

Besley*

Book

A B C D E F

G H I J K L

M N O P Q

R S T U V

W X Y Z

a b c d e f g

h i j k l m n

o p q r s t u

v w x y z

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4 pt.

grumpy wizards make toxic brew for the evil queen and jack.
GRUMPY WIZARDS MAKE TOXIC BREW FOR THE EVIL QUEEN AND JACK.

6 pt.

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64 pt.

grumpy
GRUMPY

The adventurer with a professional side

Besley* named after Robert Besley, creator of Clarendon, is an antique slab serif. The antique slab serif originated in the early 1800s and is the style used in cowboy WANTED posters of that era. It maintains an adventurous tone that feels appropriate on camping gear or advertising the great outdoors. Besley* also has a professional side. The antique slab-serif developed into what we know as the typographic style of the typewriter, giving it an informed and authoritative feel. Besley* has a raised x-height and the book weight has been crafted to make the font well-suited for body text in addition to display sizes.

Built from the ground up

Besley* is made from scratch, taking inspiration from Clarendon, Bodoni, and FreeSerif. Building it from nothing means that the geometry is consistent, making letter combos such as ES or ft fit perfectly and elegantly together. Building Besley* from scratch also means that the best of all possibilities can be ensured. For example, Clarendon has wide letters, giving it a confident posture at display sizes. However, it becomes difficult to read at small sizes. FreeSerif reads well at small sizes but recedes at display. The compromise is to have the rhythm and spacing of Clarendon within the uppercase letters, making titles and important text feel larger, and giving the lowercase letters the spacing of FreeSerif, making body text easy on the eyes.

Not yet done!

Besley* is still very much in the works, meaning there are no bold or italic versions, and many of the advanced features that make a font truly amazing have yet to be implemented. I am planning on giving Besley* full support for other Latin languages, like Spanish. Besley* will also someday have contextual kerning and ligature support. In the meantime, most of the letter-forms are close to being finalized.