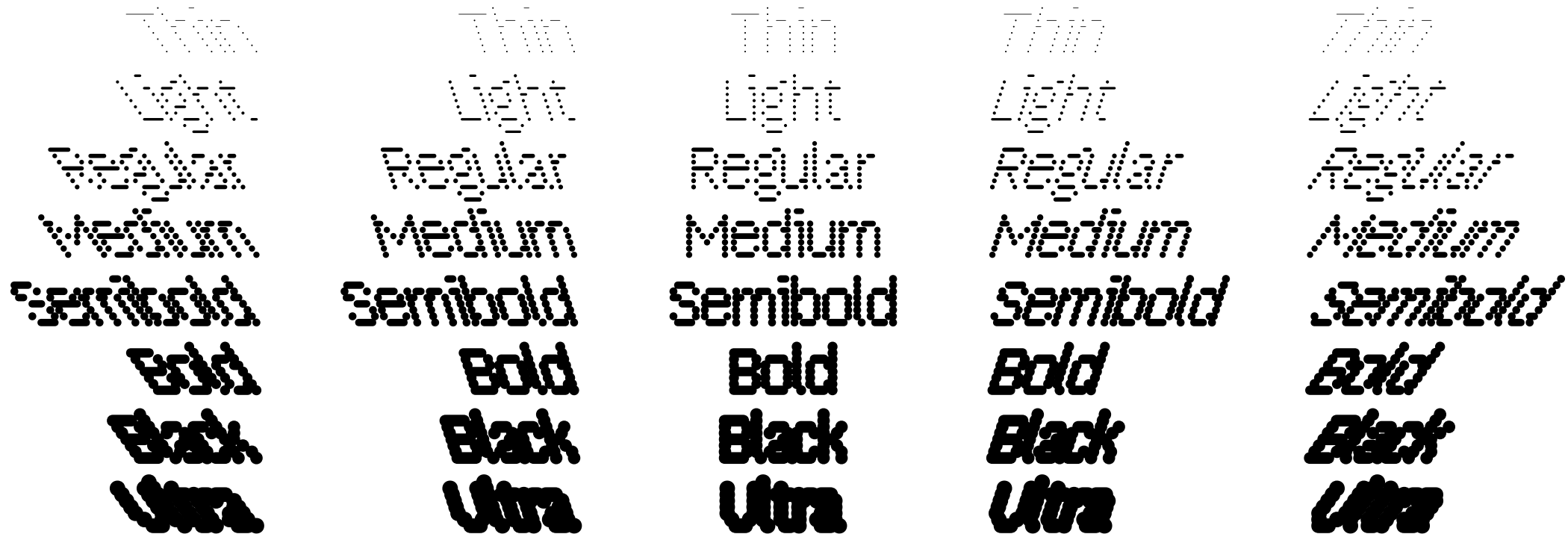
In the 11th century, Chinese artisan Bi Sheng used clay tiles as printing blocks, the first moveable type — in the 15th century, German inventor Johannes Gutenberg developed a more economical process, and for centuries thereafter, inked metal type was the primary technique for producing text.

But for the last few decades, our written world has been made from little dots. Little dots of ink from a printer, phosphors or pixels on a screen, blackened thermal paper on a sales receipt.

MD Thermochrome is a typeface designed around little dots. It's not a faithful mimicry of any single printing technique, but an allusion to several: the coarse grid of dot-matrix printers; the visible scanlines of CRT terminal fonts; and a varying dot size referencing over- and under-inked documents produced by any number of methods.

Built on a consistent (but not quite square) grid, the typeface comes with five discrete italic angles — a conventional *Regular* and *Italic,* plus an *Inclined* style (which shifts each row across by a full column for a grid-fitting, almost 40° slant), and in the other direction, matching *Retalic* and *Reclined* styles.

For easier adjustment and fine-tuning, MD Thermochrome is also available as a variable font with width and slant axes.



MD Thermochrome's Monospaced family pushes the rigidity of the grid a step further, with every glyph adjusted to a unified width of 8 grid units. The result is a wider overall stance and a more open texture, which remains marginally more legible at the boldest end of the weight spectrum, as well as a voice more evocative of early computer terminals and dot-matrix printing devices.

The grid, weights, italic angles and other metrics are common to both the Proportional and Mono families, so all 80 of MD Thermochrome's styles can be used comfortably alongside each other.

Mono Reclined



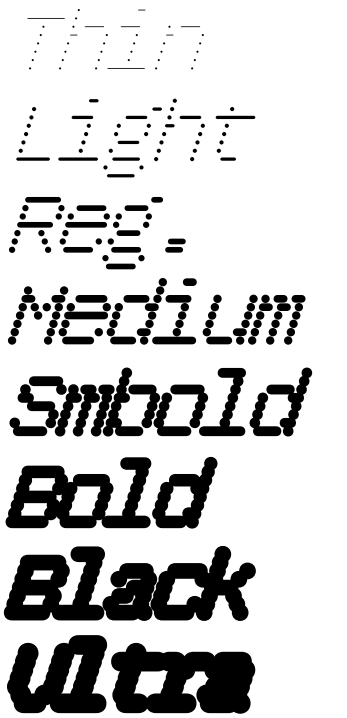
Mono Retalic



Mono Regular

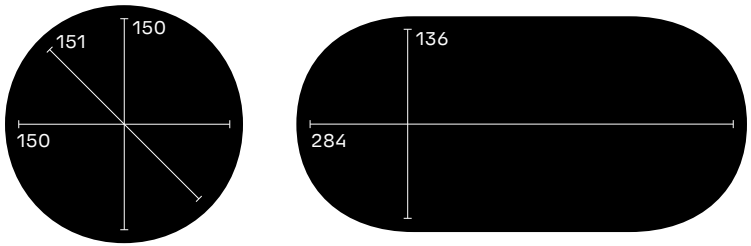


Mono Italic



Mono Inclined





Components

Each of MD Thermochrome's glyphs is built from two basic components, a dot and a line. These have been carefully adjusted from purely geometric shapes to appear more even, and to compensate for how the eye perceives geometry.

The dot is not perfectly circular but fractionally superelliptical, to avoid the illusion of 'pinching' across the diagonals. The line is drawn lighter than the dot, since it would appear too dark when matched to the same dimensions.

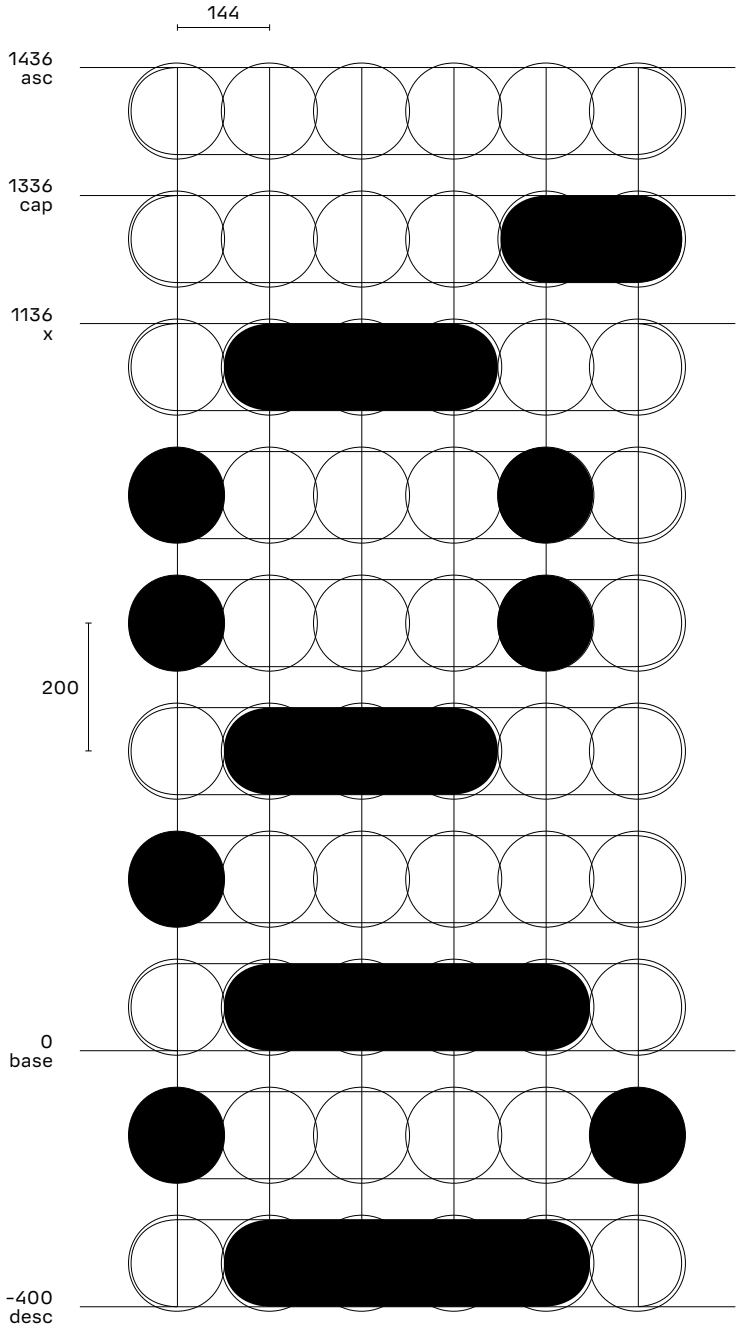
The measurements given here are in *units,* which in this case are 1⁄2048 of the font size. In other words, when the type is displayed at 12pt, 100 units is approximately 0.586pt. *(This is what a font's UPM number refers to, since the value of 2048 is not common to all fonts.)*

Weight	Dot Radius
Thin	50
Light	100
Regular	150
Medium	200
Semibold	254
Bold	320
Black	400
Ultra	500

The Grid

The dot and line components are placed on an anisotropic grid, with centres 144 units apart horizontally by 200 vertically. This grid spacing is consistent for all weights, with only the dot radius (and therefore line weight) changing.

The most extremely slanted styles, *Inclined* and *Reclined,* shift each successive row across by one column, meaning the grid is preserved. The *Italic* and *Retalic* styles shift each row by approximately 0.4 columns. MD Thermochrome Mono shares the same grid, but all glyphs are exactly 8 dots wide.



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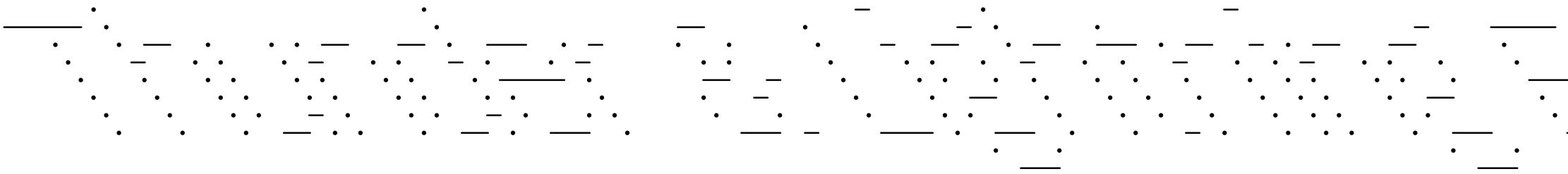

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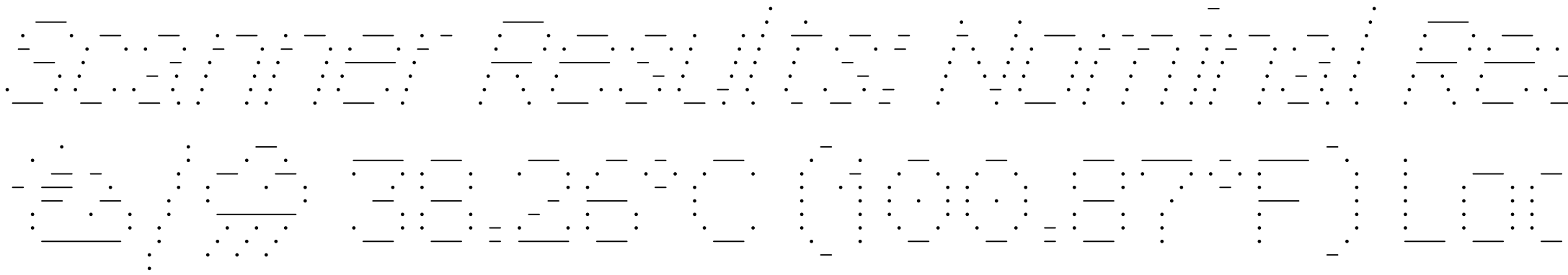

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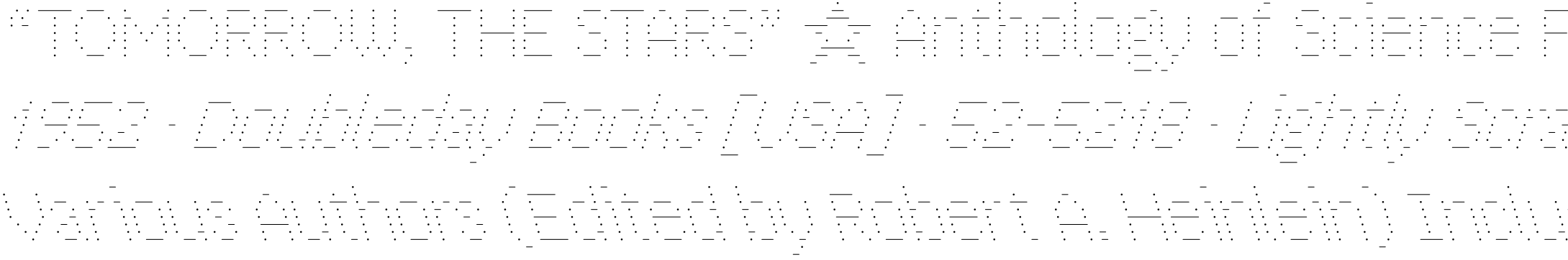

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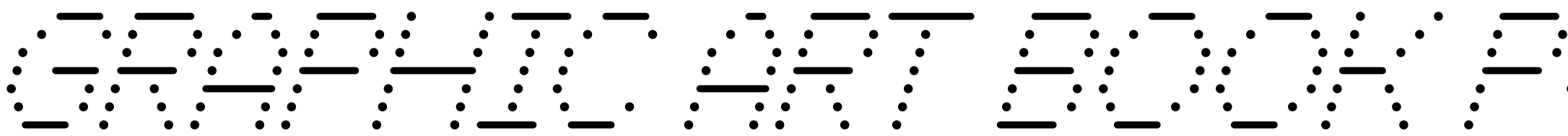

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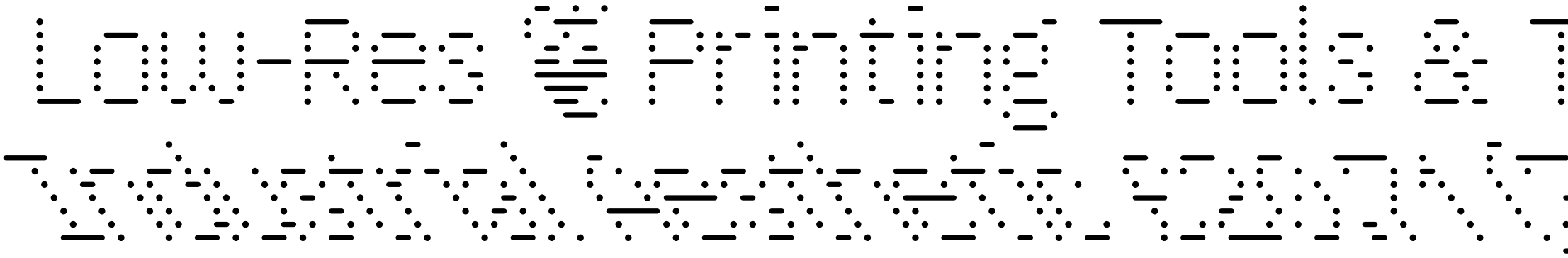

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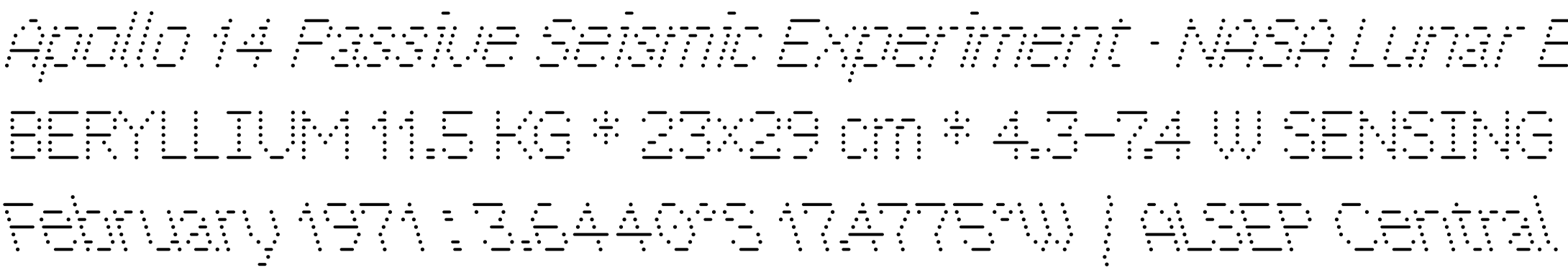

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Try Not to Read Into This Too Much™ (Lorem Ipsum

24/28pt

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Through the 1980s, many fax machines used thermal printing technology. Toward the beginning of the 21st century, however, thermal wax transfer, laser, and inkjet printing technology largely supplanted thermal printing technology in fax machines, allowing printing on plain paper. Thermal printers are commonly used in seafloor

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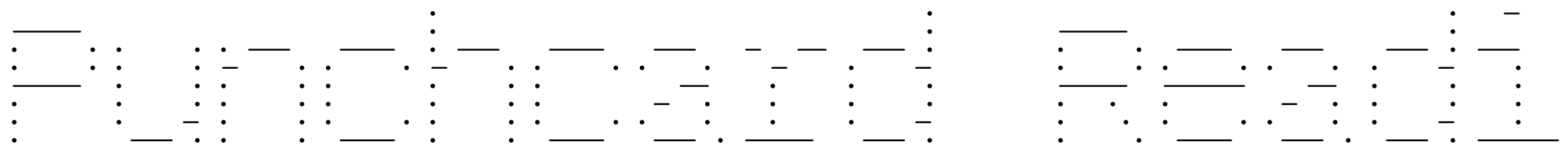

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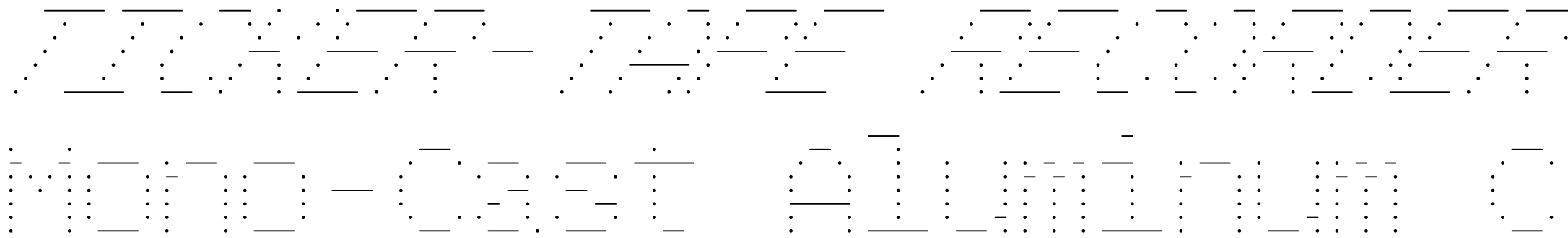

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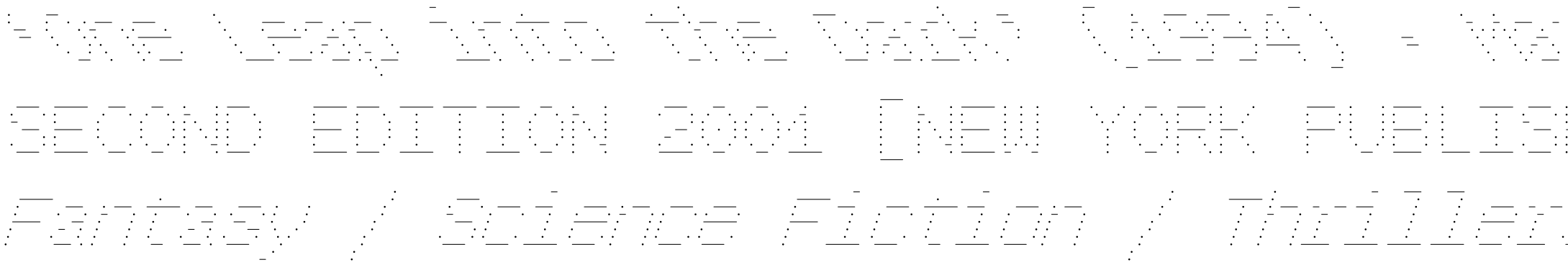

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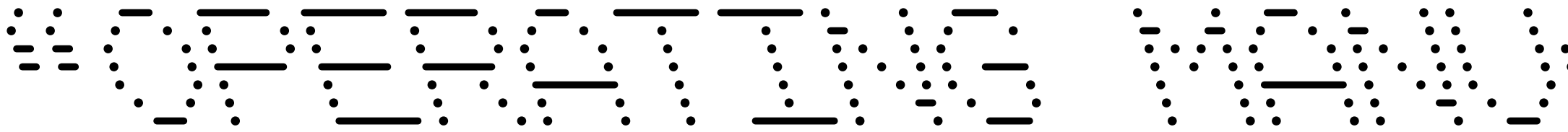

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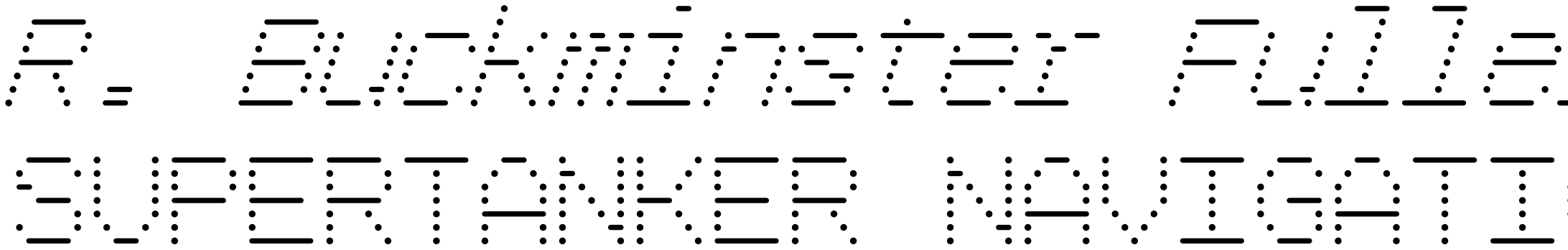

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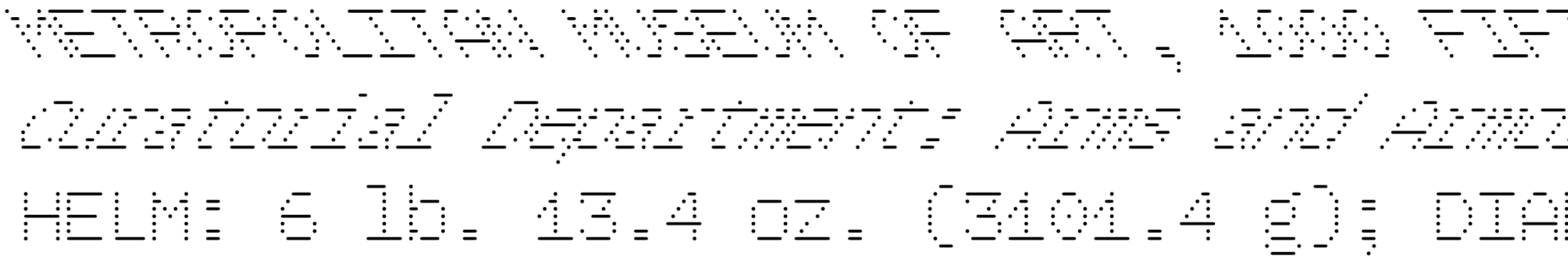

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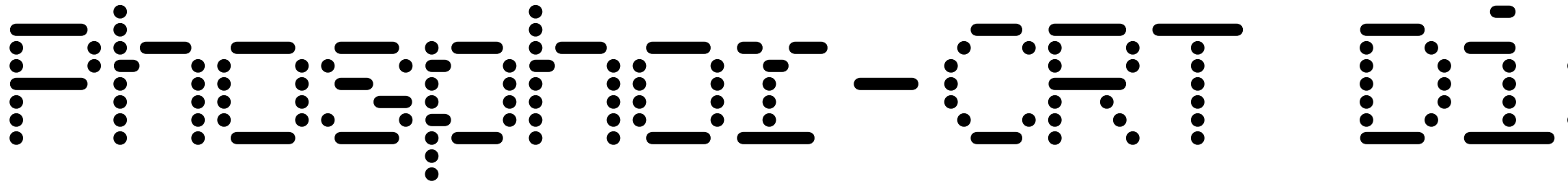

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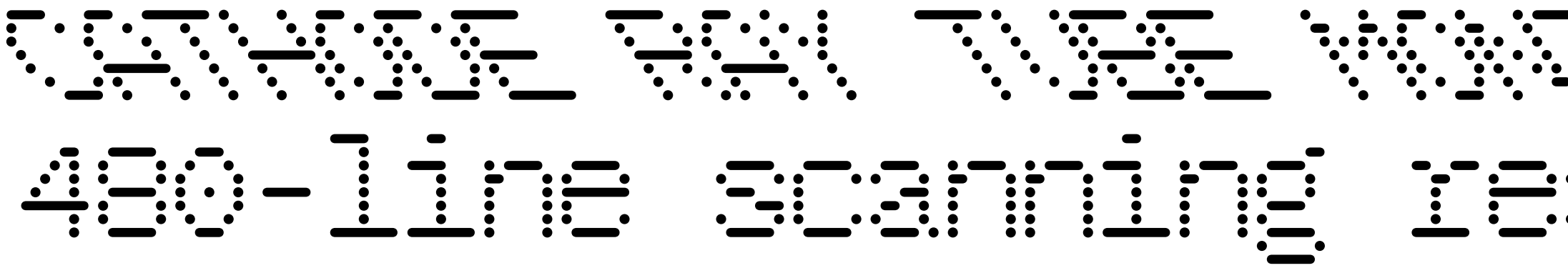

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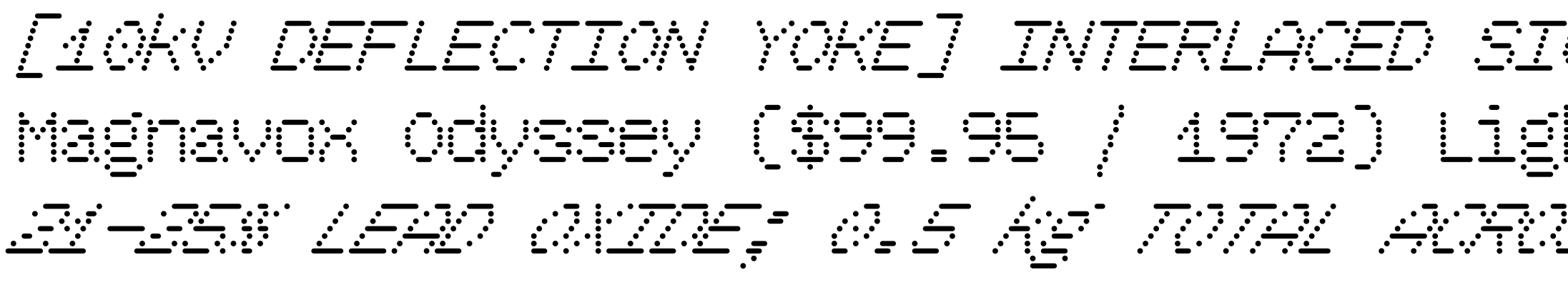
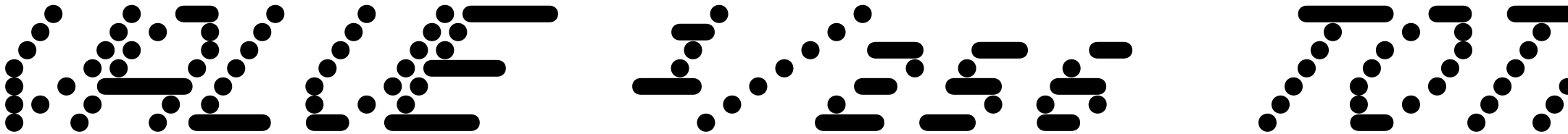
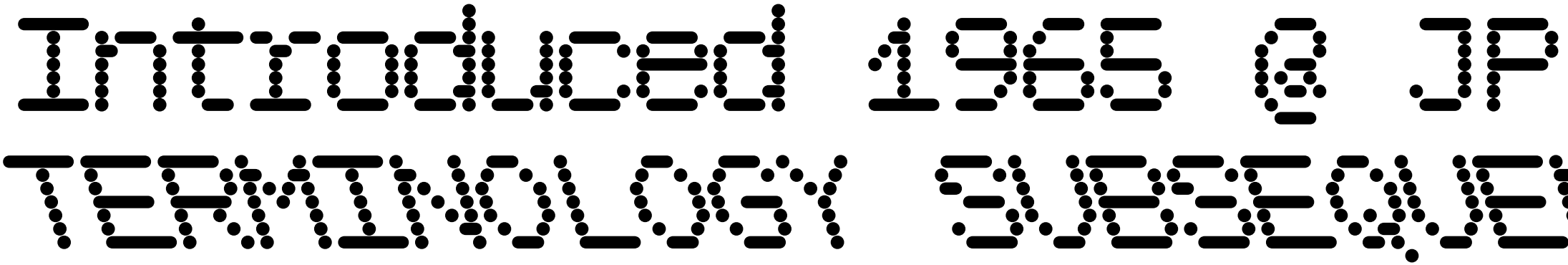


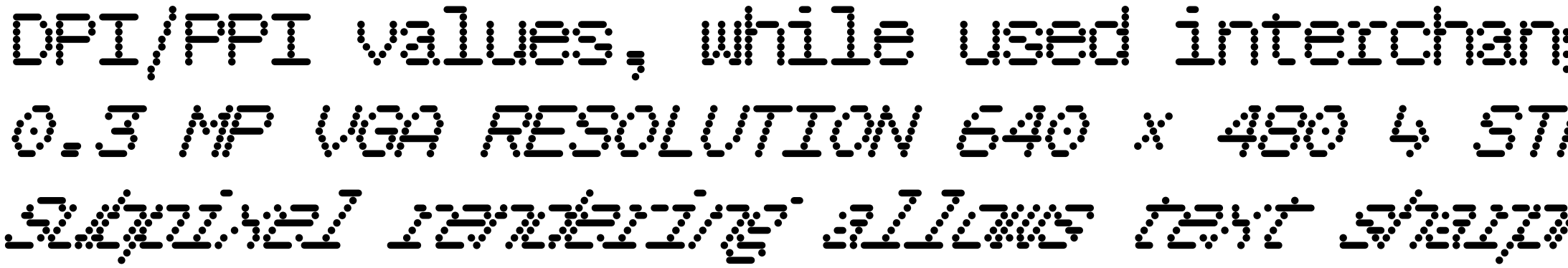
96pt



72/72pt



40/48pt



96pt

Refresh all p

72/72pt

LAST UPDATE: 13 SECO
Retrying in 01:18 au

40/48pt

27 CONNECTIONS · 1.2 MB/s DOWNLOAD S
Satellites will connect automaticall
OBSTRUCTION: 08.6% (LOW) · CLEAN DIS

96pt

AERONAUT CRAFT

72/72pt

364 Presses Operatin
DAILY CAPACITY 23,80

40/48pt

"NO LITHO UNTURNED" GUARANTEED QUALI

New Project Turnaround [3 Days] Esti

- RISO, GICLÉE, OFFSET, INTAGLIO, CY

96pt

Industrial St

72/72pt

NO STEP /// PLATE MET

Concrete 2.6 Fastener

40/48pt

[ZAIBATSU PROPERTY] DO NOT REMOVE FR

Product Weight 2,406.23 kg · Qualifi

ON-ORBIT ONLY: NO ATMOSPHERIC USE PE

96pt

UNDERWATER MORL

72/72pt

Ceramic Artworks Sec
'MASTERFUL' CRAFTSMA

40/48pt

Cup $46.99 - Carafe $75.99 - Teapot
HAND WASH ONLY PLEASE! THE STONEWARE
Thanks For Supporting Our Work! Plea

24/28pt

Between 1953 and 1954 Fritz Karl Preikschat filed five patent applications for his teletype writer 7 stylus 35 dot matrix aka PKT printer, a dot matrix teletypewriter built

16/21pt

Through the 1980s, many fax machines used thermal printing technology. Toward the beginning of the 21st century, however, thermal wax transfer, laser, and inkjet printing technology largely supplanted thermal printing technology in fax ma-

13/16pt

In 1988, the Japanese manufacturer OKI introduced its first serial impact dot matrix printer (SIDM), the OKI Wirednot. The printer supported a character generator for 108 characters with a print matrix of 7 x 5. It was aimed at governmental, financial, scientific and educational markets. For this achievement, OKI received an award

11/13.5pt

Increased pincount of the printhead from 7, 8, 9 or 12 pins to 18, 24, 27, or 36 permitted superior print quality, which was necessary for success in Asian markets to print legible CJKV characters. Epson's 24-pin LQ-series rose to become the new de facto standard, at 24/180inch (per pass - 7.5 lpi). Not only could a 24-pin printer lay down a

9.5/12pt

The VT200 series was extremely successful in the market. Released at $1,295, but later priced at $795, the VT220 offered features, packaging and price that no other serial terminal could compete with at the time. In 1986, DEC shipped 155,000 units, giving them a 42% market share, double that of the closest competitor, Wyse. Competitors adapted by introducing similar models at lower prices,

24/28pt

Between 1953 and 1954 Fritz Karl Preikschat filed five patent applications for his teletype writer 7 stylus 35 dot matrix aka FKT printer, a dot matrix teletypewriter built

16/21pt

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13/16pt

In 1968, the Japanese manufacturer OKI introduced its first serial impact dot matrix printer (SIDM), the OKI Wiredot. The printer supported a character generator for 188 characters with a print matrix of 7 x 5. It was aimed at governmental, financial, scientific and educational markets. For this achievement, OKI received an award

11/13.5pt

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13/16pt

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24/28pt

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13/16pt

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Uppercase

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Proportional Figures

0123456789

Ordinals

ao

Lowercase

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

Tabular Figures

0123456789

Marks

✓×

Uppercase Extended

ÁĂÂẠÄÀĀĄÅÃÆǼǢƁBĆČÇĈĊĎÐĐDDǱÉĔĚÊẸËĖÈĒĘƐƎĔǤĞĜĢ

ĠĢĦĤḤḪÍĬÎỊÏİÌĪĮIĨĴJĶǨKĶĹĽĻḶŁṀṂŃŇŅṄŊṆÑŋÓŎÖÔỐỘŐÒŌǪØǾÕŒṔṖŔŘŖṘŖŖŚŠŞŜṢŞƧŤŢṬṮṰÚŬÜÛṲŰÙŪŲŮŨṸṺṴṶṵṷṹṻẂŴẄẀ

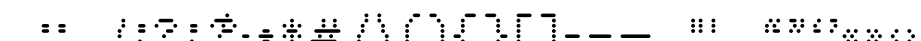
ẈẀẊÝŶŸỲỴỸỲƳỸŹŽŻẔ

Lowercase Extended

áăâạäàāąåãæǽǣƀbćčçĉċďđdǳǆéĕěêẹëėèēęɛəğĝģǧǥhĥḥḫ

ḧḥıíĭîịïìīįĩĵǰķǩĸĺľļḷłṁṃńňņṅŋñʼnǹóŏöôốộőòōǫøǿõœṕṗŕřŗṙṛṝſśßşŝṣşƨťṭṯṱţúŭüûụűùūųůũṹṻẃŵẅẁẉẍýŷÿỵỳȳỹźžżẓẕ

Punctuation



Currency



Symbols



Mathematics



Fractions

Arrows

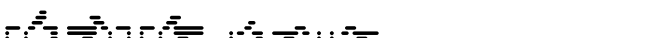
Diacritics



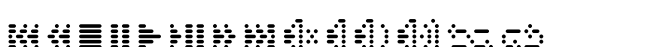
Geometry



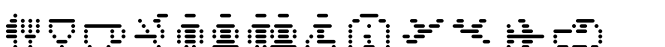
Gestures



Media Controls



Wayfinding



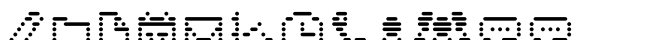
Miscellaneous



Weather



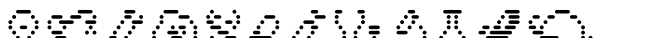
Productivity



Dice



Science & Technology



Quotes



Card Suits



User Interface



Uppercase

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Figures

0123456789

Ordinals

ªº

Lowercase

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

Uppercase Extended

ÁĂẮẶẴÂẤẬẪÄẠÀẢĀĄÅÃÆǼǢƁBĆČÇĈĊĎÐḌDQÐÉĔĚÊẾỆỄËẸÈẺĒĘƐƎẼƏĞ
ĞĜĢĠĠHĦḪĤÄḤḤÍĬĬÎÏİỊÌỈĪĮɪĨĴJ̌ĶḴKĶĹĽḶḺḸŁṀṂŃŇṆṄṊṈÑŊÓŎŎÔÓỌỐỔỖŌǪ
ȯȯǫȯȯȯ

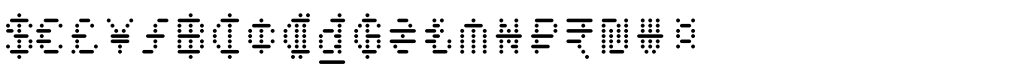
Punctuation



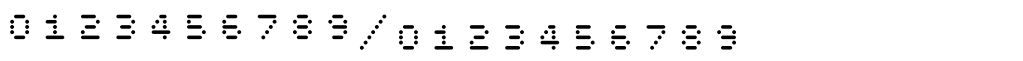
Symbols



Currency



Fractions



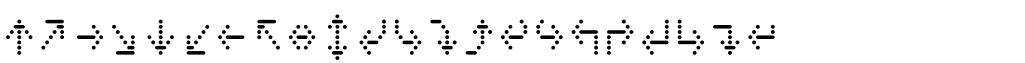
Mathematics



Diacritics



Arrows



Geometry



`ss01` **Symbols** (Stylistic Set 1) *

cloud.sun



`ss02` **Symbol Variants** (Stylistic Set 2) *

Next ct

Next ct

`ordn` **Ordinals**

1o 2a

1º 2ª

`frac` **Arbitrary Fractions**

1 17/24

1 17⁄24

`sups` **Superscript**

x2+4y3

x^2+4y^3

`subs` **Subscript** (also `sinf` **Scientific Inferiors**)

C6H12O6

$C_6H_{12}O_6$

`tnum` **Tabular Figures** *

€10.95

€10.95

`locl` **Localised Forms** (Romanian & Moldavian, Northern Sámi)

ŞTŋ

ȘȚŋ

* Proportional styles only.

Symbol	Keyword	Character
	thumbsup	👍
	thumbsup.small	👍 + ss02
	manicule.left	☚
	manicule.left.small	☚ + ss02
	manicule	☛
	manicule.small	☛ + ss02
	backward.skip	⏮
	backward	⏪
	stop	⏹
	pause	⏸
	play	▶
	playpause	⏯
	forward	⏩
	forward.skip	⏭
	mute	🔇
	speaker	🔈
	speaker.low	🔈
	speaker.high	🔈
	shuffle	🔀
	repeat	🔁
	cafe	🍴
	wine	🍷
	nosmoking	🚭
	man	👨
	woman	👩
	restroom	🚻
	wheelchair	♿
	info	ℹ
	departures	🛫
	arrivals	🛬
	airplane	✈
	car	🚗
	pencil	✏
	folder	📁
	file	📄
	calendar	📆
	envelope	✉
	chart	📈
	clock	🕒
	phone	📞

Symbol	Keyword	Character
	person	👤
	people	👥
	speech	💬
	speech.small	💬 + ss02
	minus	−
	plus	+
	tick	✓
	cross	×
	search	🔍
	checkbox	☐
	checkbox.checked	☑
	menu	≡
	share	📤
	download	📥
	link	🔗
	bell	🔔
	pushpin	📍
	bag	👜
	cart	🛒
	trash	🗑
	microphone	🎤
	headphones	🎧
	music	🎵
	camera	📷
	camera.video	📹
	battery	🔋
	battery.full	🔋 + ss02
	key	🔑
	lock	🔒
	shield	🛡
	flag	⚐
	wifi	📶
	wifi.no	📶 + ss02
	spade	♠
	club	♣
	heart	♥ / ❤
	diamond	♦
	sun	☀
	cloud.sun	⛅
	cloud	☁

Symbol	Keyword	Character
	cloud.rain	🌧
	cloud.snow	🌨
	cloud.lightning	⛈
	snowflake	❄
	moon	🌙
	lightbulb	💡
	robotarm	🦾
	testtube	🧪
	cell	🦠
	dna	🧬
	pill	💊
	syringe	💉
	stethoscope	🩺
	microscope	🔬
	flask	⚗
	rocket	🚀
	planet	🪐
	quote.left	‘
	quote.right	’
	quote.double.left	“
	quote.double.right	”
	frown	☹
	smile	☺
	star	☆
	star.full	★
	fire	🔥
	droplet	💧
	recycle	♻
	fleuron	❦
	lightning	⚡
	circle.lefthalf	◐
	circle.righthalf	◑
	?	❓
	!	❗
	plant	🌱
	cup	☕

Symbols can be used either by directly inserting the character they’re mapped to, or typing their keyword and enabling the ‘Symbols’ stylistic set (ss01).

Language Support

Abkhazian
Acehnese
Adangme
Adyghe
Afrikaans
Akan
Albanian
Aleut
Angika
Aragonese
Arapaho
Aromanian
Asturian
Asu
Avaric
Awadhi
Aymara
Azerbaijani
Bafia
Balinese
Bambara
Basque
Bemba
Bena
Bini
Bislama
Bosnian
Breton
Buginese
Cajun French
Catalan
Cebuano
Chamorro
Cheyenne
Chickasaw
Chiga
Chuukese
Colognian
Comorian
Cornish
Corsican
Croatian
Czech
Dakota
Danish
Dargwa
Dazaga
Dogrib
Duala
Dutch
Efik
Ekajuk
Embu
English
Esperanto
Estonian
Faroese
Fijian
Filipino
Finnish
Fon
French
Friulian
Fula
Ga
Galician
Ganda
German
Gilbertese
Gorontalo
Guarani
Gusii
Gwich’in
Haitian Creole
Hausa
Hawaiian
Herero
Hiligaynon
Hungarian
Hupa
Iban
Ibibio
Icelandic
Ido
Igbo
Iloko
Inari Sami
Indonesian
Interlingua
Irish
Italian
Javanese
Jju
Jola-Fonyi
Kabardian
Kabuverdianu
Kachin
Kako
Kalaallisut
Kalenjin
Kalmyk
Kamba
Kanuri
Karachay-Balkar
Karelian
Khasi
Kikuyu
Kimbundu
Kinyarwanda
Klingon
Komi
Koro
Koyra Chiini
Koyraboro Senni
Kuanyama
Kumyk
Kurukh
Kwasio
Ladino
Latin
Latvian
Lezghian
Limburgish
Lingala
Lithuanian
Lojban
Louisiana Creole
Lower Sorbian
Lozi
Luba-Katanga
Luba-Lulua
Lule Sami
Lunda
Luo
Luxembourgish
Luyia
Machame
Madurese
Magahi
Makasar
Makhuwa-Meetto
Makonde
Malagasy
Malay
Maltese
Manx
Māori
Mapuche
Mari
Marshallese
Mende
Meru
Meta’
Mi’kmaw
Minangkabau
Mirandese
Mizo
Mohawk
Moksha
Morisyen
Mossi
Mvskoke
Nauru
Ndonga
Neapolitan
Newari
Ngambay
Nias
Niuean
Nogai
North Ndebele
North Sámi
Northern Sotho
Norwegian Bokmål
Norwegian Nynorsk
Nyanja
Nyankole
Occitan
Oromo
Palauan
Pampanga
Pangasinan
Papiamento
Pite Sámi
Polish
Portuguese
Quechua
Rapanui
Rarotongan
Romanian
Romansh
Rombo
Rundi
Rwa
Samburu
Samoan
Sandawe
Sango
Sangu
Sardinian
Scots
Scottish Gaelic
Sena
Serbian
Shambala
Shan
Shona
Sicilian
Siksiká
Skolt Sami
Slovak
Slovenian
Soga
Somali
Soninke
South Ndebele
South Sámi
Southern Altai
Southern Sotho
Spanish
Sranan Tongo
Sukuma
Sundanese
Swahili
Swati
Swedish
Swiss German
Tahitian
Taita
Taroko
Tasawaq
Teso
Tetum
Timne
Tok Pisin
Tongan
Tsonga
Tswana
Tumbuka
Turkish
Turkmen
Tuvalu
Tuvinian
Tyap
Udmurt
Umbundu
Ume Sámi
Upper Sorbian
Uzbek
Vai
Vietnamese
Vunjo
Walloon
Waray
Welsh
Wolastoqey
Wolof
Xhosa
Yangben
Yemba
Zarma
Zaza
Zulu
Zuni

Showing 264 of a total 434 supported languages.
See our website for a full, searchable list.

For languages with multiple scripts or writing systems, only the Latin is supported (unless noted otherwise).

Credits	Designed by Rutherford Craze.
Version No.	1.001
First Available	November 2024
Last Updated	November 2026
Total Styles	80 (40 Proportional + 40 Mono)
Glyphs Per Style	Proportional: 814 Mono: 682
UPM	2048
Cap Height	1336
x-Height	1136
Ascender	1536
Descender	−400
Italic Angle	±35.8° (Inclined/Reclined) ±15.9° (Italic/Retalic)
Filesize	OTF: 37–91 KB WOFF2: 14–38 KB TTF (VF): 943–1215 KB WOFF2 (VF): 42–62 KB
Contours	Desktop: Cubic (CFF) (Unhinted) Web: Cubic/Quadratic (CFF/TTF) (Unhinted) Variable: Quadratic (TTF) (Unhinted)
Licensing	MD Thermochrome may be used only as permitted by the terms of the Mass-Driver License Agreement. https://mass-driver.com/licensing

Style *	usWeightClass	wght Weight	slnt Slant
Thin	200	200	0
Thin Italic	200	200	−16
Thin Inclined	201	200	−36
Thin Retalic	199	200	16
Thin Reclined	198	200	36
Light	300	300	0
Light Italic	300	300	−16
Light Inclined	301	300	−36
Light Retalic	299	300	16
Light Reclined	298	300	36
Regular	400	400	0
Italic	400	400	−16
Inclined	401	400	−36
Retalic	399	400	16
Reclined	398	400	36
Medium	500	500	0
Medium Italic	500	500	−16
Medium Inclined	501	500	−36
Medium Retalic	499	500	16
Medium Reclined	498	500	36
Semibold	600	600	0
Semibold Italic	600	600	−16
Semibold Inclined	601	600	−36
Semibold Retalic	599	600	16
Semibold Reclined	598	600	36
Bold	700	700	0
Bold Italic	700	700	−16
Bold Inclined	701	700	−36
Bold Retalic	699	700	16
Bold Reclined	698	700	36
Black	800	800	0
Black Italic	800	800	−16
Black Inclined	801	800	−36
Black Retalic	799	800	16
Black Reclined	798	800	36
Ultra	900	900	0
Ultra Italic	900	900	−16
Ultra Inclined	901	900	−36
Ultra Retalic	899	900	16
Ultra Reclined	898	900	36

Style	wght Weight	slnt Slant
MD Thermochrome VF †	200 ··· 900	−36 ··· 36
MD Thermochrome Mono VF ‡	200 ··· 900	−36 ··· 36

* Style overview applies to both Proportional and Mono families.

† Included when licensing all Proportional styles.

‡ Included when licensing all Mono styles.

A note on multiple italics: many applications used for text lay-out and typography make the assumption that a typeface will have only a single set of italics, and may not fully support MD Thermochrome's additional sets. At time of publishing, we're aware of at least one web-based design tool which is unable to display more than one set of italics at a time.

Please ensure the workflow you need is supported by your software of choice before purchasing a license. You can use our trial fonts to check compatibility with the tools you use.



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