

MD System

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A typeface for general practice. MD System is a distillation of the past 120 years of the grotesque style of typeface, combining the careful refinement of later neo-grotesques with the warmth and human influence of the earlier examples.

Being the first typefaces of a new genre, the early grotesques carry a great deal of awkwardness in their design. This is by no means a bad thing; in fact, it imbues them with a great deal of personality and charm — however, it can be overwhelming in some designs, or compromise readability in others.

The later designs, particularly the more rationalised neo-grots which rose to prominence in the mid 20th century, are perhaps more refined in their design but in many cases at the cost of that personality. Some seem to distill all of their spirit into a few select glyphs, while others attempt to remove it altogether.

The intent of MD System is to strike a balance between these approaches: to embrace the human hand in its design, while not letting it intrude on the reading experience. It has a distinct personality, which it demonstrates in subtle gestures across its wide character set. No single character is distractingly unique, but overall, there is a unique character throughout.

36 Point

**NUMEROUS GAMES  
Desired Scholarships**

△ Times Gothic (ATF, c. 1906)

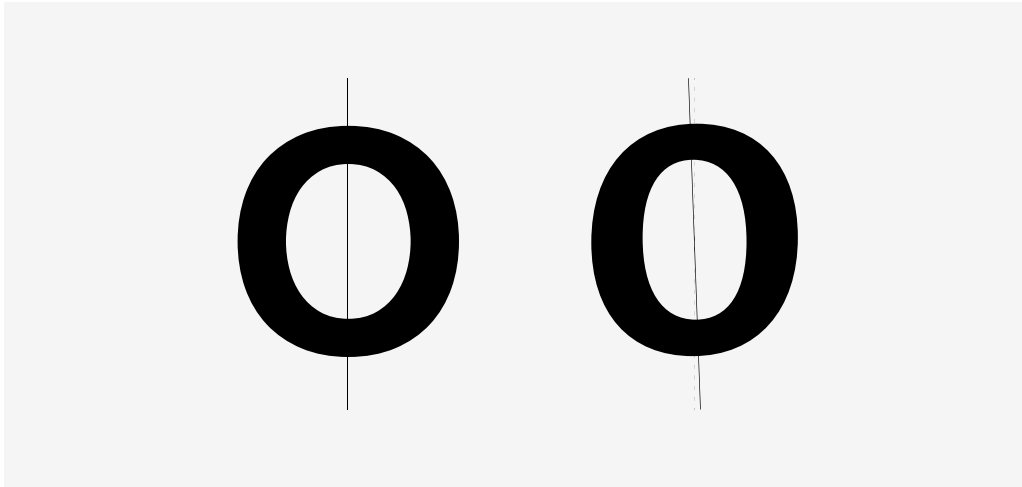
**ABCDEFGHIJKLMNO  
PQRSTUVWXYZ  
abcdefghijklmnopqrs  
tuvwxyz \$12345678**

△ Standard, aka Akzidenz-Grotesk (Berthold, 1898)

19216

**Nuestro comercio con el Brasil  
Biblioteca Nacional de Madrid  
GRAN HOTEL DEL CENTRO**

△ Folio-Grotesk (Bauer, 1957)



A slightly oblique contrast angle lends a degree of warmth to MD System's curved shapes. Though counter-intuitive, it's often the case in type design that a subtly asymmetrical curve can appear more balanced than a mathematically perfect one.



Unlike many 'rational' or neo-grotesque faces, MD System does not constrain its terminals to right angles. Not only does this open up counters and help with spacing, it also gives the stroke leading to the terminal a more natural curve.



Though not a stylistic motif, MD System uses small ink traps in places where strokes meet. 'Pushing whitespace' into areas of the character which would otherwise become very dark helps the typeface appear more even at large sizes, as well as improving its readability at smaller ones.

|                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| MD System Regular | <i>Italic</i>        |
| MD System Medium  | <i>Medium Italic</i> |
| MD System Dark    | <i>Dark Italic</i>   |
| MD System Bold    | <i>Bold Italic</i>   |
| MD System Heavy   | <i>Heavy Italic</i>  |

The lighter weights of MD System are drawn slightly narrow, enabling it to better perform in high information-density tasks like UI design and mobile applications. As the weight increases, the typeface becomes wider, and the spacing narrower, giving MD System's heaviest styles a greater sense of impact and stability at larger sizes.

|                                                        |           |                                              |                                             |           |                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| SS01<br>Single-storey a, g                             | Images    | Images                                       | Oldstyle numbers                            | 01.28.49  | 01.28.49             |
| SS02<br>Straight-tailed Q                              | Queen     | Queen                                        | Tabular numbers<br>Tabular oldstyle numbers | 01.28.49  | 01.28.49<br>01.28.49 |
| SS03<br>Titling punctuation                            | “System;” | “System;”                                    | Slashed zero                                | 20.000    | 20.000               |
| Numerators<br>Denominators<br>Superscript<br>Subscript | 123H456   | 123 <sup>H</sup> 456<br>123 <sub>H</sub> 456 | Case-sensitive forms                        | [(H@H-H)] | [(H@H-H)]            |
| Arbitrary fractions                                    | 123/456   | 123 <sup>/</sup> 456                         | Discretionary ligature IJ                   | RIJKS     | RJKS                 |
| Ordinals                                               | 1o & 1a   | 1 <sup>o</sup> & 1 <sup>a</sup>              | Automatic capital ß<br>(Language: DEU)      | STRAßE    | STRAßE               |



Uppercase

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Lowercase

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

Punctuation

.,:;...!|?¿·•\* & @ # / \ ( ) { } [ ] - - - \_ " ' , , , " " " " « » < >

Uppercase Punctuation

(){}[]- - - @

Titling Punctuation

., ' ' ' ' " " " " „ „ „ „

Symbols

ao¶§©®™°||†ℓ‡e№

Prop. Lining Numbers

00123456789

Tab. Lining Numbers

00123456789

Prop. Oldstyle Numbers

00123456789

Tab. Oldstyle Numbers

00123456789







130 pt

RD180

96 pt

Jupiter 2

75 pt

San Fermín  
*ISO A4 Size*

56 pt

*összegyűjtését*  
Lichtenšteinağ  
*GROßSKALIGE*

48 pt

*FM-2030 (d Y2K)*  
Unspecified ISBN  
*© Mass-Driver™*  
SLEDGEHAMMER

125 pt

# SPACE *INTERPLANETARY* Transport System

48 pt

32 pt

*The proposed lunar colony will be* located near the Southern edge of

12 pt

3 MAY. BISTRITZ. — LEFT MUNICH AT 8:35 P.M., on 1st May, arriving at Vienna early next morning; should have arrived at 6:46, but train was an hour late. Buda-Pesth seems a wonderful place, from the glimpse which I got of it from the train and the little I could walk through the streets. I feared to go very far from the station, as we had arrived late and would start as near the correct time as possible. The impression I had was that we were leaving the West and entering the East; the most western of splendid bridges over the Danube, which *is here of noble width and depth, took us among the traditions of Turkish rule. We left in pretty good time, and came after nightfall to Klausenburgh. Here I stopped for the night at the Hotel Royale. I had for dinner, or rather supper, a chicken done up some way with red pepper, which was very good but thirsty. (Mem., get recipe for Mina.) I asked the waiter, and he said it*

10 pt

IT WAS A BRIGHT COLD DAY IN APRIL, and the clocks were striking thirteen. Winston Smith, his chin nuzzled into his breast in an effort to escape the vile wind, slipped quickly through the glass doors of Victory Mansions, though not quickly enough to prevent a swirl of gritty dust from entering along with him. The hallway smelt of boiled cabbage and old rag mats. At one end of it a coloured poster, too large for indoor display, had been tacked to the wall. It depicted simply an enormous face, more than a metre wide: the *face of a man of about forty-five, with a heavy black moustache and ruggedly handsome features. Winston made for the stairs. It was no use trying the lift. Even at the best of times it was seldom working, and at present the electric current was cut off during daylight hours. It was part of the economy drive in preparation for Hate Week. The flat was seven flights up, and Winston, who*

8 pt

YOU WILL REJOICE TO HEAR THAT no disaster has accompanied the commencement of an enterprise which you have regarded with such evil forebodings. I arrived here yesterday, and my first task is to assure my dear sister of my welfare and increasing confidence in the success of my undertaking. I am already far north of London, and as I walk in the streets of Petersburg, I feel a cold northern breeze play upon my cheeks, which braces my nerves and fills me with delight. Do you understand this feeling? This breeze, which has travelled from the regions towards which I am advancing, gives me a foretaste of those icy climes. Inspired by this wind of *promise, my daydreams become more fervent and vivid. I try in vain to be persuaded that the pole is the seat of frost and desolation; it ever presents itself to my imagination as the region of beauty and delight. There, Margaret, the sun is for ever visible, its broad disk just skirting the horizon and diffusing a perpetual splendour. There—for with your leave, my sister, I will put some trust in preceding navigators—there snow and frost are banished; and, sailing over a calm sea,*

130 pt

MAGIC

96 pt

86 Reals

75 pt

Americana  
*Sequential*

56 pt

HYAENODONS  
heimopäällikkö  
*Høyoppløselige*

48 pt

San Francisco CA  
*network television*  
EXIT THIS WAY →  
£30 Per Attendee

125 pt

“1956.”

48 pt

*Mission District E*  
SAN FRANCISCO

32 pt

*There are five such points, labeled L1 to L5, all in the orbital plane by*

12 pt

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130 pt

**Way In**

96 pt

***Signage***

75 pt

**METRO 50  
*R Centraal***

56 pt

***A9 Westbound  
Terminus Exits  
Newton Abbot***

48 pt

**STRASSENBAHN  
*Parasympathetic  
Add  $\frac{3}{4}$  Cup Dried  
Resistance 380Ω***

125 pt

# Relays

48 pt

# KUNSTWERKEN *Oceanic Surveys*

32 pt

*“Stand up... there you go. You were dreaming — what’s your name?”*

12 pt

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130 pt

**kimchi**

96 pt

**GOLDEN**

75 pt

**LIMITLESS**  
***time & tide***

56 pt

***Grotesque No5***  
**Type Founders**  
***'s-Gravenhage***

48 pt

**51 nr. Isolatorweg**  
***Wrenhaven River***  
**a cut in the hand**  
**SECOND-GUESS**



125 pt

**Coffee**

48 pt

**Monastery Wine  
AQUA REGIA 91%**

32 pt

**MASS-DRIVER c/o RUTHERFORD CRAZE presents "MD SYSTEM"**

12 pt

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130 pt

**TIGER**

96 pt

**Deck 1 ↗**

75 pt

**RAILGUNS**  
***Supremely***

56 pt

**EXTRA BLACK**  
***Mondays Only***  
***#general (217)***

48 pt

**Untitled-1 [RGB]**  
***Overwrite Save?***  
***PAPRIKA HENDL***  
**The Netherlands**

125 pt

**CODE**

48 pt

***Container Ships***  
**PERICYNTHION**

32 pt

***Out in the dark, beyond the city, a siren voice was calling, lonely***

12 pt

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## Supported Languages

|           |                |                   |                 |
|-----------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Afrikaans | Hungarian      | Malagasy          | Shambala        |
| Albanian  | Icelandic      | Malay             | Shona           |
| Asu       | Ido            | Maltese           | Slovak          |
| Basque    | Inari Sami     | Manx              | Slovenian       |
| Bemba     | Indonesian     | Maori             | Soga            |
| Bena      | Interlingua    | Meru              | Somali          |
| Bosnian   | Irish          | Morisyen          | South Ndebele   |
| Catalan   | Italian        | North Ndebele     | Southern Sotho  |
| Cebuano   | Javanese       | Northern Sami     | Spanish         |
| Chiga     | Jju            | Northern Sotho    | Swahili         |
| Colognian | Jola-Fonyi     | Norwegian Bokmål  | Swati           |
| Cornish   | Kabuverdianu   | Norwegian Nynorsk | Swedish         |
| Corsican  | Kalaallisut    | Nyanja            | Swiss German    |
| Croatian  | Kalenjin       | Nyankole          | Taita           |
| Czech     | Kamba          | Occitan           | Taroko          |
| Danish    | Kikuyu         | Oromo             | Teso            |
| Dutch     | Kinyarwanda    | Polish            | Tsonga          |
| Embu      | Kurdish        | Portuguese        | Tswana          |
| English   | Latvian        | Romanian          | Turkish         |
| Estonian  | Lithuanian     | Romansh           | Turkmen         |
| Faroese   | Lojban         | Rombo             | Upper Sorbian   |
| Filipino  | Low German     | Rundi             | Vunjo           |
| Finnish   | Lower Sorbian  | Rwa               | Walloon         |
| French    | Luo            | Samburu           | Walser          |
| Friulian  | Luxembourgish  | Sango             | Welsh           |
| Galician  | Luyia          | Sangu             | Western Frisian |
| Ganda     | Machame        | Sardinian         | Wolof           |
| German    | Makhuwa-Meetto | Scottish Gaelic   | Xhosa           |
| Gusii     | Makonde        | Sena              | Zulu            |

## Details

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Designed By | Rutherford Craze                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Released    | February 2020                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Styles      | 10                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Glyphs      | 578                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Formats     | OTF, WOFF, WOFF2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Licensing   | Desktop & Web<br>(other applications on request)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Copyright   | This specimen is intended for informational purposes only. No part of it may be reproduced without the prior written permission of Mass-Driver, except as necessary to evaluate the typeface.<br><br>MD System may be used only as permitted by the terms of the Mass-Driver End User License Agreement (EULA).<br><a href="https://mass-driver.com/licensing">https://mass-driver.com/licensing</a>                              |
| Credits     | With particular thanks to Frank Grießhammer, Timothy Donaldson and Luke Charsley for their feedback during the design process.<br><br>Specimen of Akzidenz-Grotesk (p. 2) modified from a scan by James Puckett.<br><a href="https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Standard_(Akzidenz_Grotesque)_Specimen_(4083754418).jpg">https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Standard_(Akzidenz_Grotesque)_Specimen_(4083754418).jpg</a> |