

Unifraktur Maguntia



Manual (with General Rules for Typesetting Fraktur)

Gerrit Ansmann

Quick and Sometimes Dirty

If you do not want to read through this manual, try the ready-to-use variants UnifrakturMaguntia`x` ([more](#)):

- ✦ `x = 16, 17, 18, 19, 20`: The font tries to render your text in (German) `x`th-century typesetting. This strongly relies on OpenType features (and thus does not work with every program) and heuristics (and thus is not perfect).
- ✦ `x = 21`: Modern variant ignoring historical accuracy and aimed at readers who are not used to fraktur.

UnifrakturMaguntia16	Küß unsre 48 Aerte vor Juan — 2c.
UnifrakturMaguntia17	Küß unsre 48 Aerte vor Juan — 2c.
UnifrakturMaguntia18	Küß unsre 48 Aerte vor Ivan — 2c.
UnifrakturMaguntia19	Küß unsre 48 Aerte vor Ivan — 2c.
UnifrakturMaguntia20	Küß unsre 48 Aerte vor Ivan — etc.
UnifrakturMaguntia21	Küss unsre 48 Ärte vor Ivan — etc.

About Unifraktur Maguntia

Unifraktur Maguntia is a digitalisation of the 1901 typesface Mainzer Fraktur by Carl Albert Fahrenwaldt that has been extended by several glyphs.

It aspires the following paradigms:

- ✦ Unicode conformity
- ✦ Usage of intelligent font standards such as OpenType
- ✦ Support of all characters which have ever existed as fraktur types
- ✦ Support of all currently used Latin-based alphabets
 - unless a disproportional effort is required

While the first versions of this font were based on a digitalisation by Peter Wiegel, all glyphs have been digitalised again or been redrawn by now.

The name “Maguntia” is derived from a Latin name of Mainz.

About this Manual

The term “fraktur” is used in its narrower sense, i.e., for a certain kind of blackletter fonts and not for blackletter fonts in general.

Unless noted otherwise, all descriptions of historical typesetting conventions and customs are based on surveying actual historical texts and dictionaries.

Table of contents:

- ✦ Language support and glyph coverage
- ✦ Rules for typesetting fraktur and font features
- ✦ Questions the author would like to answer (FAQ) and acknowledgements

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Þjórsá Umál Krišjāni
Eðuvíð Værløse Alšenu
Pont=y=pról Skupońca Łeczna
Nzendüfe Žďár Topolčany
Freñr Zeichenvorrat Győr
Ėlwen
Charnay=lès=Mâcon Gatscheab
Cruilles Dulovac Tântăren
Gátão Forli Korçe Çiçekdağı
Haž=Žebbuġ Dski Žqriġ

Supported Current Alphabets

The following languages' current latin-based alphabets are covered by Unifraktur Maguntia:

Albanian	German	Portuguese
Azerbaijani	Icelandic	Romanian
Catalan	Irish	Serbo-Croatian
Czech	Hungarian	Slovak
Danish	Latin	Slovene
Dutch	Latvian	Spanish
English	Lithuanian	Swedish
Esperanto	Lower Sorbian	Turkish
Estonian	Luxembourgish	Upper Sorbian
Faroese	Maltese	Welsh
Finnish	Norwegian	
French	Polish	

This list is not exhaustive and in particular omits alphabets that do not contain any characters in addition to the respective country's dominant alphabet. To conclusively tell whether a language is supported, you need to check the [glyph coverage](#).

Supported Historic Alphabets

The following is a list of historically used characters sorted by language. It also lists features that are of particular interest for historically typesetting the respective languages.

- ✦ German: Ä ä Ö ö ʀ ſ Ŭ ŭ [cv11](#) [cv12](#) [cv13](#) [cv14](#) [cv15](#) [ss02](#) [ss03](#)
- ✦ Latvian:
Ā ā Ē ē Ģ ģ Ī ī Ķ ķ Ļ ļ Ņ ņ Ō ō Ŗ ţ Š š šķ Ū ū [cv28](#)
- ✦ Norwegian: Å å Æ æ
- ✦ Czech and Slovak: ě ě Ě ě ň ř š š ť ž [cv16](#) [cv18](#) [cv23](#) [cv25](#) [cv26](#) [cv27](#)
- ✦ Sorbian:
à á ä å â Ą ą Ć ć é ē ě ħ í Ĺ ĺ Ļ ļ Ĺ ĺ ŏ ō Ȯ ȯ Ȱ ȱ Ȳ ȳ Ĥ ȥ Ħ ȧ ů Ẃ ẃ Ẅ ẅ Ỳ ỳ Ỳ ỳ [cv16](#) [cv18](#) [cv24](#)

Characters that are neither accessible via their own Unicode points nor via a feature can be accessed using combining diacritical marks. W and w can be accessed via U+E002 and U+E003 or using U+0337.

Glyph Coverage – Colours

The following pages contain all glyphs of Unifraktur Maguntia. They are colour-coded as follows:

- ✧ Glyphs which were contained in Mainzer Fraktur (sometimes with a different design)
- ✧ Glyphs for support of contemporary texts of living languages
- ✧ Glyphs contained in some historic fraktur
- ✧ Modern variants (more information)
- ✧ Other Glyphs

U, u and Similar

U Ů Ũ Ű ű Ų ų Ŵ ŵ

u ŭ ů ű ŷ Ź ź Ż ŵ

À Ä Å Â Ã Ä Ā Ă Ą

à ä å â ã ä ā ă ą

Ų ų Ů ů Ű ű

Œ œ Æ æ Æ Œ Æ æ

ʒ, h, Ç, c, Ȣ, d, Ğ, e and Similar

ʒ h ʒ ħ ħ ʒ

Ç c Ç ç Ç é Ç ê Ç ě Ç ě

Ȣ d Ȣ ḏ ḏ Ȣ ḏ

Ğ e Ğ è Ğ é Ğ ê Ğ ě

Ğ ē Ğ ě Ğ ě Ğ ě Ğ ě Ğ

Ţ, ƒ, Ȣ, ȣ and Similar

Ţ ƒ

Ȣ Ȣ̂ Ȣ̃ Ȣ̄ Ȣ̅ Ȣ̆ Ȣ̇

Ȣ̈ Ȣ̉ Ȣ̊ Ȣ̋ Ȣ̌

Ȣ̍ Ȣ̎ Ȣ̏ Ȣ̐ Ȣ̑ Ȣ̒ Ȣ̓

S, h, ſ, i, Š, j and Similar

Œ œ Š š S s H

ſ ſ Š š Š š Š š Š š

Š š Š š Š š Š š Š š

ſ ſ Š š Š ſ Š ſ

R, r, L, l, M, m and Similar

Ŕ ŕ Ŗ ŗ ŗ Ŕ ŗ

Ꝛ ꝛ Ꝝ ꝝ Ꝟ ꝟ

ℓ ℓ ℓ ℓ ℓ ℓ

ℓ ℓ ℓ ℓ ℓ ℓ

ℳ ℳ ℳ ℳ ℳ ℳ

N, n and Similar

Ń ń Ń Ț ț Ț

Ṇ ṇ Ṇ Ṭ ṭ Ṭ

n ñ ñ ȳ ǎ ı

ℵ n n̄

Q, v and Similar

Q q Q̈ q̈ Q̇ q̇ Q̆ q̆

Q̂ q̂ Q̃ q̃ Q̄ q̄ Q̅ q̅ Q̆ q̆ Q̇ q̇

Q̈ q̈ Q̉ q̉ Q̊ q̊ Q̋ q̋ Q̌ q̌ Q̍ q̍ Q̎ q̎

Q̐ q̐ Q̑ q̑ Q̒ q̒ Q̓ q̓ Q̔ q̔ Q̕ q̕ Q̖ q̖

P, p, Q, q, R, r and Similar

P p Ṗ ṗ p̈

Q q

R r 2 Ṙ ṙ R̈ r̈

R̊ r̊ R̋ r̋ Ř ř

G, f, s and Similar



Ţ, Ț, U, u, V, v and Similar

Ţ Ț Ţ Ț Ţ Ț Ţ Ț

U u Ů ů Ů ů Ů ů

Ů ů Ů ů Ů ů Ů ů

Ů ů Ů ů Ů ů

Ů ů Ů ů Ů

ʒ, v, W, w, X, x and Similar

ʒ v ʒ

W w Ŵ ŵ W̃ w̃

W̄ w̄ W̄̇ w̄̇

Ẇ ẇ Ẅ ẅ

X x X̄ x̄

ŷ, ȳ and Similar

ŷ ŷ̇ ŷ̈ ŷ̈̇ ŷ̈̈̇ ŷ̈̈̈̇

ȳ ȳ̇ ȳ̈ ȳ̈̇ ȳ̈̈̇ ȳ̈̈̈̇

ȝ ȝ̇ ȝ̈ ȝ̈̇ ȝ̈̈̇ ȝ̈̈̈̇ ȝ̈̈̈̈̇

ȳ ȳ̇ ȳ̈ ȳ̈̇ ȳ̈̈̇ ȳ̈̈̈̇

3, 3, Similar and Miscellaneous Letters



Punctuation and Mathematical Operators

• , ∴ = − — ? ∴ ! † _ ~ ” ’

() [] {} < > / | \ & § † ‡

> < >> << , ‘ ’ „ “ ” ♦ ∙ ✱ ✨ ✧

+ − × ÷ ± = #

+ − × ÷ ± = #

Numerals

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 –

1 3 4 7

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 –

0 1 8

More Number Forms

0 1 2 3 4

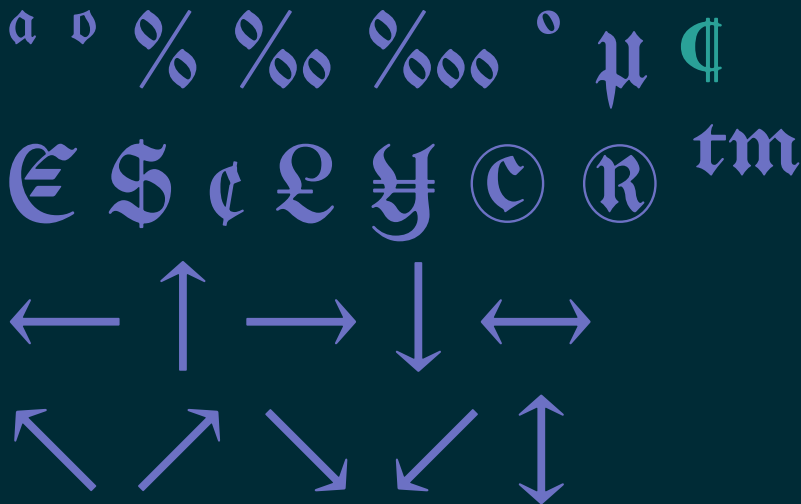
0 1 2 3 4

$\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{1}{3}$ $\frac{2}{3}$

I II III IV V VI VII VIII

IX X XI XII L C D M

Miscellaneous Characters



Ligatures

ff fi fl ft fj fr fp fy

ch si sl st sj sp sy

cf ffi ffl ftt fjj fr H ff

ck fb fh ft fô tt b

Schachstück

Schachstück

Graubrot

Graubrot

Regeln und Features

Ausschank

Aus schank

Krähenfüße

Krähenfüße

Ligatures

In fraktur typesetting, there are two kinds of ligatures:

- * Typographic ligatures, which avoid ugly collisions or large gaps between letters, respectively, e.g., fi or fl. These ligatures are implemented in the feature liga, which is usually activated by default.
- * The required ligatures ch, ck, ft, h and h. It does not matter whether h is regarded as a separate letter or belonging to this group. Except for h, the required ligatures are implemented in the feature ccmp, which is activated by default. These ligatures were not affected by **letter-spacing** and except ft, they were used in almost all fraktur typefaces and texts. ck and h were exclusively used for the sounds they typically represent and therefore they weren't used in words like "ob~~h~~ön" or "Ranicki".

Like today, Ligatures weren't used over boundaries in composite words. For example, one would typeset "auflegen" and "entzwei" instead of "auflegen" and "entzwei".

Emphasis in Fraktur Typesetting – Letter=Spacing

The predominant mode of emphasis in fraktur typesetting was letter=spacing, which did not affect **required ligatures**, however. The latter are implemented via the feature `ccmp` instead of `liga`, which facilitates the implementation of fraktur letter=spacing.

For example, using the LaTeX package `Fontspec`, letter=spacing can be used in place of boldface as follows:

```
\setsansfont[  
  BoldFont = UnifrakturMaguntia,  
  BoldFeatures = {LetterSpace=8.0, Ligatures=NoCommon, Kerning=Off}  
]{UnifrakturMaguntia}  
^^|^^|
```

Ach, wie gut, daß niemand weiß, daß ich Rumpelstilzchen hei!

Emphasis in Fraktur Typesetting – Roman Type

Certain loaned and foreign words were set in roman type in fraktur typesetting. The Duden dictionary recommended for the German language:

- ✦ Use roman type for words from Romance languages (Latin, French, ...), unless their pronunciation or inflection is German or they are part of an unhyphenated word composition.
- ✦ Never use roman type for names of persons or places.
- ✦ Use roman type for the abbreviations Dr., Lic. and Mag. as well as similar ones such as Dr. rer. nat., but not for Prof., Dr.-Ing., Doktor, Magister or Lizentiat.

Im Grand Hôtel von Chalon-sur-Saône frönte Prof. Dr. François Dupont dem Dolcefarniente bei Crêpes, Horsd'œuvres und Vol-au-Vents.

Roman type was occasionally used for all-caps acronyms, but mostly those were avoided altogether.

Direkt nach dem Abc lernte er das GS-Maßsystem.

Emphasis in Fraktur Typesetting – All Caps

All caps were particularly used in old religious texts for “God”, “Jesus” and similar as well as for pronouns referring to them:

GOD, the LORD, spoke to JESUS, HIS son.

In a variant of this, only the first two letters were capitalised:

Gd, the LOrd, spoke to JEsus, HIs son.

Moreover, sometimes parts of title pages were set in all caps.

In general, using all-caps fraktur is not recommended as even trained fraktur readers have trouble deciphering it:

THIS TEXT IS HIGHLY UNPLEASANT TO READ.

Accordingly, all-caps acronyms were mostly either avoided or set in roman type.

Emphasis in Fraktur Typesetting – Others

- ✧ Sometimes, other, bolder blackletter typefaces or a bolder variant of the same typeface were used for emphasis.
- ✧ There are a few slanted fraktur typefaces, which however never took hold.
- ✧ An equal-weight schwabacher was rarely used for emphasis, mostly for proper names or similar. The restriction to such an application was probably due the fact that certain lowercase letters and thus certain uncapitalised words were hardly distinguishable from there fraktur counterparts, while the uppercase letters were sufficiently distinct.

Neither with samples nor historical sources could I confirm the common claim that, besides letter-spacing, schwabacher was the predominant method for emphasis in fraktur typesetting.

The Long S in German – Preface

The following rules capture the spelling of dictionaries from the early 1900s, which had not undergone a recent change affecting the usage of the long s.

Some preliminary remarks and definitions:

- ✦ Knowing the ð spelling paradigm of your choice (old/Adelung or new/Heyse) is regarded as a prerequisite.
- ✦ In general, f has precedence over s and thus a given f is often required by more than one rule.
- ✦ A “meaningful unit” denotes a non-inflectional morpheme, i.e., a word, part of a composite word, prefix, or suffix. This also applies if composites that were loaned as a whole.

The Long S in German – Rules, Part 1

1) ſ is used at the beginning of meaningful units. This also applies if two s were merged into one at a morpheme boundary.

ſieben, ſtill, ſpät, kreiſte, ſchwarz, ſkandalös, ſlawiſch, ſzeniſch, wieſo, Wildſau, Anſatz, Schickſal, Botſchaft, Neckarſulm, Weilerswiſt, Alſbeſt (from ἄ-σβεστος), Alſphalt (from ἄ-σφαλής), tranſzendent (from tran(s)-scandere), Diſtrikt (from di(s)-strictus), Jablonſki, Skłodowſka

2) ſ is used before the vowel of a ſyllable.

roſig, Leſung, Raſerei, Tranſit, Proſodie, Pſyche, Tſingtau, Čſárdás

3) ſ is used in groups of letters denoting a ſpecial pronunciation (digraph, trigraph, ...). This does not apply, if the s is the laſt letter of the group and of a meaningful unit.

Fiſch, laſſen, aſſoziiieren, Diſſertation, Squaſh, Krzysztosf, Čſárdás
but: daſs, häſſlich (Heyſe ſpelling); Tſchias (no ſch ſound)

The Long S in German – Rules, Part 2

4) ſ is used in the middle of meaningful units,
if the following letter is p, t or z.

Leistung, Wespe, laſziv, Feſt, brauſte

but: Maſke, groteſk, Roſwitha, Zynismus, Dresden, leſbiſch, Gleisner,
Roſmos, Oslo, Eſquire, Eſra (not followed by p, t or z)

Samſtag, Biſtum, Diſput, Tranſport (end of the meaningful unit)

5) ſ is used before an omitted reduced e (ſichwa, /ə/).

unſre (from unfere), Drechſler (from Drechſeler), Piſſner (from Piſſener)

6) In all other caſes, s is used.

daſ, biſ, Hauſ, lieſ, Maſſgeier, Blaſſkapelle, Drechſſvieh, deſhalb,
Samſtag, graſgrün, löſlich, Wachſtum, Häuſchen, Auſfahrt, daſſelbe,
Phoſphor (from φωſ-φόροſ)

The Long S in German – Notes

- ✧ The following rule of thumb fails only in one of about five hundred cases: s is used at the end of separately pronounced meaningful units; otherwise ſ is used.
- ✧ The spelling of a very small set of words usually deviated from the above rules: Islam, Ismael, Israel and Moslem. Some dictionaries recommended the alternative spelling (with s) or were even inconsistent.
- ✧ Nowadays, there is no basis for regarding using the long s in blackletter texts as exclusively correct:
 - The official spelling rules do not mention the long s.
 - Only for very few people, if any, does it make texts easier to read.
 - Using the long s for blackletter not prevalent anymore.
- ✧ The rules for long-s spelling in the current Duden dictionary yield the same results as our ones, except for omitting z in rule 4. They thus yield, e.g., “lasziw” instead of “lasziw”.

The Long S in German – Heuristic

Character Variant 11 (cv11/ss11) activates a heuristic that decides whether an s should be ſ or ſ on basis of the preceding and succeeding letter. It fails for about 0.7 % of all s. It can be corrected with a zero-width non-joiner (before ſ, after ſ).

before \ after						
	a c t	e i o u y ä ö ü p and other lowercase vowels	ƒ r	b d f g h j l m n q v w x z ß . ' and other lowercase consonants	ſ s	other
g	ſ	s	s	s	s	s
vowels except u	ſ	ſ	s	s	ſ	s
b d f h k l r s t u	ſ	ſ	s	s	s	s
c j m n p q v w	ſ	ſ	ſ	s	s	s
other	ſ	ſ	ſ	ſ	ſ	s

The Long S in Other Languages

In West European languages other than German, the distinction between the long and round s was rather a typographical than a morphological one. Andrew West gives a meticulous account of his findings on this on his blog [Babelstone](#), from which I hypothesise following:

- ✧ At the end of a word, only s was used.
- ✧ Otherwise ſ was used, except if only a big gap could have avoided a collision of ſ and the following glyph and the respective ligature was not available.

According to this, the English word husband would have been typeset “husband” if an ſb-ligature was available. Otherwise it would have been typeset “husband” to avoid the ugly “husband”. Either way, it was hyphenated “huf-band” as ſ and = do not collide.

Miscellaneous Features of Fraktur Typesetting

In fraktur typesetting, an em dash was used for all current uses of the en dash. Character variant 19 (cv19) automatically replaces en dashes with em dashes.

cv19: Iceland—Peru — 15 goals in minutes 27—36
 → Iceland—Peru — 15 goals in minutes 27—36

What Died Out Before Fraktur – The Round R

In early fraktur texts, the round r (ʀ) replaced the regular r after certain characters, namely:

- ✦ Letters that were round to the right between baseline and midline such as B, D, G, O, P, b, d, h, o and p;
- ✦ r and ʀ (there are counterexamples for these though).

Character variant 12 (cv12) automatically performs this replacement:

cv12: Herr Hrdlicka fror in Syrien. → Herz Hrdlicka froʀ in Syrien.

The round r was also used to replace “et” in the abbreviation “etc.” This usage originated from the round r’s similarity to the Tironian Et and survived until ca. 1900 and hence, ironically, the round r in its original use. This replacement is automated via a historical ligature (hlig).

hlig: etc. → ʀc.

What Died Out Before Fraktur – Old Umlauts

Today's umlaut dots originate from a small e that was placed above the respective basic letter up to the 19th century, e.g. *â*. Capital umlauts, however, emerged only at the beginning of the 20th century. Before, the basic capital letter plus e was used, e.g. *Ne*. There are only few examples of a small e over a capital letter.

- ✦ Character Variant 15 (cv15) replaces the umlaut dots with a small e, even over capital letters.
- ✦ Character variant 14 (cv14) replaces the capital umlauts with the respective base letter plus e and has priority over Character Variant 15.

cv15: *Übergrößengeschäft* → *Übergrößengeschäft*

cv14: *Übergrößengeschäft* → *Nebergrößengeschäft*

cv14+cv15: *Übergrößengeschäft* → *Nebergrößengeschäft*

What Died Out Before Fraktur – I–J Merger

Until the early 20th century, there was no distinction between the capital letters I and J and both were written as I. Character Variant 13 (cv13) implements this:

cv13: Im Juni in Ingolstadt → Im Juni in Ingolstadt

In some early fraktur texts, j was used at the beginning of a word for both, i and j, while everywhere else i was used for both. Stylistic Set 3 (ss03) implements this together with the above:

ss03: In der Rajüte iſt jemand. → In der Raiüte iſt jemand.

What Died Out Before Fraktur – U–V Merger

Today's distinction between u and v emerged in the 17th century. Until then, v was used for both, u and v at the beginning of words, while u was used elsewhere. As a capital letter, V was used for both.

The Stylistic Set 2 (ss02) implements this:

ss02: unſer Univerſum → vnſer Vniuerſum

Easy Reading – No Long S

If you want to ease reading for an audience that is not familiar with reading fraktur, the first thing that suggests itself is not using the long s.

Character variant o (cv00¹) replaces every long s with a round one and allows to easily switch between typesetting with and without a long s.

While the swash of the round s hardly poses a problem in texts using the long s (as the round s mostly occurs at the end of words and similar), it one may regard it as diminishing readability and aesthetics in texts without it. For such a case, Character Variant 20 (cv20) “deswashes” every round s that is not at the end of a word (or before a zero-width non-joiner). One might argue that this is also a good thing for texts with a long s.

cv00: ftressigst → stressigst

cv20: samstags → samstags

cv20: muskulöses → muskulöses

cv00+cv20: seriöses → seriöses

¹Also available via cv40 for software that does not support cv00.

Easy Reading – Modern Forms

Another difficulty of Fraktur for today's readers are letters whose Fraktur form is unfamiliar or can be confused with another letter. Character Variants 1 to 10 (cv01 – cv10) address this issue by providing one or two “modern” variant of such letters.

Stylistic Set 1 (ss01) comprises all easy=reading features (cv00 – cv10, cv20).

cv01: $\text{f f f c f} \rightarrow \text{k k k c k}$

cv02: $\text{x} \rightarrow \text{x} \rightarrow \text{x}$

cv03: $\text{h h h} \dots \rightarrow \text{y y y} \dots$

cv04: $\text{U U U u u} \dots \rightarrow \text{A A A a a} \dots$

cv05: $\text{G G G} \dots \rightarrow \text{G G G} \dots$

cv06: $\text{R R} \rightarrow \text{X X}$

cv07: $\text{N N N} \dots \rightarrow \text{n n n} \dots$

cv08: $\text{S S S} \dots \rightarrow \text{s s s} \dots$

cv09: $\text{V} \rightarrow \text{V}$

cv10: $\text{Y Y Y} \dots \rightarrow \text{y y y} \dots$

ss01: $\text{Analys\text{is}} \rightarrow \text{Analysis}$

Numerals

Unifraktur Maguntia comes with two kinds of numbers and mathematical operators:

- ✦ Uppercase numerals as we use them today, together with huge operators. These were predominant in fraktur typesetting and are activated via the feature Lining Numbers (lnum).
- ✦ Fraktur lowercase numerals with moderate operators, which were rarely used, but which better match the other glyphs. They are activated by default and via the feature Oldstyle Numbers (onum).

lnum: 16 + 5×9 - 27 = 34 → 16 + 5✕9 - 27 = 34

Both kinds of numbers are available as proportional numbers (pnum, default) and monospaced numbers (tnum):

	onum ¹	lnum	
pnum ¹	o123456789	0123456789	¹ default
tnum	o123456789	0123456789	

Roman Numerals

Roman numerals are implemented on the Unicode code points U+2160 to U+216F. Successive numerals are automatically aligned properly (via kerning):



The diagram consists of a dark blue rounded rectangle containing two lines of text. Each line shows a Roman numeral followed by a right-pointing arrow and then the same numeral again. The first line is 'XVIII → XVIII' and the second line is 'MDXIX → MDXIX'. The spacing between the numeral and the arrow, and between the arrow and the second numeral, is consistent in both lines, demonstrating proper alignment through kerning.

XVIII → XVIII
MDXIX → MDXIX

Kerning

Unifraktur Maguntia was kerned extensively and manually.
This includes rarely used, but particularly problematic pairs
with a capital letter in second position.

„Ranzlers“ → „Ranzlers“
(je Fotograf) → (je Fotograf)
MacPherson → MacPherson
SSH (GOTT) → SSH (GOTT)
;XiiPpRŕli? → ;XiiPpRŕli?

Kerned pairs in the first four examples:

„R Ra zl rs (j Go to ra f) Ma cP Ph SS hN OT TT T)

Variants of s-Based Special Characters

- ✦ Per default, the swash of the s is removed if there is a diacritical mark above it. Character Variant 16 (cv16) suppresses this.
- ✦ š, ṧ and š̈ are also available with a long s as the base character via Character Variant 17 (cv17) or using Unicode's combining diacritical marks (U+0301, U+0302 and U+030C).
- ✦ Character Variants 21 to 25 (cv21–cv25) allow to access alternates on a per-character basis. For š, this includes further characters and character variants that were used in its place historically, in particular a swashed long s (ſ), that can only be accessed this way.

cv16: ššššš → ššššš

cv17: ššš → ſſſ

cv21: š → ṧ → ſ

cv22: š̈ → š̈̇ → ſ̈

cv23: š̈ → š̈̇ → ſ̈̇

→ ſ̈̇ → š̈̇ → š̈̇

cv24: š̈̇ → š̈̇̇

cv25: š̈̇̇ → š̈̇̇̇

Miscellaneous Features

A very few fraktur texts adopted the custom from handwriting to indicate a double m or n with a bar (macron). This is implemented via discretionary ligatures (dlig).

dlig: Donnerſtimme → Doñerſtīme

Character Variant 18 (cv18) replaces š and ſ by variants with a “true” caron, as used historically. Character variants 26 and 27 (cv26 and cv27) allow to access these variants separately.

cv18: š ſ → š̈ ſ̈ cv26: š ſ → ṧ ẛ cv27: š ſ → š̌ ſ̌

Character variant 28 (cv28) activates the H and ff ligatures, which were used in some old Latvian texts:

cv28: H ff → H ff

Schadenfreude Weltschmerz Zeitgeist
Fragen Götterdämmerung Autobahn
Glockenspiel Oktoberfest Wunderkind
Rucksack Antworten Leitmotiv Ansatz
Hinterland Zugzwang Doppelgänger
Kindergarten Gesundheit Realpolitik
Poltergeist Kirschwasser Wanderlust
Gedankenexperiment Fräuleinwunder
Sauerkraut Eigenvektor Dankeagung
Weltanschauung Baumkuchen Kitsch

Questions the Author Would Like to Answer 1

Question: What exactly do the ready-to-use variants do?

Answer: They are equivalent to activating the following features and removing features and glyphs that do not fit into the respective epoch:

- ✧ UnifrakturMaguntia16: cv11, cv12, cv13, cv14, cv15, cv19, hlig, lnum, ss02
- ✧ UnifrakturMaguntia17: cv11, cv13, cv14, cv15, cv19, hlig, lnum, ss02
- ✧ UnifrakturMaguntia18: cv11, cv13, cv14, cv15, cv19, hlig, lnum
- ✧ UnifrakturMaguntia19: cv11, cv13, cv14, cv19, hlig, lnum
- ✧ UnifrakturMaguntia20: cv11, cv19, lnum
- ✧ UnifrakturMaguntia21: ss01

Questions the Author Would Like to Answer 2

Question: I found an unsupported character in a historical text.
Can you implement it?

Answer: As long as it is typeset fraktur: yes. Send me a picture of the character and, if possible, tell me what you know about it.

Question: I lack some special characters to use my language.
Can you implement them?

Answer: As long as they do not require too much effort, your wish is all I need to do this. If possible, please provide non-trivial design guidelines for your characters. Please understand that I will only spend effort on extensive languages (e.g., Vietnamese) if there are multiple requests.

Questions the Author Would Like to Answer 3

Question: Will you include medieval abbreviations or similar?

Answer: Only, if they existed in movable type and in fraktur (not textura).

Question: Why are uppercase variants (and only those) missing for some letters?

Answer: Because they were never used at the beginning of the word and **fraktur all-caps** are a bad idea. Should have been wrong about such a letter, I am grateful for hints though.

Question: But why are there some capital versions of lowercase letters that have never been used at the beginning of the word then?

Answer: Because implementing the letter was easier than checking all of its possible usages. If you have solid proof that a capital letter is not needed, let me know.

Questions the Author Would Like to Answer 4

Question: Do you plan to support non-Latin alphabets, such as Greek or Cyrillic?

Answer: No.

Question: When should I use the characters from Unicode's Private Use Area?

Answer: Preferably never. These characters are only a makeshift alternative for programs that do not support smart font features. They can lead to all sorts of problems, in particular with respect to compatibility and searchability. In the case of W and w, the Private Use Area is only a temporary solution until these characters are encoded in Unicode.

Questions the Author Would Like to Answer 5

Question: Why is UNZ (Unicode-gerechte Norm für Zusatzzeichen) not supported?

Short answer: To avoid encouraging anybody to use it.

Long answer: The zero-width non-joiner (U+200C) allows to encode all fraktur texts with Unicode and therefore UNZ is not needed for this, but only for programs that do not support OpenType or similar.

Thus, UNZ is an increasingly unnecessary, localised solution for those users of blackletter who want to use such a program, but are willing to spend a considerable effort on having blackletter ligatures rendered. Advancing UNZ helps only this group – advancing, e.g., the OpenType support of some program helps users of several languages and writing systems worldwide.

Moreover, UNZ has all the general problems of the Private Use Area, namely compatibility issues and no searchability. Therefore I consider supporting UNZ to do more harm than good.

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