



MD IO



MD IO's design is based on the idea of *legibility* (the ease of identifying individual glyphs) as opposed to *readability* (the ease of overall reading).

To make that possible for very detailed glyphs (like M or #), as well as in extremely bold weights and at small sizes, the design makes use of prominent ink traps where strokes meet.

Up close, these are a striking design feature, but at text sizes they all but disappear — resulting in glyphs which look normal, but render sharper and more legibly.

Along with ensuring individual glyphs are legible, MD IO also maintains a clear and distinct separation between upright and italic styles. The italics are not just slanted variants of the roman forms but cursive constructions, producing a texture that can easily be identified in code or written text.

The italic styles of MD IO also feature uniquely orthogonal horizontal stroke endings. Originally implemented as a straight-forward rendering improvement for text on screen, this has become a graphic feature in the boldest weights and largest display sizes.

Roman

Thin
Light
Regular
Medium
Semibold
Bold
Black
Ultra

Italic

Thin Italic
Light Italic
Italic
Medium Italic
Semibold Italic
Bold Italic
Black Italic
Ultra Italic



96pt

Astronaut 23

72pt

Slashed zero

[1206] DESIGNER
Anodized Material

40pt

LOS ANGELES. NOVEMBER 2019
An Alternative History
349 Electric Sheep Count



96pt

Prototypical

72pt

NETWORK ADAPTER
Rated for 240V AC

40pt

INDUSTRIAL SECTORS 35-41
Straßenbahn Time-table
"Outer District Express"

96pt

Slashed zero

Industry 2034

72pt

IRON FORGE 1560°C
Avoid Eye Contact

40pt

5-YEAR COMPONENT WARRANTY
Manufacturing Processes
Paragraph 49.c.3 Details



96pt

Electrostatic

72pt

ULM & THE BAUHAUS
Designed Objects

40pt

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART
Functionalist Aesthetics
Operating: [1893-1973]



96pt

26 Vinyl PVC

72pt

**FORMICA, MELAMINE
1934 Zephyr Radio**

40pt

**CHROME PLATED STEEL CHAIR
Digital Versatile Discs
206 Cantilevered Assembly**



96pt

Maximum 500T

72pt

Black circled numbers

**CONCESSIONS DESK
Risograph Print ③**

40pt

***“PROGRAMMABLE MICROCHIPS”
3½ Hours Each Day Saved
International Expositions***



96pt

' Archaeology '

72pt

**NASA ADV. PROJECT
Jet Propulsion**

40pt

**[20] NEW OPERATION MANUAL
Objective Departures Area
Desks M3-N1 & N3. (North)**



96pt

Interface 365

72pt

USER INTERACTION Development & Ops

40pt

100% CODE COVERAGE REACHED
Reviews In Progress (#6)
It's now safe to continue.



16 / 20 pt

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Circled Numbers

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 ● ○

Super & subscript

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0^H 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

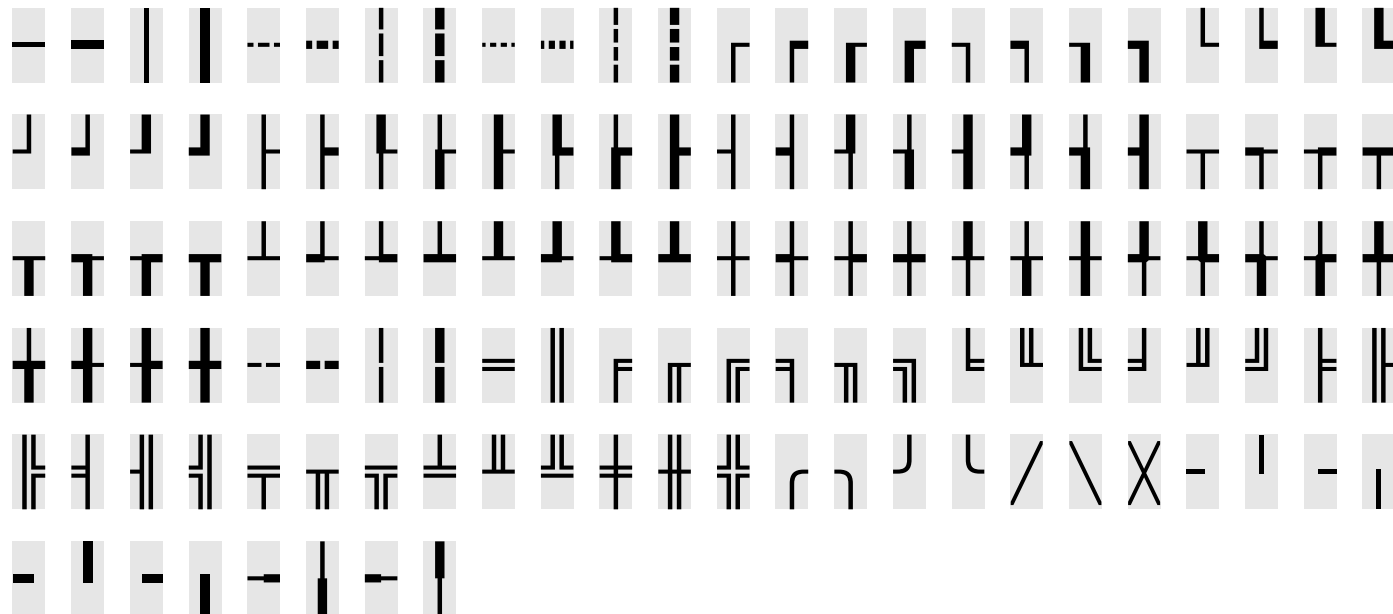
Numerator & Denominator

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0^H 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

Block Elements



Box Drawing





| | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ss01 Alternate <i>B</i> | Straße | Straße | ss02 Circled Numbers | Line 2 | Line ② |
| ss03 Black Circled Numbers | Line 3 | Line ③ | ordn Ordinals | 1o 1a | 1^o 1^a |
| sup _s Superscript | x²+4 | x²+4 | subs, sin _f Subscript, scientific inferiors | H₂SO₄ | H₂SO₄ |
| frac Arbitrary Fractions | 17/24 | 17/24 | zero, ss04 Slashed Zero | 0% E¹⁰ | 0% E¹⁰ |
| ca _l t Contextual Alternates (<i>Code Ligatures</i>) | <! -- | <! -- | lo _c l Localised Forms (<i>Romanian & Moldavian, Northern Sámi</i>) | Șț Ț | Șț Ț |

Using OpenType Features in CSS

The four-character tags (ss01, ordn, etc.) listed next to each feature above can be used with the `font-feature-settings` CSS property to toggle the relevant feature. For instance,

```
font-feature-settings: "ss01";
```

will enable the *alternate B* stylistic set.

We recommend referring to the MDN [OpenType Font Features Guide](#) for more information and best practices.



4 Characters

<!---

3 Characters

/// ... </> <<= <=< <=> <::< <::: <|| --> >=> >:: != =/= =<= =>> =>= ==:: :<: :>: ::< ::> :// ::: ||> ||=

2 Characters

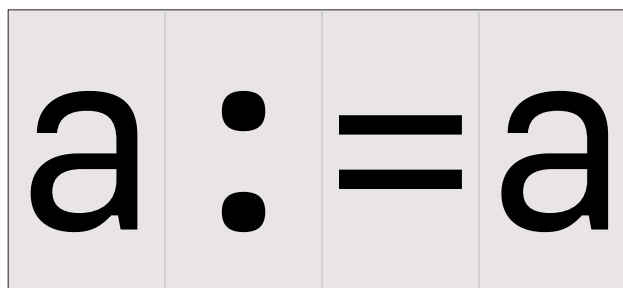
// /> /= /* ?? .. </ <- <= <: -> >: !! != => :< :> := :: |= || */ --

Ligatures for Code

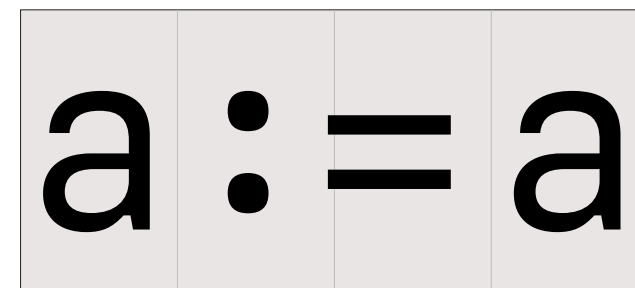
MD IO's code 'ligatures' work a little differently from other fonts. Rather than true ligatures (single drawings meant to replace sets of multiple characters), the feature dynamically *moves* glyphs while keeping the underlying characters intact.

That means syntax highlighting and tracking ('letter-spacing' in CSS) still work — and because the glyphs remain semantically unchanged, there's no confusion about what a ligature represents.

Since this context-sensitive repositioning doesn't create the same accessibility issues as traditional code ligatures, it's enabled by default in supported applications (including Xcode and VS Code). You can disable it manually by turning off the `ca1t` (Contextual Alternates) OpenType feature.



Ligatures off. The baseline-aligned lower dot, and wider spaces around the colon compared with the equal sign, cause the alignment to appear uneven.



Ligatures on. The lower dot of the colon is shifted upwards, and both glyphs are repositioned for more balanced spacing.

(Thanks to Johannes from Finaltype for introducing this dynamic positioning concept, and for advising on our implementation.)



Showing 145 of a total 414 supported languages.

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Afrikaans | Gusii | Malagasy | South Ndebele |
| Akan | Hausa | Malay | Southern Sotho |
| Albanian | Hawaiian | Maltese | Spanish |
| Asu | Hungarian | Manx | Sundanese |
| Azerbaijani | Icelandic | Māori | Swahili |
| Bafia | Ido | Meru | Swati |
| Bambara | Igbo | Meta' | Swedish |
| Basque | Inari Sami | Mohawk | Swiss German |
| Bemba | Indonesian | Morisyen | Taita |
| Bena | Interlingua | Nigerian Pidgin | Taroko |
| Bosnian | Irish | North Ndebele | Tasawaq |
| Breton | Italian | Northern Sami | Teso |
| Catalan | Javanese | Northern Sotho | Tongan |
| Cebuano | Jju | Norwegian Bokmål | Tsonga |
| Chiga | Jola-Fonyi | Norwegian Nynorsk | Tswana |
| Cognian | Kabuverdianu | Nyanja | Turkish |
| Cornish | Kalaallisut | Nyankole | Turkmen |
| Corsican | Kalenjin | Occitan | Upper Sorbian |
| Croatian | Kamba | Oromo | Uzbek |
| Czech | Kikuyu | Polish | Vunjo |
| Danish | Kinyarwanda | Portuguese | Walloon |
| Duala | Koyra Chiini | Quechua | Walser |
| Dutch | Koyraboro Senni | Romanian | Welsh |
| Embu | Kurdish | Romansh | Western Frisian |
| English | Kwasio | Rombo | Wolof |
| Esperanto | Latvian | Rundi | Xhosa |
| Estonian | Lingala | Rwa | Yangben |
| Faroese | Lithuanian | Samburu | Zarma |
| Filipino | Lojban | Sango | Zulu |
| Finnish | Low German | Sangu | |
| French | Lower Sorbian | Sardinian | |
| Friulian | Luba-Katanga | Scottish Gaelic | |
| Fula | Luo | Sena | |
| Ga | Luxembourgish | Shambala | |
| Galician | Luyia | Shona | |
| Ganda | Machame | Sicilian | |
| German | Makhuwa-Meetto | Slovak | |
| Guarani | Makonde | Slovenian | |
| | | Soga | |
| | | Somali | |

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

While we take care to ensure our language support is as complete and accurate possible, we can't guarantee that every regional or language-specific variation of a glyph is included. Please [get in touch](#) if you need a custom version to better fit your language.



Styles / Instances

| Style | wght ¹ | ital | OS/2 width/weight class |
|-----------------|-------------------|------|-------------------------|
| Thin | 200 | 0 | 5 / 200 |
| Thin Italic | 200 | 1 | 5 / 200 |
| Light | 300 | 0 | 5 / 300 |
| Light Italic | 300 | 1 | 5 / 300 |
| Regular | 400 | 0 | 5 / 400 |
| Italic | 400 | 1 | 5 / 400 |
| Medium | 500 | 0 | 5 / 500 |
| Medium Italic | 500 | 1 | 5 / 500 |
| Semibold | 600 | 0 | 5 / 600 |
| Semibold Italic | 600 | 1 | 5 / 600 |
| Bold | 700 | 0 | 5 / 700 |
| Bold Italic | 700 | 1 | 5 / 700 |
| Black | 800 | 0 | 5 / 800 |
| Black Italic | 800 | 1 | 5 / 800 |
| Ultra | 900 | 0 | 5 / 900 |
| Ultra Italic | 900 | 1 | 5 / 900 |

¹ Equivalent to the CSS font-weight attribute.

MD IO Variable (Available on request)

| Axis | Min | Max |
|----------------------|-----|-----|
| Weight (wght) | 200 | 900 |
| Italic (ital) | 0 | 1 |

Formats / Sizes

| Style | Filesize | Contour Type |
|----------------|------------|-----------------|
| OTF | 105–112 KB | Cubic (CFF) |
| WOFF2 | 36–42 KB | Cubic (CFF) |
| WOFF | 40–47 KB | Cubic (CFF) |
| Variable TTF | 193 KB | Quadratic (TTF) |
| Variable WOFF2 | 83 KB | Quadratic (TTF) |
| Variable WOFF | 98 KB | Quadratic (TTF) |

General Information

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Credits | Designed by Rutherford Craze |
| | With thanks to the team at Future Fonts, and to everyone who licensed MD IO or provided feedback during the development of the typeface. |
| File Version | 1.002 |
| First Available | January 2021 |
| Released | August 2023 |
| Licensing | MD IO may be used only as permitted by the terms of the Mass-Driver End User License Agreement (EULA). https://mass-driver.com/licensing |



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This specimen is intended for informational purposes only, and is not guaranteed to be free from errors (though we did our best).

Supporting text in this document is set in MD System.

Paragraph texts adapted from Wikipedia.