



STEPS MONO BOLD

DESIGNED BY CHRIS COREY

Steps Mono was designed by Raphael Bastide and Jean-Baptiste Morizot for the French magazine *Étapes*: to demonstrate a collaborative design on the same font. It is a libre / open source font released by the Velvetyne Type Foundry with two weights, regular and thin.

I've wanted to try a design a monospaced typeface for a while now and I thought designing Steps Mono Bold over the course of this semester would be a nice way to learn more about the style and gain experience before I start on my own project. It was a great way to explore a specific style of typography without a huge time commitment and I'll definitely play around more with libre fonts in the future. They're a great learning tool for new type designers like me because I don't have to start from scratch and I get to look at every glyph up close in FontForge.

ABCDEFGHI

JKLMNOPQR

STUVWXYZ

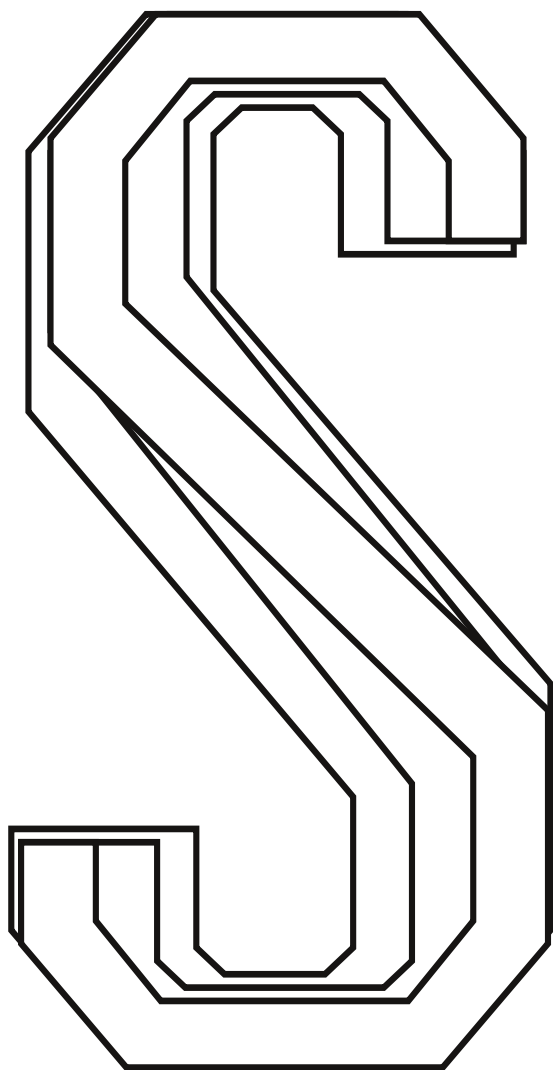
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**HAND
CRAFTED
INFECTION
FREE BEER
THE INVASION OF
12 FLUID OUNCES
DESTROY YOUR PLANET ALTOGETHER**



THE FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS OF THE LIBRE FONT USER

1. Use them for every purpose.
2. Study and modify them.
3. Redistribute them.
4. Redistribute modified versions.

THE VELVETYNE FOUNDRY MANIFESTO

We, VTF, dauntless offspring of the Postscript generation, we chase at the speed of the electron, the course of typography and its attendant of wrestling writing warriors. Like Spartacus, we unchain glyphs from unfair laws and arbitrary conventions, like Ben Hur on a gigantic tank, we welcome script horsewomen and type charioteers and all tremendous, armed with bulletpoint pen and bold crossbows, wearing draw hats, we challenge here and now the tantalizing palimpsest of today.

Working with FontForge

I was impressed with FontForge considering it's free. I'm used to working in RoboFont and it was an easy transition. My main complaint was that I couldn't figure out how to test install my work for proffing which means every time I wanted to print it out I had to generate the typeface and install it on FontBook before using it. I still prefeer RoboFont but FontForge did have a few features that I wish RF had. The main one being able to work on letters in a string of letters. In RF you can only work on a glyph in isolation which isn't ideal.

Working with Steps Mono

Steps Mono felt like the perfect monospaced typeface to start working with. It's a condensed face with provided a few challenges when making a bold weight, but at the same time, the typeface is all straight lines and angles, so I didn't have to deal with refining Bezier curves. This made it easy to really focus on getting the weight transition right while staying true to the original design.

Working with Scribus

This was not a pleasant experience. I'm so used to working in InDesign and I just wanted things to work a certain way. I've only worked with Scribus for a few hours, so I haven't given it much of a chance, but I feel like it does pretty much everything worse than InDesign does. The UI isn't very refined, and the software feels a bit buggy. But most of my frustration probably stems from the fact that I spend so much time in InDesign and Scribus...isn't InDesign. It took me much longer to get things done with Scribus and it drove me a little crazy. I need to work on my patience I guess. Or just go back to InDesign.