

UNICASE DESIGN

ALTERNATE CHARACTERS



SLANTED ALTERNATES



ARBITRARY FRACTIONS



BECOMES

33/100

1991, I WAS COMMISSIONED TO DIGITIZE a face called "China" for a client. It was a wide, geometric sans serif with a futuristic, high-tech feel, originally designed for VGC by M. Mitchell and released in 1975. Probably the most famous use of China (with a modified "A" and "R") is for the title logo of the Terminator movie series. It was an inter-



esting typeface, but had a limited character set (caps and a few alternates) and only one weight. I also felt that it had some design problems in the proportions of certain letters.

I included my digitization of VGC China in my online portfolio in 2000 and was surprised by the interest it generated. At the time, there was only one commercially available digitization. But, it was poorly done and even included some "ringer" characters, which indicated the source was a pirated film font, not the original VGC version.

In 2003, I released my own interpretation, which I called Changeling. I redesigned many of the characters for more even type color. I also added lowercase-style variants to nearly all the uppercase forms, for endless "unicase" combinations, alternate forward- and back-slanting characters for A, M, V, and W, and a more complete character set. I spaced it to emulate the "tight, but not touching" style of spacing popular in the '70s. Finally, I created four new styles—Light, Regular, Stencil, and Inline.

Changeling Neo (2008) builds on this with even more alternate characters (including a few from VGC China I had previously left out), extensive language support, and lots of improvements in fit and finish. Changeling Neo is available exclusively in the Open-Type format. Alternate characters are accessed using OpenType Stylistic Alternates and Stylistic Sets features. Standard characters that were "hijacked" in Changeling (to make room for alternate characters) have been reinstated. Changeling Neo also includes support for fractions, superscript and subscript, as well as tabular figures. —MARK SIMONSON

TABULAR FIGURES

FIVE STYLES



LANGUAGES SUPPORTED

English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Basque, German, Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Czech, Polish, Hungarian, Croatian, Esperanto, Maltese, Turkish, Romanian, and Albanian.

OPENTYPE FEATURES SUPPORTED

Standard Ligatures, Stylistic Alternates, Stylistic Sets (14), Class-Based Kerning, Proportional Lining Figures, Tabular Lining Figures, Fractions, Superscript, Subscript and Scientific Inferior.



6.044 "do androids dream of electric sheep?" STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND / ROBERT HEINLEIN

LATIN CAPITALS

LATIN LOWERCASE

CYRILLIC CAPITALS

ААРБВГДДДЕЁЖЖЭИЙККЛИРМИЛЬНОПРР СТУФХХЦЧЧШЩЪЫЬЭЮЯЯ ЂЃЕЅІЇЈЉЊЂЌЌЎЏ

CYRILLIC LOWERCASE

абвгдддеёжжэийкклимимимнопрст уууфххцччшщъыьэюяя ЂѓеѕіїјљњЋќќўџ

PROPORTIONAL AND TABULAR FIGURES, FRACTIONS, SUPERSCRIPT

11234567890 1234567890

1/2 1/4 3/4 / 1234567890/1234567890

1234567890

CURRENCY AND FIGURE-RELATED CHARACTERS

PUNCTUATION AND MISCELLANEOUS CHARACTERS

Startek PERNOVAE >12376.044589 earth creati TERMINATO Thermonuclear ener "do androids dream of electric sheep?" STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND / ROBERT HEINLEIN

LATIN CAPITALS

LATIN LOWERCASE

CYRILLIC CAPITALS

ААРБВГДДДЕЁЖЖЭИЙККЛИРМИЛНОПРР СТУФХХЦЧЧШЩЪЫЬЭЮЯЯ ЂЃЕЅІЇЈЉЊЂЌЌЎЏ

CYRILLIC LOWERCASE

абвгдддеёжжэийкклимимимнопрст уууфххцччшщъыьэюяя ЂѓеѕііјљњЂќќўџ

PROPORTIONAL AND TABULAR FIGURES, FRACTIONS, SUPERSCRIPT

11234567890 1234567890

1/2 1/4 3/4 / 1234567890/1234567890

1234567890

CURRENCY AND FIGURE-RELATED CHARACTERS

PUNCTUATION AND MISCELLANEOUS CHARACTERS

FRECN startrek JPERNO*V*4E >12376.044589 earth creatures SCSI TERMINATOR TH Thermonuclear eners: "do androids dream of electric sheep?" STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND / ROBERT HEINLEIN

LATIN CAPITALS

LATIN LOWERCASE

CYRILLIC CAPITALS

ААРБВГДДРЕЁЖЖЭИЙККЛИРМИNHONPP СТУФХХЦЧЧШЩЪЫЬЭЮЯЯ ЂЃЕSIIJЉЊЋЌЌЎЏ

CYRILLIC LOWERCASE

абвгдддеёжжэийкклимимнопрст уууфххцччшщъыьэюяя ЂѓеѕііјљњЂќќўџ

PROPORTIONAL AND TABULAR FIGURES, FRACTIONS, SUPERSCRIPT

11234567890 1234567890

1/2 1/4 3/4 / 1234567890/1234567890 1234567890

CURRENCY AND FIGURE-RELATED CHARACTERS

\$¢££€¥¤#%%•°®©™ +-x÷=≈≓±<><u><</u>>¬∥^~<>√∫µÒ\$∏⊓\$&

PUNCTUATION AND MISCELLANEOUS CHARACTERS

{[[.,:;...!?i&\$ ``````,,,o\\\````,\]]}

startrek JPERNO*M*E >12376.044589 earth creatures SCSI TERMINATOR THREE Thermonuclear energy prink "do androids dream of electric sheep?" STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND / ROBERT HEINLEIN

changeling neo stencil

THE COMPLETE CHARACTER SET

LATIN CAPITALS

LATIN LOWERCASE

CYRILLIC CAPITALS

AARGBIZAAEËXXBUŬKKAARMANNHONPP CTYФXXULIUUUJISISSORR TIĆESIIJISISTIĆKŽŲ

CYRILLIC LOWERCASE

абвгдддеёжжэийкклимиминопрст уууфххцччшщъыьэюяя Ђѓеѕііјлы-Бтіккў ү

PROPORTIONAL AND TABULAR FIGURES, FRACTIONS, SUPERSCRIPT

11234567890 1234567890

1/2 1/4 = 1/4 / 1234567890/1234567890 1234567890

CURRENCY AND FIGURE-RELATED CHARACTERS

PUNCTUATION AND MISCELLANEOUS CHARACTERS

starteek arth creature TERMINATOR Thermonuclear ener "do androids dream of electric sheep?" TRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND / ROBERT HEINI

LATIN CAPITALS

LATIN LOWERCASE

CYRILLIC CAPITALS

AASBITAAAEÜXKXKBUĞKKAANANNHONPP CTYGXXUUUUUUJBBBBBBBBTBÉESIIJBHBFKKЎŲ

CYRILLIC LOWERCASE

abbraakeëxksuŭkkaarmanhonpet yyy¢xxuuuuujubbboss Tresijahjtikkyu

PROPORTIONAL AND TABULAR FIGURES, FRACTIONS, SUPERSCRIPT

11234567890 1234567890

1/2 1/4 3/4 / 1234567890/1234567890 123

1234567890

CURRENCY AND FIGURE-RELATED CHARACTERS

\$C£FE¥¤#%% °BG™ +-x÷=%<u>=±</u><><u>></u>7||^<\}√|LÒ<u>\$</u>∏⊓\$&

PUNCTUATION AND MISCELLANEOUS CHARACTERS



the lathe of heaven





TECHNOSYNTH

