
MB TYPE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

THE #1 MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

I'm a Windows user. I installed the OpenType (.otf) fonts, but they don't appear correctly in PDFs made with the PDF generator built into WordPerfect or Word on Windows.

This is a [known limitation](#) of WordPerfect and Word on Windows. Switching to the OpenType TT fonts will cure the problem.

INSTALLATION

Should I use OpenType TT (.ttf) or OpenType (.otf) or WOFF2?

Windows users should install the OpenType TT fonts. Mac users should install the OpenType fonts. The WOFF2 fonts are for websites.

Do I have to install them all?

No. You can just install the ones you need. If you're not sure which you need, install them all, and later you can delete the ones you don't use.

What is this thing I downloaded from MB Type?

A zip file. Extract the files and you'll see a set of nested directories containing the font families you purchased.

How do I install or remove the fonts in Windows?

Open one of the directories containing fonts. Right-click the fonts and select *Install*. Or, from the Start menu, open *Control Panel* → *Appearance and Personalization* → *Fonts* and drag the fonts into this folder. To remove fonts, quit any running programs, and then delete the fonts from this folder. I've found that it's wise to restart after installing fonts, and before deleting. More detailed [installation](#) and [removal](#) instructions are found under those links.

How do I install or remove the fonts on Mac OS?

Open one of the directories containing fonts. From the main directory of your system drive, open the folder *Library*, then the folder *Fonts*. Drag the fonts into this folder. (To remove fonts, delete them from this folder.) You can also use *Applications* → *Font Book* to install and remove fonts. More detailed [installation and removal instructions](#).

How do I use the fonts in my documents?

Once installed, each family will show up in your Font menu under multiple subfamily names. (The exact number depends on the number of styles in the family.)

Where are the webfonts?

They're in the WOFF2 subfolder of each font family you downloaded.

How do I use the WOFF2 fonts on a website?

Put the WOFF2 files on your web server. Then use a [@font-face rule](#) in your [CSS file](#) to link each WOFF2 font to a CSS font family (and optionally, styling attributes). Then invoke this font family within your CSS styles.

UPDATES

Do you issue updates for the fonts?

Yes, if I find a worthy bug, which is rare. (If you find one, [tell me](#).) Beyond that, I avoid the "update everything constantly" credo of modern software development, and prefer the more old-fashioned "get it right before you ship it".

How should I install updated versions of the fonts?

Following the instructions above, remove the old versions, and then install the new ones. On Windows, it's wise to restart before removing the old versions, and restart again after installing the new ones.

MICROSOFT WORD AND ITS DISCONTENTS

How do I activate OpenType features in Word?

[Follow these instructions](#).

How do I activate multiple OpenType stylistic sets in Word?

It should be possible. But it never has been. And probably never will.

How do I embed a font in my Word document so that the layout is preserved when others open it?

In practical terms, it's only possible if the other person is also a licensed user of my fonts and has them installed on their own machine. Otherwise, you have to convert to PDF to embed the fonts. This is a limitation of Word, not my fonts.

LICENSE

Can I use the fonts in an e-book or app?

If your e-book or app format supports read-only embedding of fonts, yes—you don't need an additional license.

Can I use the fonts on my website, as webfonts?

Sure, subject to the limitations [in the license](#).

Can I upgrade my license to cover more people?

Yes, by paying the difference in price between licenses. Email me at mb@mbtype.com and I'll send you an upgrade link.

Can I use the fonts in an open-source project?

No, because [my font license](#) is not compatible with any open-source license. Investigate [free fonts](#) instead.

Why can't I store the fonts in a public source repository?

Because on sites like GitHub, people assume everything in a public repository can be freely copied, even if the license says otherwise. It's a major vector of unlicensed font usage. (Storing the fonts in a private repository is fine, however.)

I want to buy a two-person license but my employer needs you to fill out this vendor paperwork with your social-security number and home address and ...

I'm afraid I must decline. The costs of these chores would far exceed the price of the font license.

My tech startup needs a font, but we have some special requirements.

Tech startups who open with this question tend to conclude that they're better off with [free fonts](#). Because unlike my fonts, they have almost no license restrictions, and they cost nothing.

FONTS IN USE

I used your fonts in my project. Do you want to see it?

Sure, I always enjoy seeing my fonts in use. If you made a book or other printed item, you're welcome to send a copy to 1920 Hillhurst Ave. #406, LA CA 90027.

Will you critique my design?

No. As a teacher of typography, my prime directive is not to interrupt the natural progress of others. I decline critiques because your struggle is healthy and normal. Embrace it.

LANGUAGES

What languages do the fonts support?

Afrikaans, Albanian, Basque, Catalan, the Celtic languages, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, Galician, German, Hungarian, Icelandic, Indonesian, Irish, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Malay, Maltese, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Tagalog, and Turkish.

TYPOGRAPHY

Why do only certain styles of each family have bold versions?

Only the lighter weights of each family are linked to bold styles. That way, when you're using one of those weights in your typesetting program, you can apply bold formatting and get the right result. But the heavier weights are already bold, so they can't be further emboldened.

What's the difference between Text and Caps styles?

The Text styles are for body text, and have the usual upper- & lowercase character set. Each Caps style has the same uppercase characters as the corresponding Text style, but with small caps in the lowercase positions. The Caps styles also have wider default spacing than Text.

What are the Tab styles?

The Tab styles are identical to the standard styles, but they have their tabular figures in the default positions, rather than proportionally spaced figures. They're provided primarily for compatibility with programs like Microsoft Excel that need tabular figures but don't support the OpenType features. But you can use them in any program. You can also have them installed alongside the standard fonts—they won't conflict with each other. They appear separately in your Font menu, with "Tab" appended to the subfamily name.

If I'm setting all caps, should I use Text or Caps styles?

You can use either. The uppercase letters look the same, but they have more letterspacing in Caps, which can be convenient. If your typesetting program supports OpenType features, I also recommend activating the OpenType uppercase feature, which turns on the caps-optimized punctuation.

How do I get small caps?

Switch to the Caps style and use the lowercase characters. [More on small caps.](#)

How do I convert both uppercase and lowercase to small caps?

Switch to the Caps style and activate the OpenType all-small-caps feature. This will also activate the small-caps optimized punctuation. This feature is duplicated in stylistic set 10.

What about that box in my layout program for small-cap formatting? Should I turn it on?

Don't touch that box—it's evil! It does not invoke the small caps I made for you. Rather, it creates synthetic small caps by scaling down the uppercase characters. Pretend it doesn't exist.

But if it's evil, why is it there?

It's held over from an earlier age in digital typography, before real small caps were widely available. Today, it can be useful for fonts that don't include real small caps. But all of mine do.

Can I add letterspacing when I'm using a Caps style?

Sure. It's not mandatory—consistent with [my letterspacing recommendations](#), my Caps styles already have about 8% more letterspacing than the Text styles. But if you want to, go ahead.

Do the fonts have fractions?

Yes, my fonts have the standard single-digit fractions. All these fractions are accessible in programs that support the OpenType fractions feature. Microsoft Word does not—so use the *Insert* → *Symbol* option to put fractions in your document.

Do the fonts have tabular figures?

The default figures in my fonts are proportional lining figures (*proportional* → different widths; *lining* → same heights). Tabular figures—i.e., figures that are the same width—are available through the OpenType tabular-figures feature. If you need tabular figures in a program that doesn't support OpenType tabular figures (e.g., Microsoft Excel) just use the Tab versions of the fonts. [More on alternate figures.](#)

Do the fonts have oldstyle (non-lining) figures?

Yes. They're available through the OpenType oldstyle-figures feature. If you also activate the OpenType tabular-figures feature, you'll get tabular oldstyle figures. (Exception: Advocate has no oldstyle figures, because it's an all-caps family.)

Do the fonts have ligatures?

Those that need them because of character collisions (e.g., Equity) have them. Fonts that don't have character collisions (e.g., Concourse), don't have ligatures, because they're unnecessary. [More on ligatures.](#)

Where can I see the OpenType features of each family?

Visit mbtype.com—each family has a “Features” page that lists the available OpenType features and lets you demo them in the browser.

ADVOCATE

Your other fonts have a T series and C series, but Advocate only has a C series?

Right. It's strictly a caps font. Regular caps in the uppercase slots; small caps in the lowercase slots.

What do the style numbers mean?

The first digit indicates the weight (4, 5, or 6, corresponding to regular, medium, and bold) and the second digit indicates the width (1, 3, or 5, corresponding to condensed, narrow, and regular).

What's the difference between Advocate and Advocate Slab?

Just the presence of slab serifs on certain characters. The other characters are identical between the two styles.

What are the Mid fonts?

They're the same as regular fonts, but with the small caps elevated to the vertical midline. In your Font menu, the Mid fonts have the word “Mid” appended to the style. The Mid alternates are also available through OpenType stylistic set 11.

How do I choose which style to use for my project?

Use whatever you like best. Experiment. Have fun! The styles are designed to harmonize with each other. You can mix weights, width, and cases.

CENTURY SUPRA

How do I choose between weights 3 and 4?

Weight 3 is slightly lighter than weight 4, to account for office printers that tend to produce darker text. I recommend printing some test documents in both 3 and 4 to see which looks best on your printer. If you're preparing a document for professional printing, you probably want weight 4.

CONCOURSE

Why do the OpenType stylistic sets have names like “British Mode”, “German Mode”, and so on?

Each stylistic set is inspired by a sans serif face associated with that area. The names are meant as a nod to these models. Unfortunately, there’s no way to make these names show up in layout programs, so you’ll have to remember their boring OpenType names—

Eastern Mode → stylistic set 1
British Mode → stylistic set 2
French Mode → stylistic set 3
Swiss Mode → stylistic set 4
German Mode → stylistic set 5
Swedish Mode → stylistic set 6

EQUITY

What’s the difference between the A and B subfamilies?

Only the weight: the B fonts are slightly lighter than the A fonts, to account for office printers that tend to produce darker text. I recommend printing some test documents in both A and B to see which looks best on your printer. If you’re preparing a document for professional printing, you probably want the A weight.

HERMES CLASSIC

How do I get Hermes Classic?

It’s [available on mbtype.com](https://mbtype.com).

What makes this font “Classic”?

I designed the Hermes family in 1993. Until 2017, I offered it through another font vendor. Today, I offer a revised version called [Hermes Maia](#). I suggest you get that instead. The previous version remains available for those who have already been using it & whose documents depend on it. Hence “Classic”.

So it’s the same as the original ‘90s version?

Yes, in the important ways: the character set, glyph design, and horizontal metrics are the same as before. But I’ve changed the style names to be consistent with other MB Type fonts, and adjusted some small technical details. But in general, you can substitute it for the original Hermes without any text reflow.

Your other fonts have a T series and C series, but Hermes Classic only has a T series?

Right. It’s strictly a text font in six weights, with italic styles. There are no small-cap styles. (Hermes Maia has a C series, however.)

How do the old style names correspond to the new ones?

Hermes Thin → Hermes Classic T2
Hermes Book → Hermes Classic T3
Hermes Regular → Hermes Classic T4
Hermes Semibold → Hermes Classic T6
Hermes Bold → Hermes Classic T7
Hermes Black → Hermes Classic T8

Have you expanded the character set to be consistent with your other fonts?

No. It has the same character set as before. That means that Hermes Classic supports only Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Icelandic, Italian, Norwegian, Portuguese, Swedish, and Spanish.

TYPOGRAPHIC FEATURES

What ligatures are in Hermes Classic?

Just the *fi* and *fl*.

Does Hermes Classic have fractions or oldstyle figures?

No.

HERMES MAIA

Is this the same as the Hermes you designed for that other font reseller?

No. The design is similar, but I’ve substantially revised it—especially the character spacing and the numerals.

Why?

A lot of people liked the original Hermes. But when I looked at it, I saw a lot of things that could be improved. So I did.

Can I get the original Hermes?

Yes, I offer it as [Hermes Classic](#).

TRIPPLICATE

Should I use T3 or T4 for body text?

Whichever looks best. If you’re trying to match an existing layout, T4 is closer in weight to the default Courier font on Mac OS; T3 is closer to the Courier New font that’s included with Microsoft Office.

What are the Poly & Code fonts?

They're just like the regular fonts, but with the Poly or Code alternates in the default positions, so they can be used in programs that don't support OpenType layout features. In your Font menu, the Poly fonts have a "p" appended to the family name; the Code fonts have a "c".

What are the Short fonts?

They're just like the regular fonts, but they have vertical spacing that matches the standard Mac OS Courier font, for use in programs that expect a font with those metrics. The Short fonts have an "s" appended to the family name.

Are the Poly & Code alternates available as OpenType features?

Yes. The Poly alternates are available as stylistic set 1; the Code alternates as stylistic set 2.

VALKYRIE

How do I choose between weights 3 and 4?

Weight 3 is slightly lighter than weight 4, to account for office printers that tend to produce darker text. I recommend printing some test documents in both 3 and 4 to see which looks best on your printer. If you're preparing a document for professional printing, you probably want weight 4.