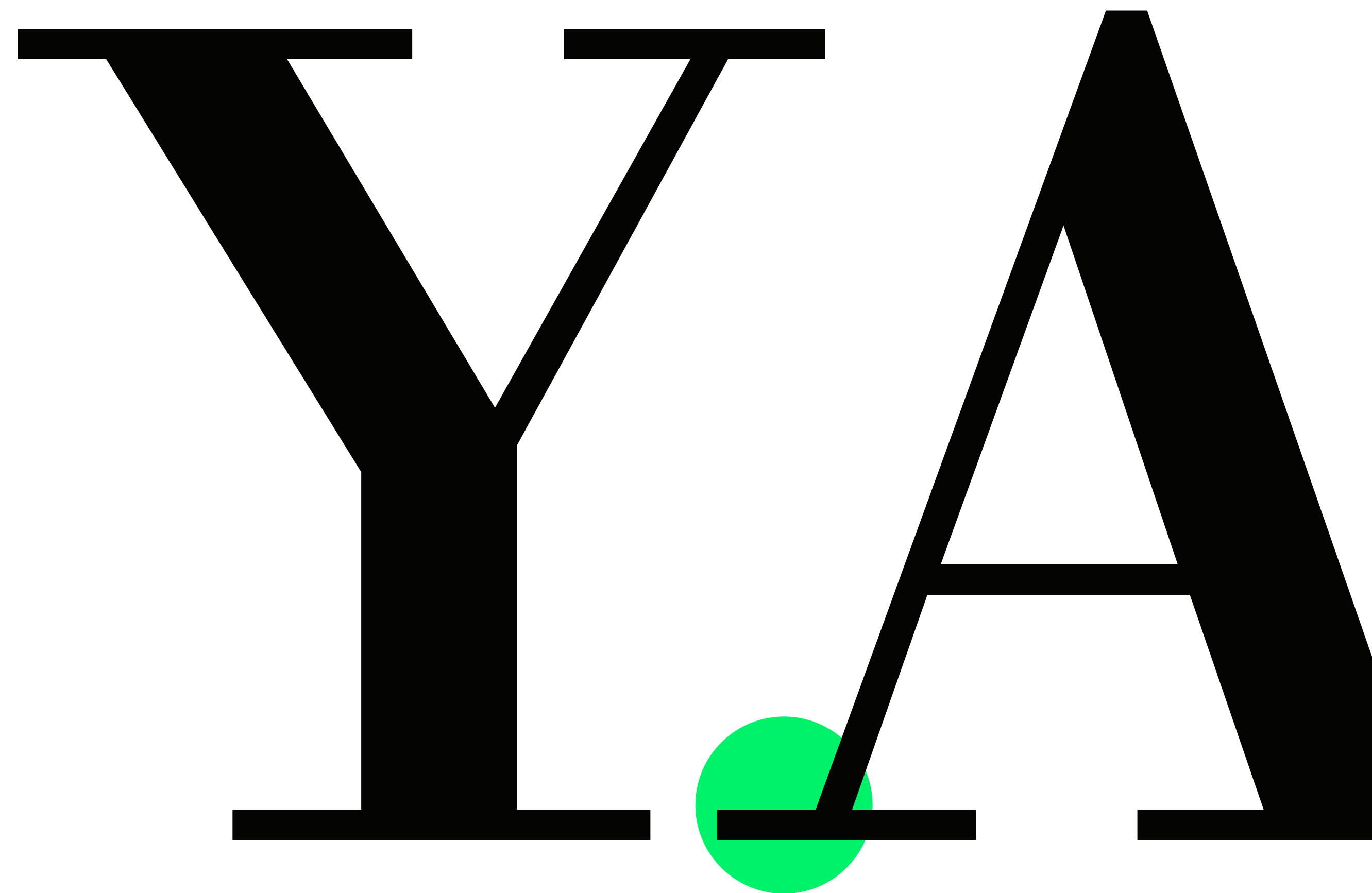# Parts of a Letter

Bodoni

Baskerville

Serif
The projection extending off the main strokes of the characters of serif typefaces.

There are two styles: Bracketed (Supportive curves or fillets that connect the serif to the stroke) and Unbracketed (Attached sharply)

Dark Alley

Baseline
The line on which letters sit.

Mad Max

x-height
The height of the lowercase x

Median
The line that defines the x-height

Hello Wo

Cap Height
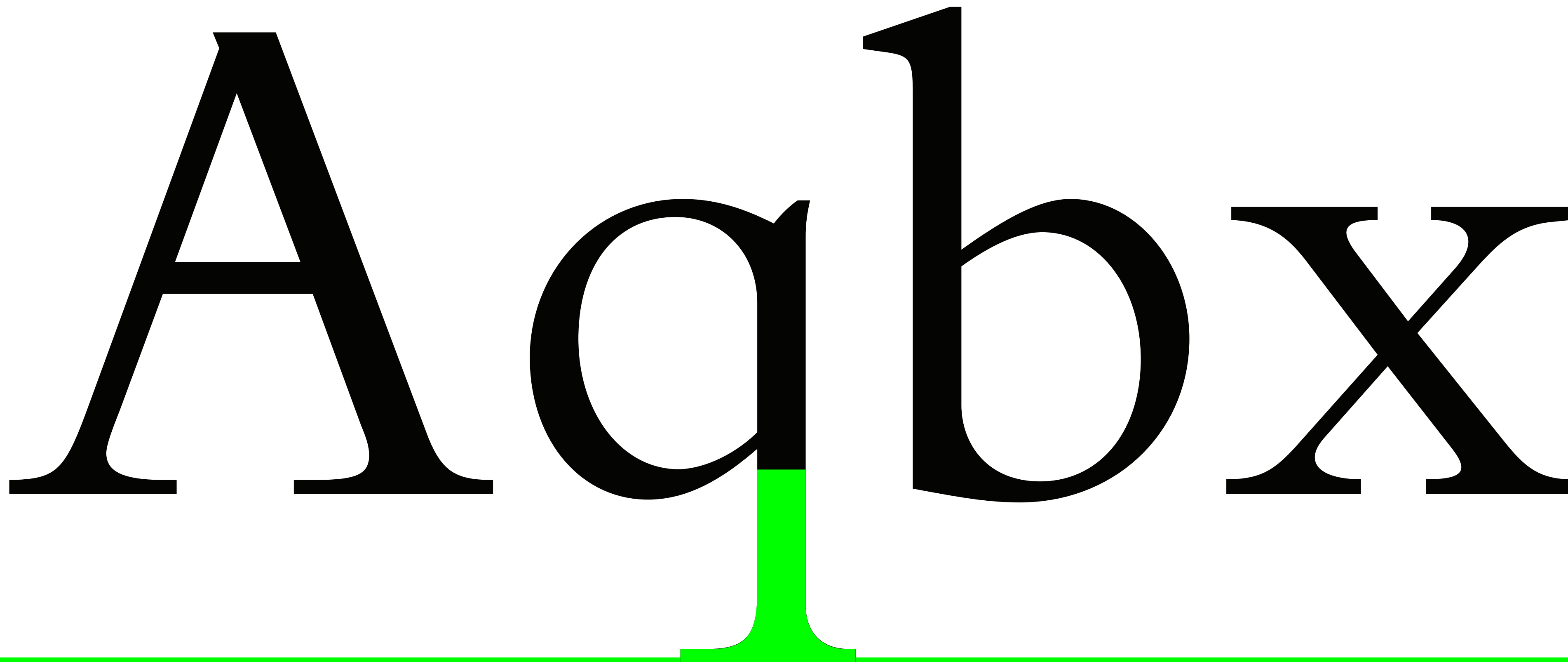The line to which capital letters reach

Aqbx

Ascender
Part of a lowercase character
that extends above the x-height
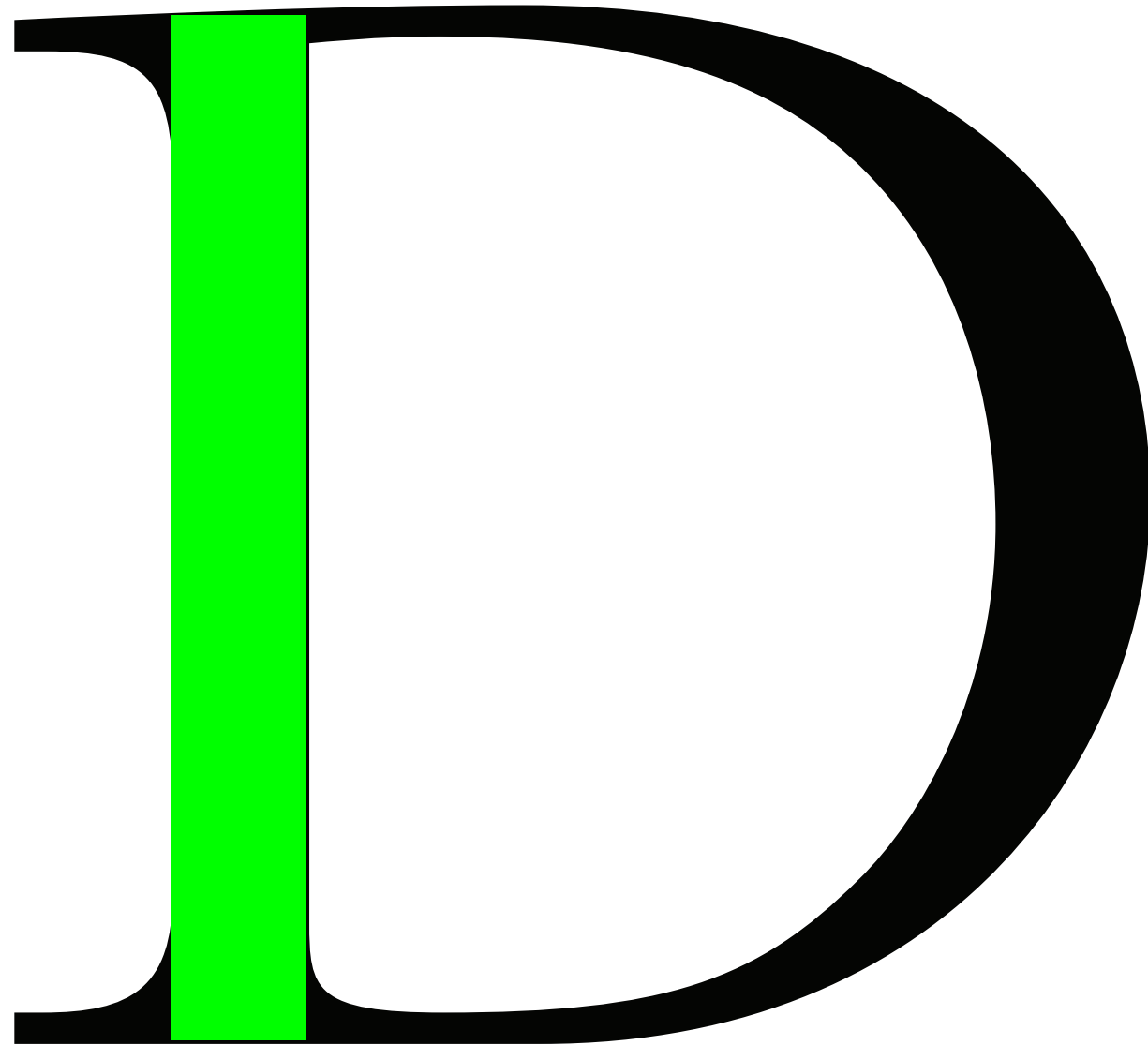
Ascender Line
Line to which the ascenders reach

Aqbx

Descender
Part of a lowercase character
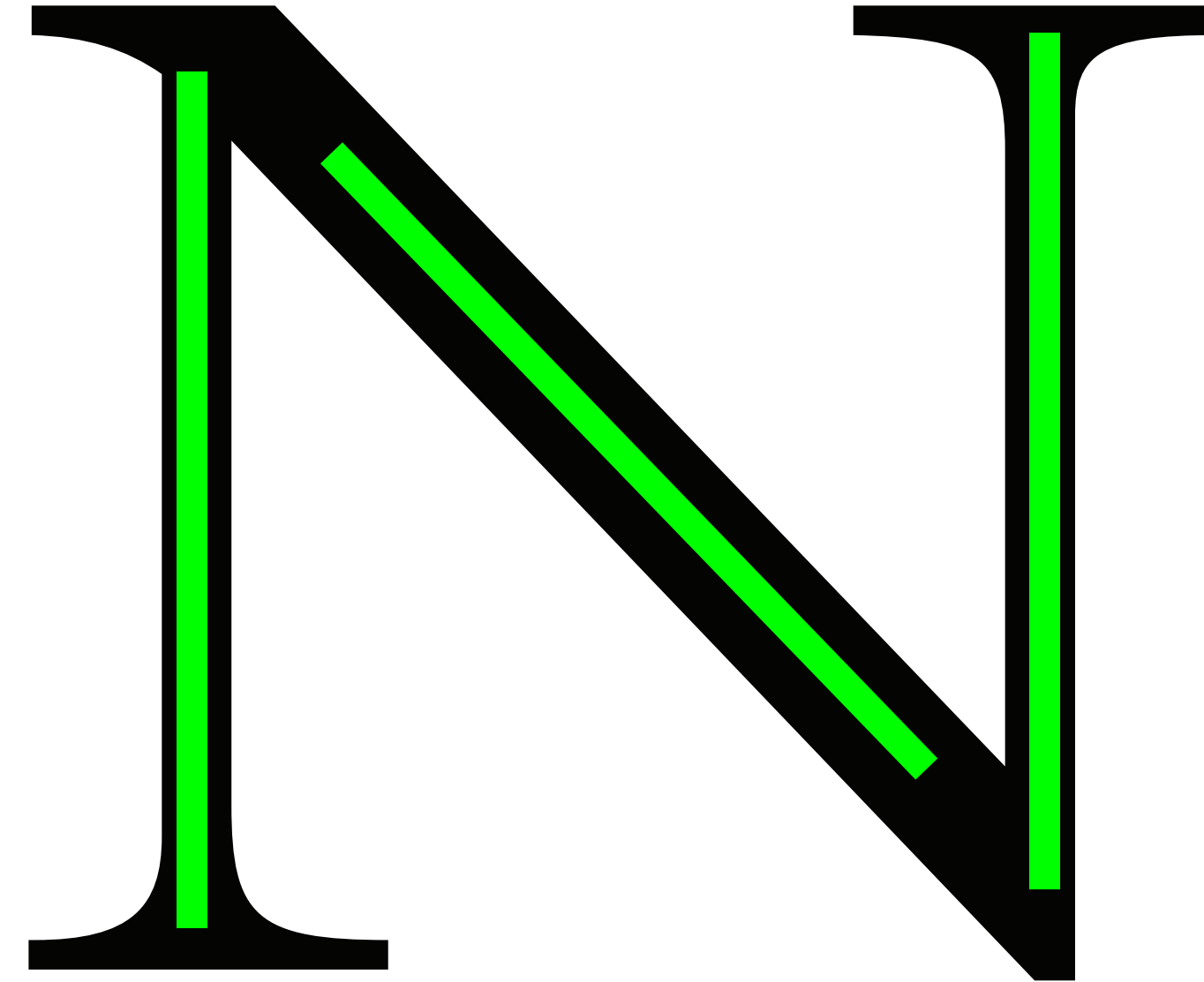that extends below the base line

Descender Line
Line to which the descenders reach
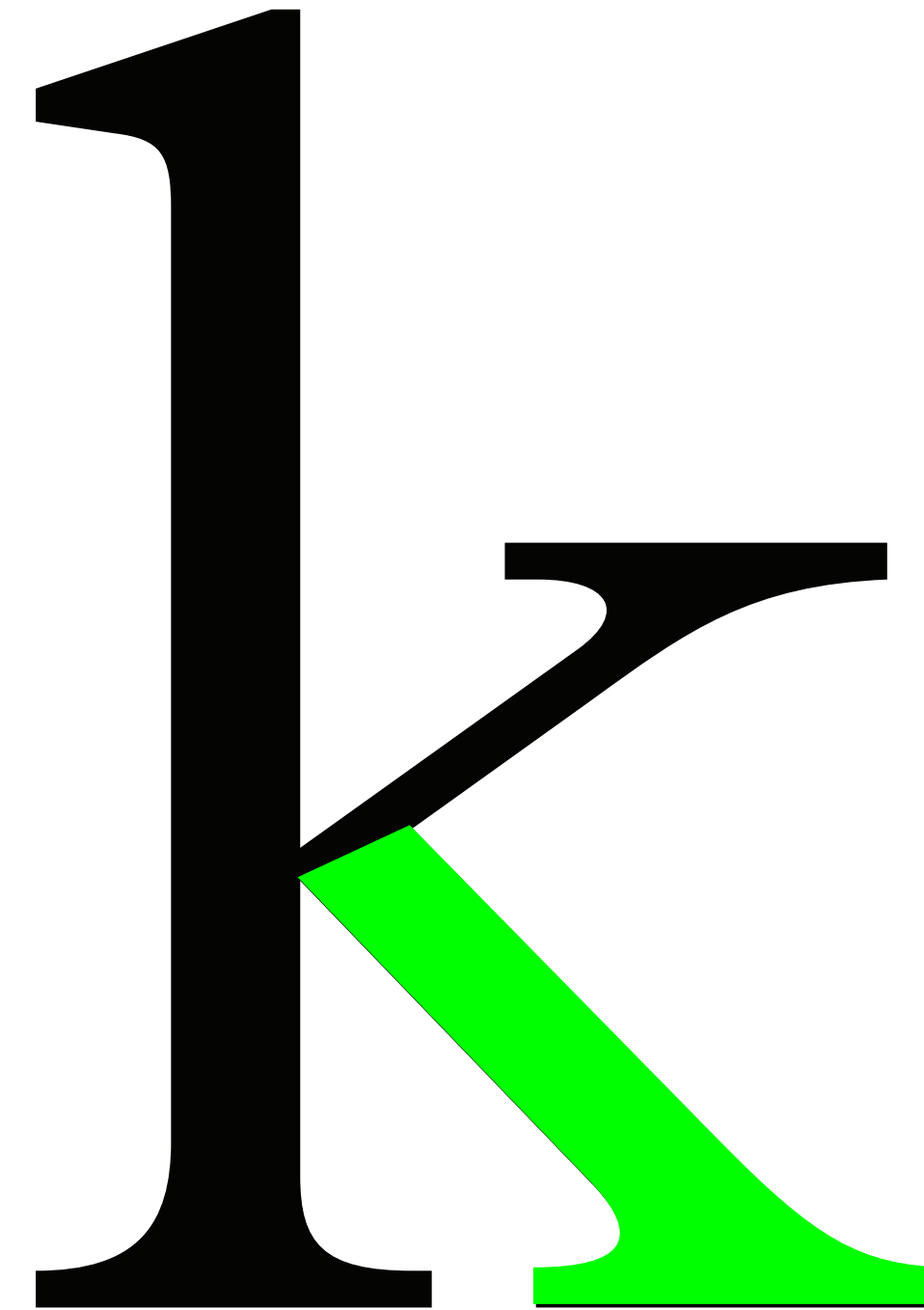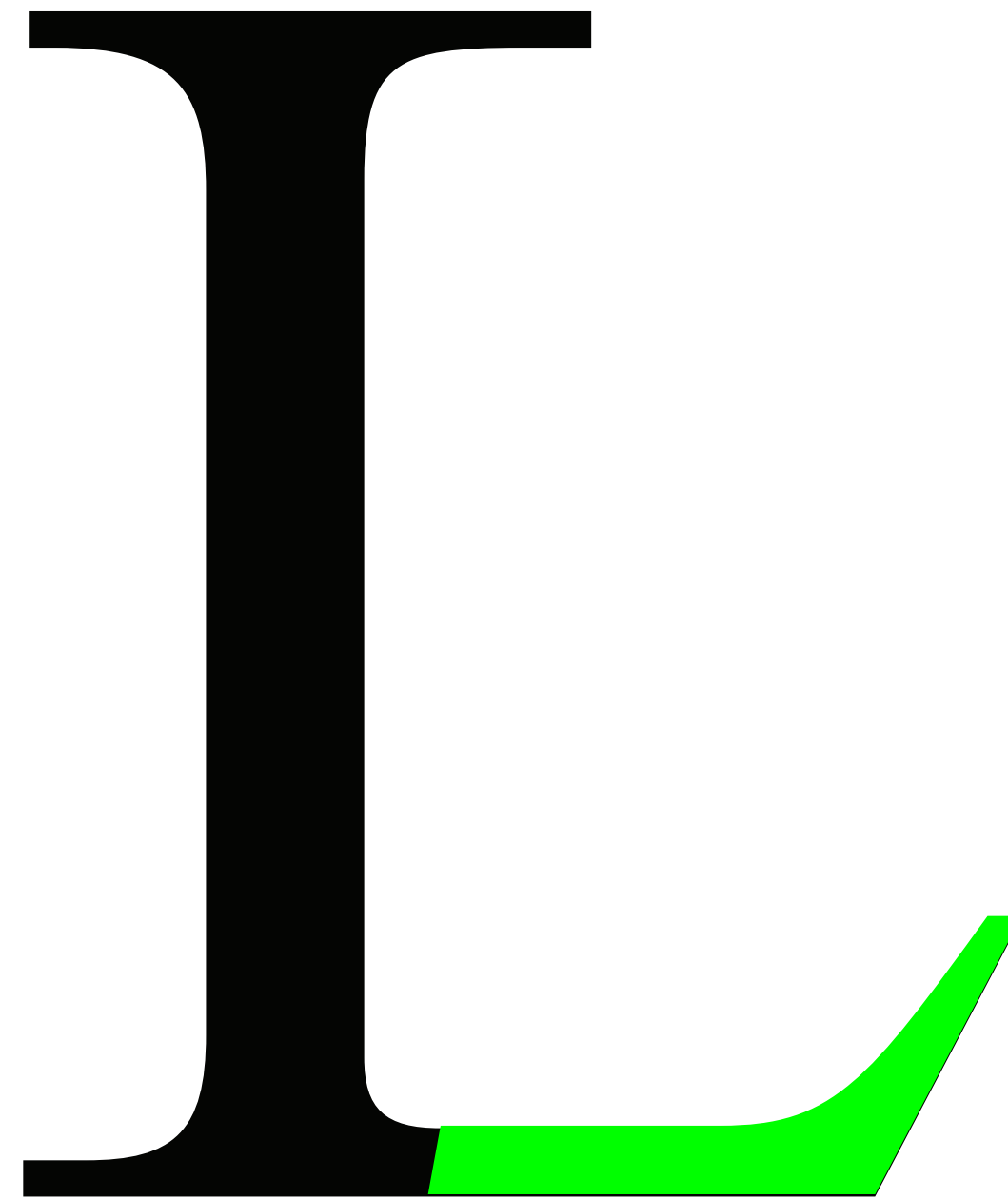
Stem
A significant vertical
or oblique line

Stroke
Any line that defines the basic letterform
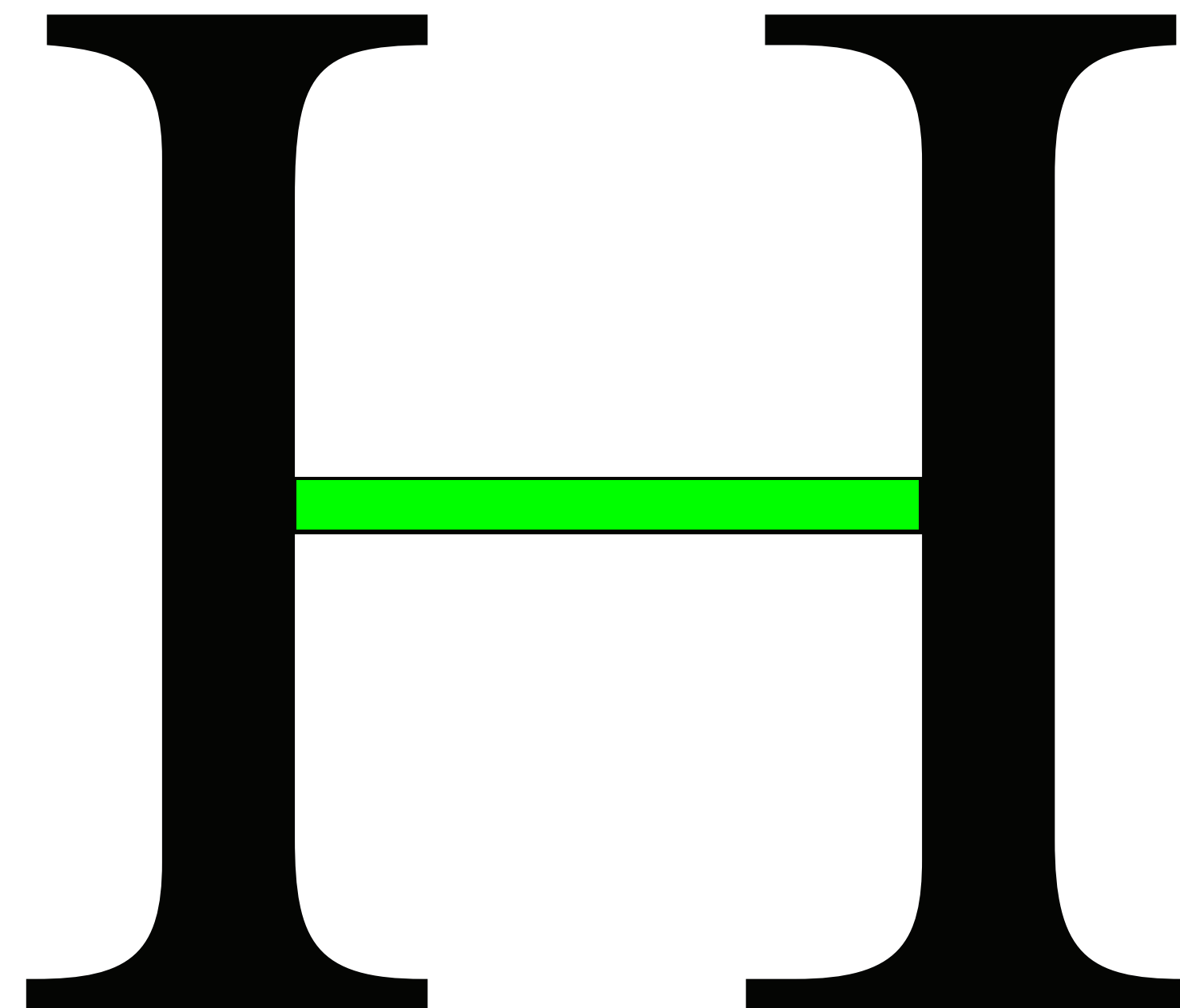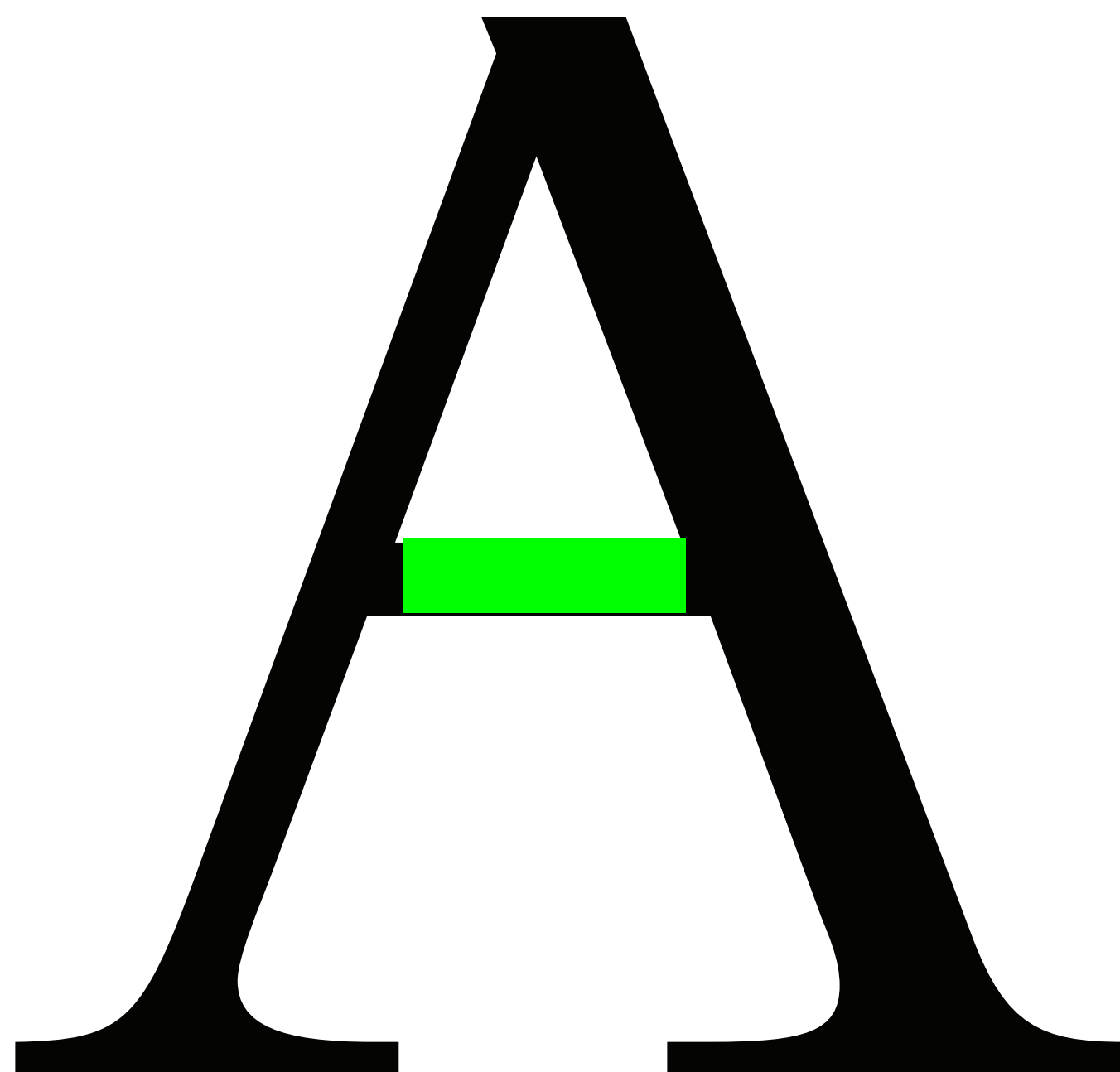vertical, horizontal, oblique, curved

E Y

Arm
A horizontal stroke that is attached
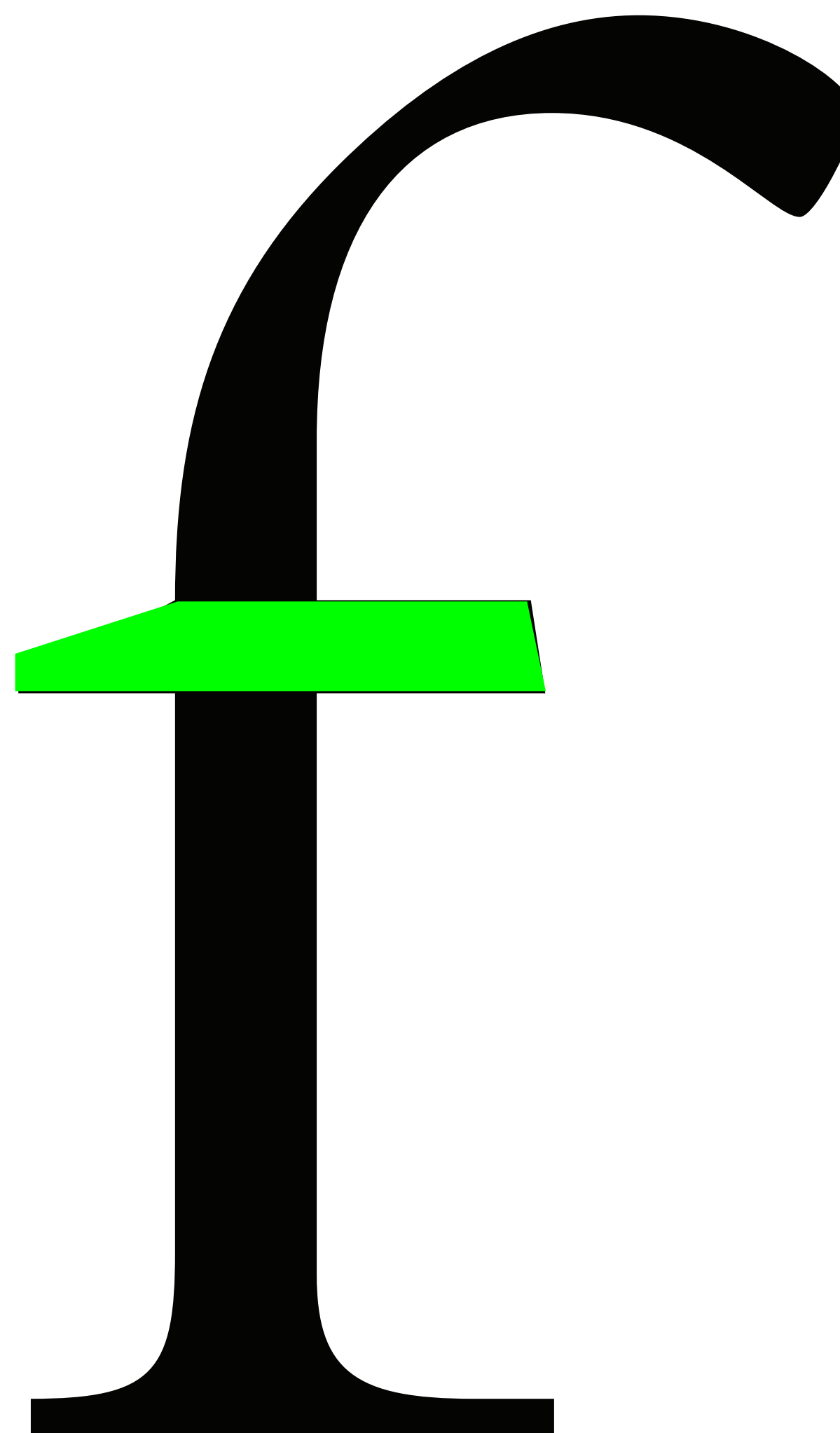on one end and free on another

Leg
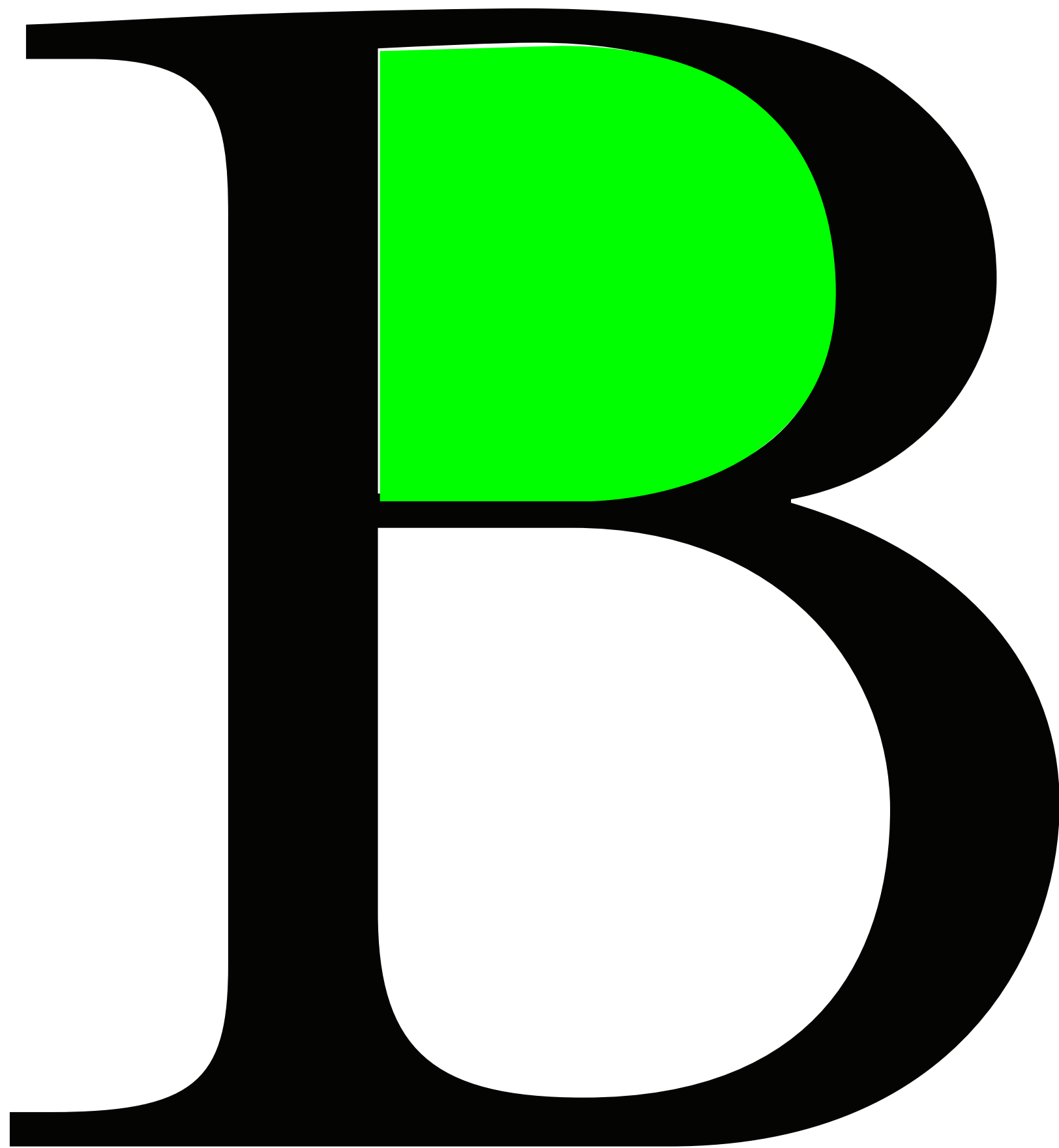A diagonal stroke that is attached
on one end and free on another

Crossbar
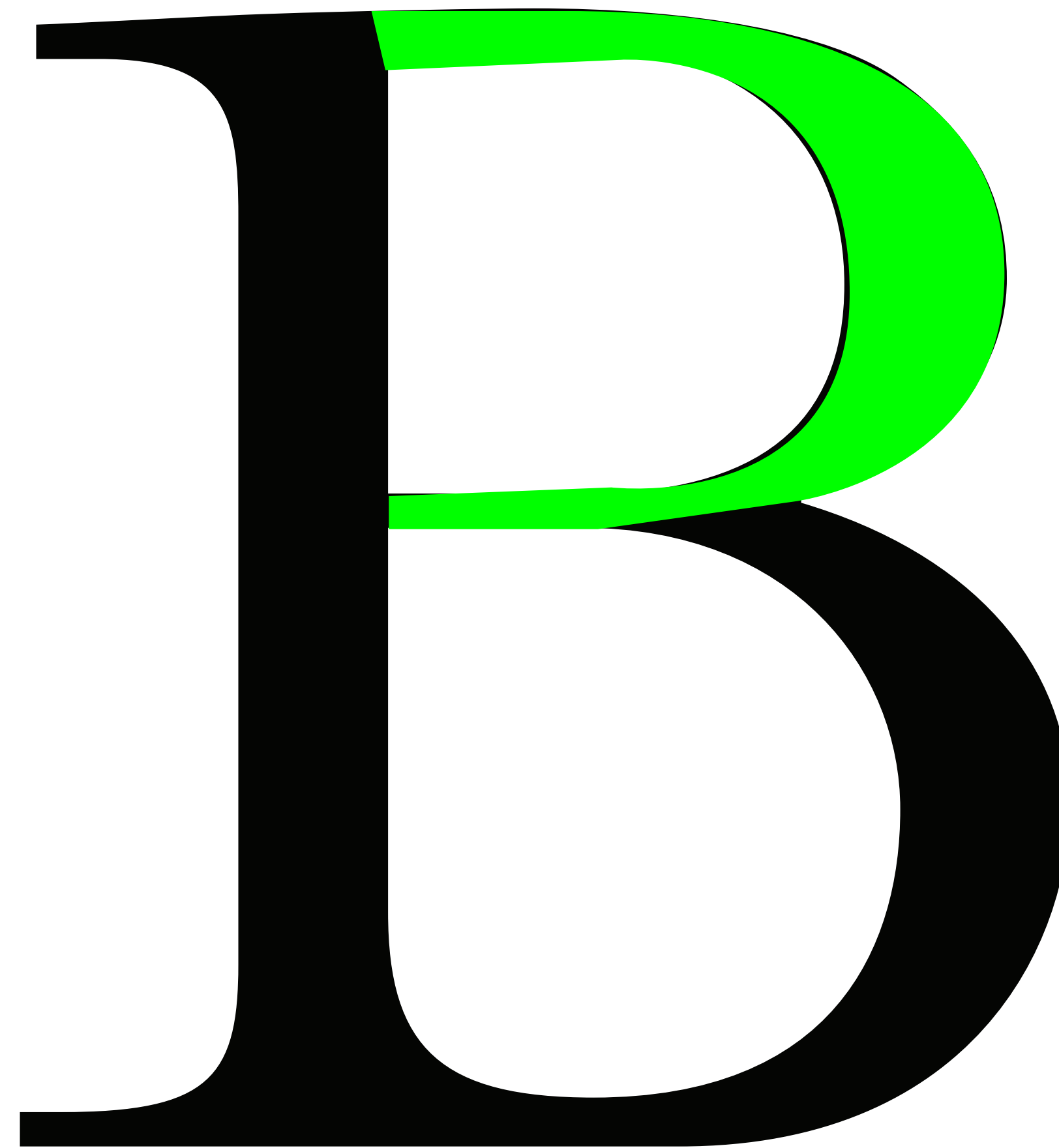A horizontal stroke that joins
2 stems together

Cross Stroke

A horizontal stroke that
intersects the stem

Counter
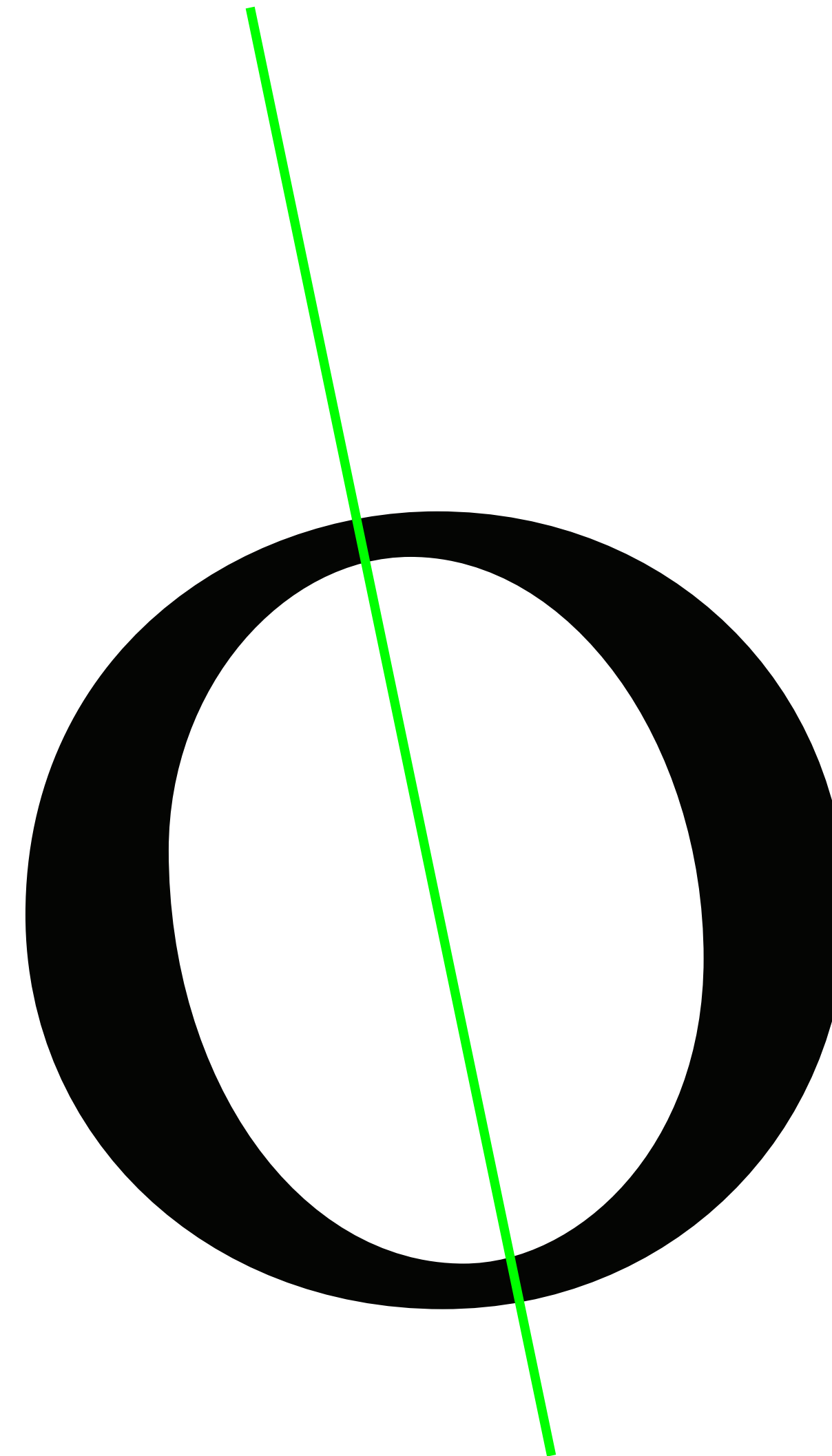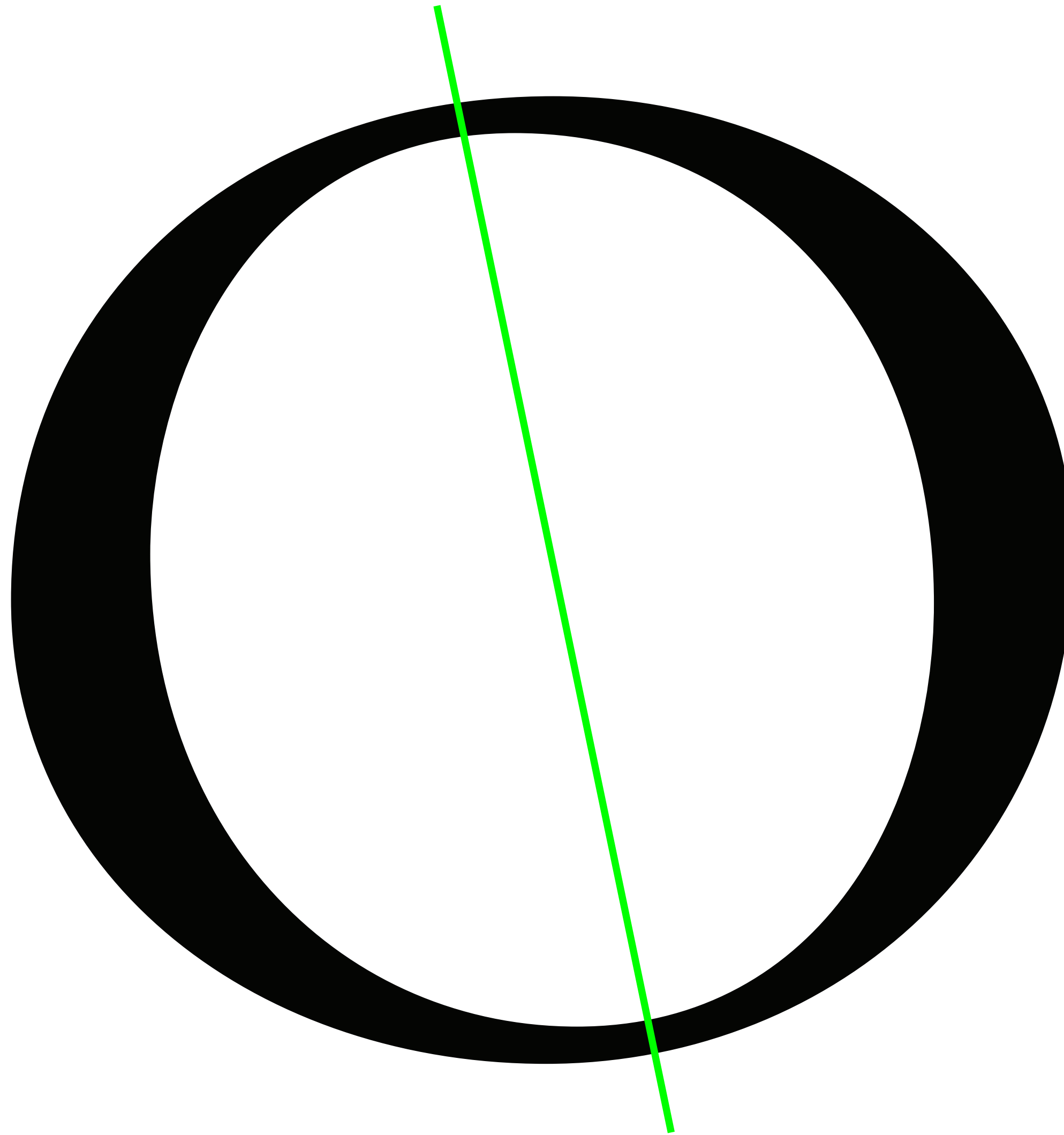A partially or fully enclosed
space within a character
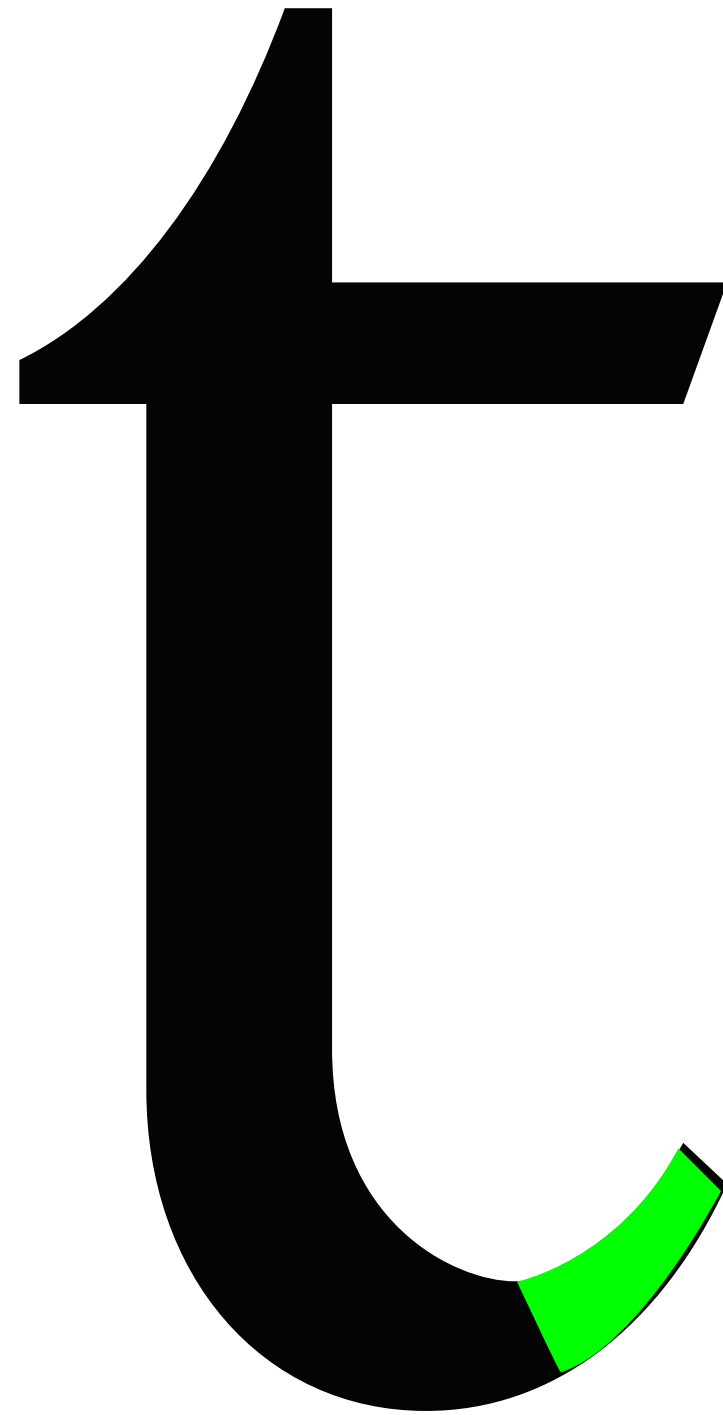
Bowl
A curved stroke that
creates a counter

Shoulder
The curved stroke of an
n, m, or h

Stress
This can be determined by "drawing" a line at
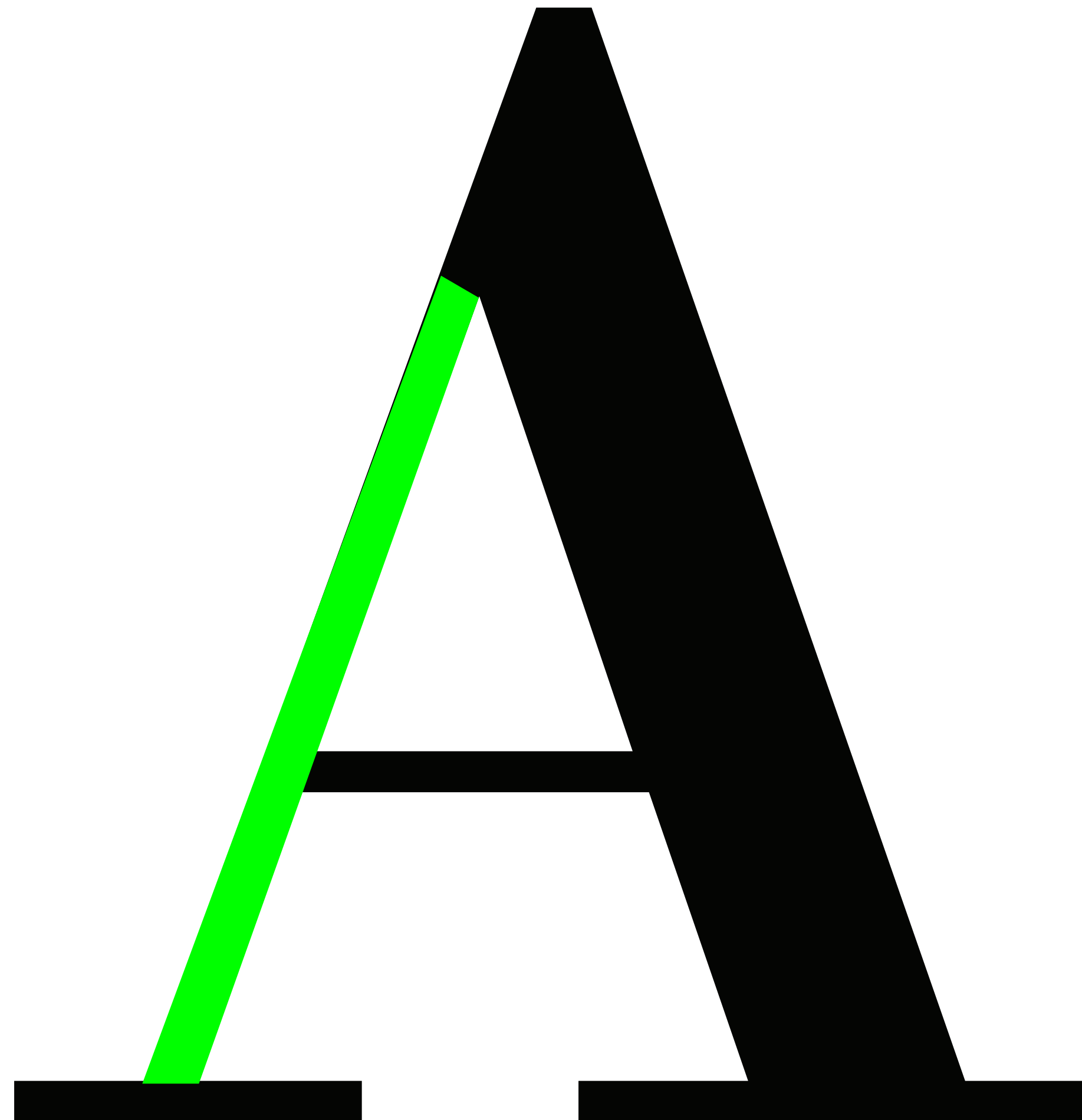the point of difference in a curved stroke

Terminal
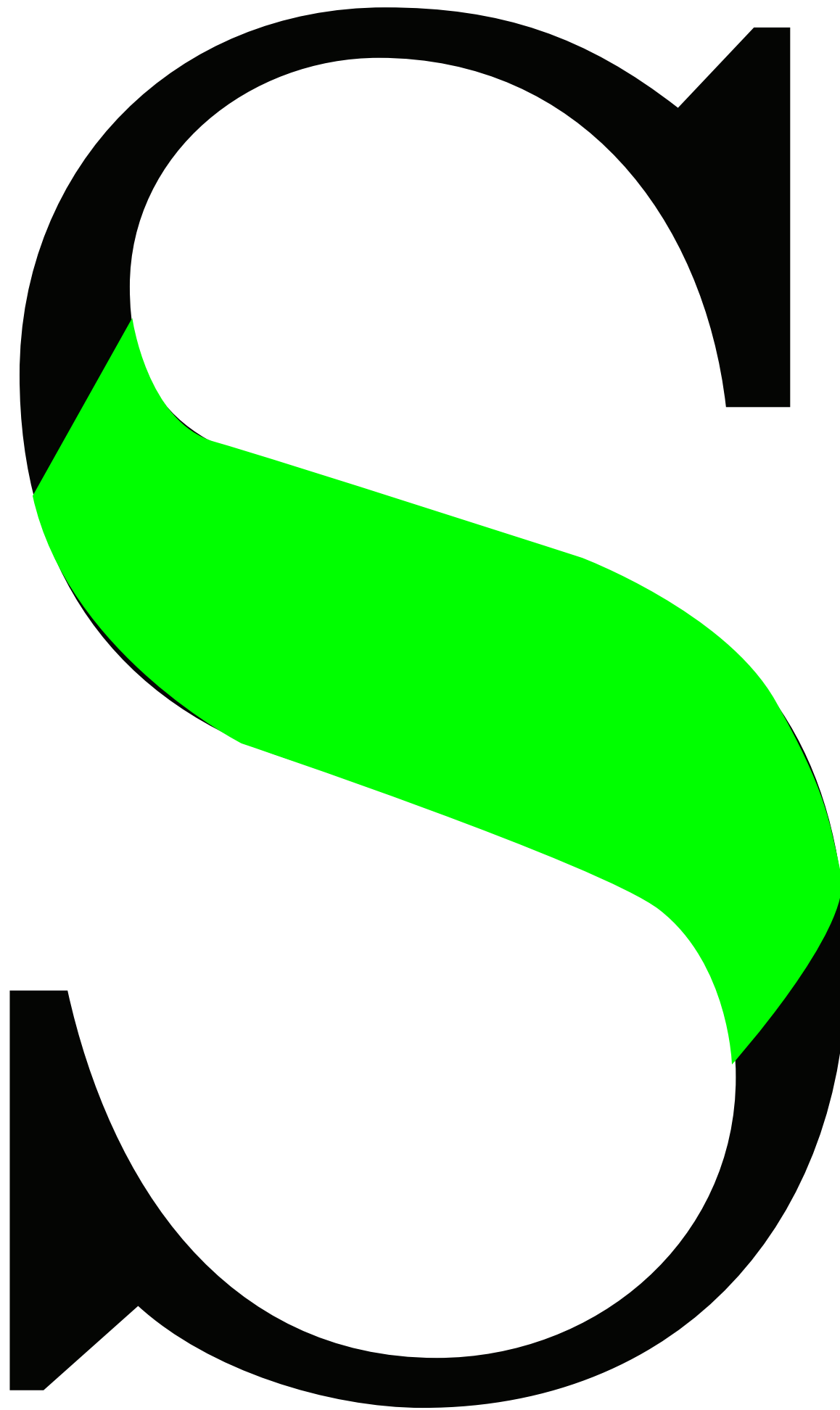The end of a stroke that is not
terminated with a serif

Ball Terminal
Only seen in two-story
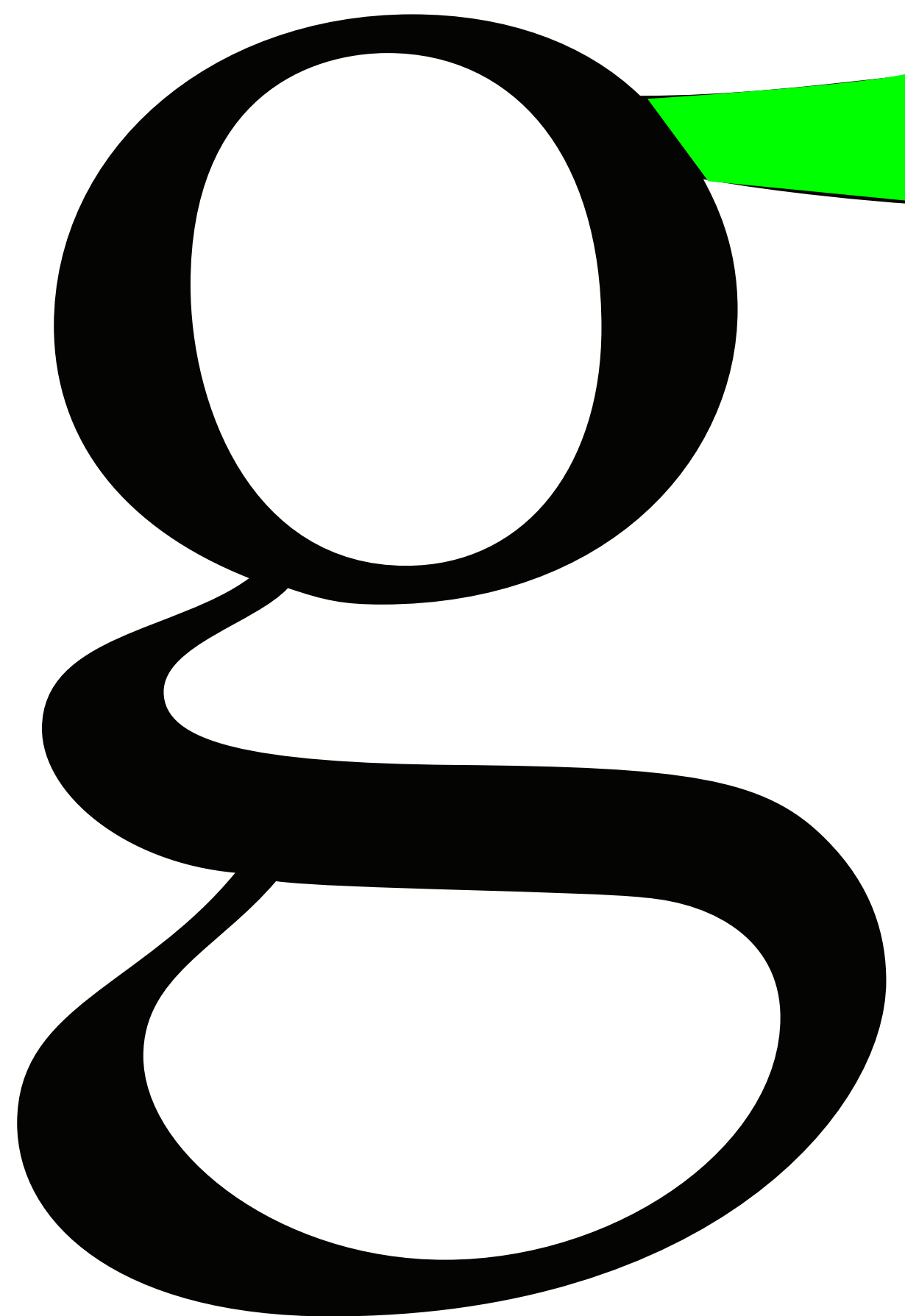a's and g's in specific font families

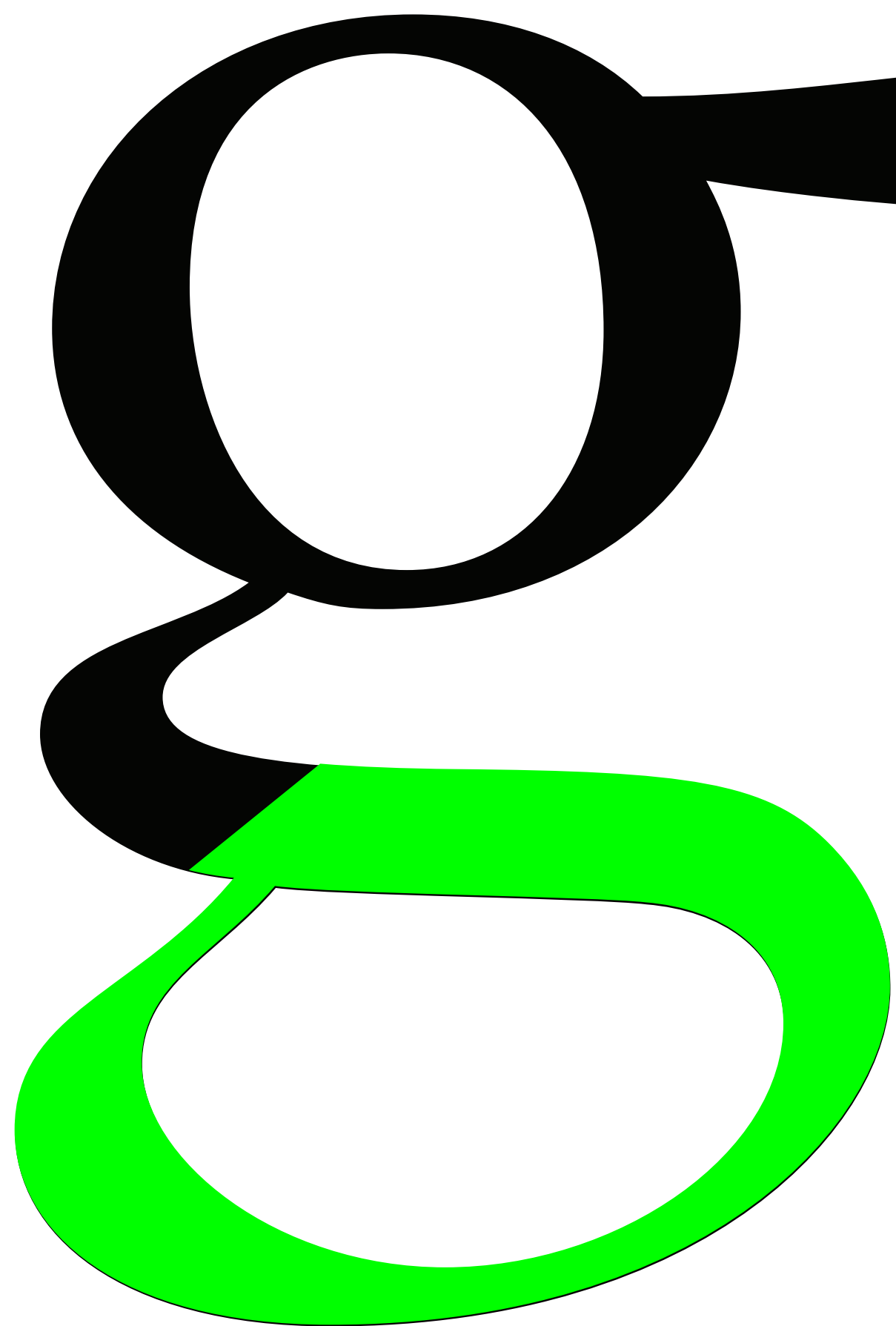**Hairline**
A very thin stroke most often
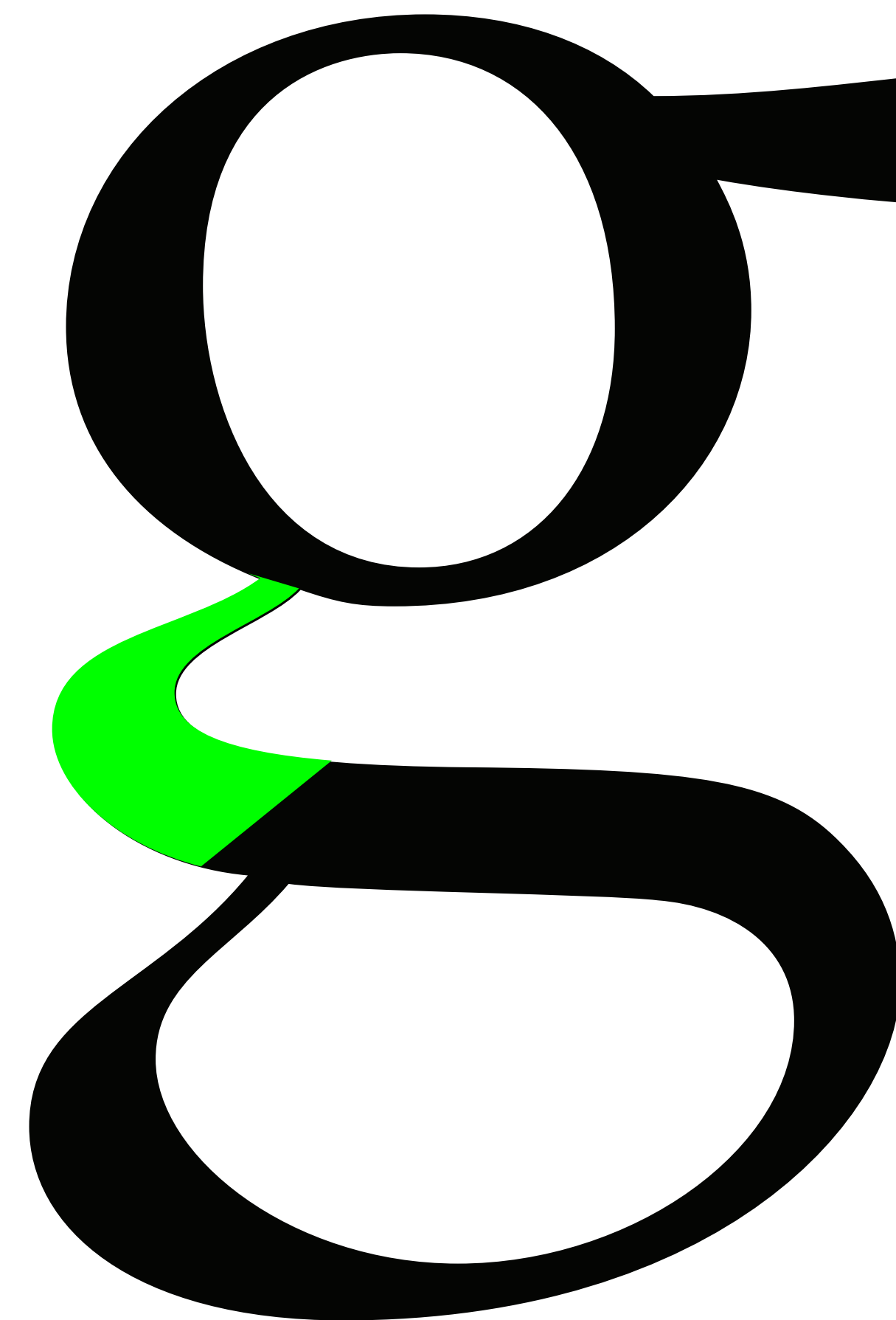common to serif typefaces

Spine
A central curved stroke
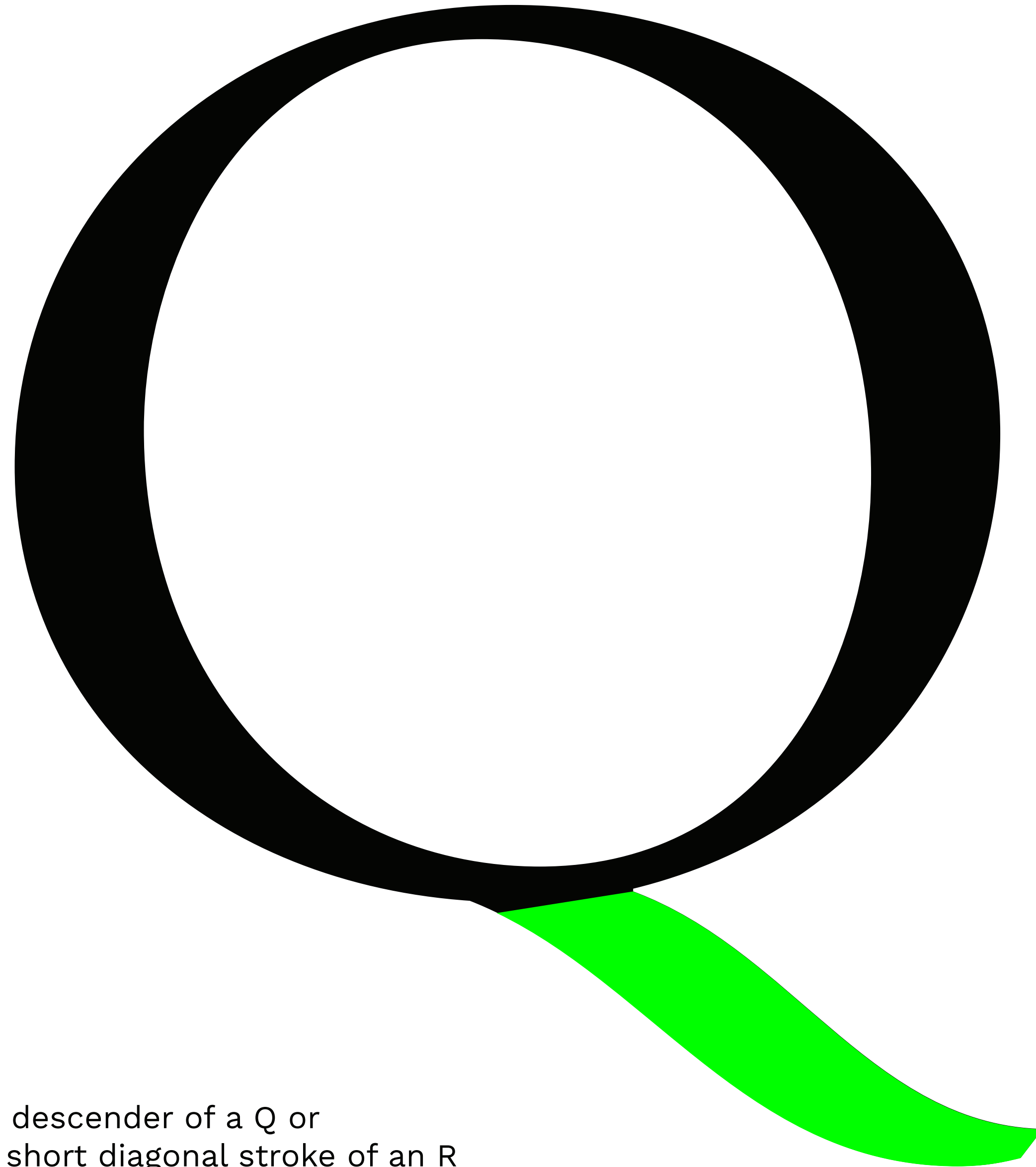
Spur

A projection from a curve

Ear
A short stroke projecting
from the lower case g

Loop
The enclosed counterform
of the letter g's descender

Link
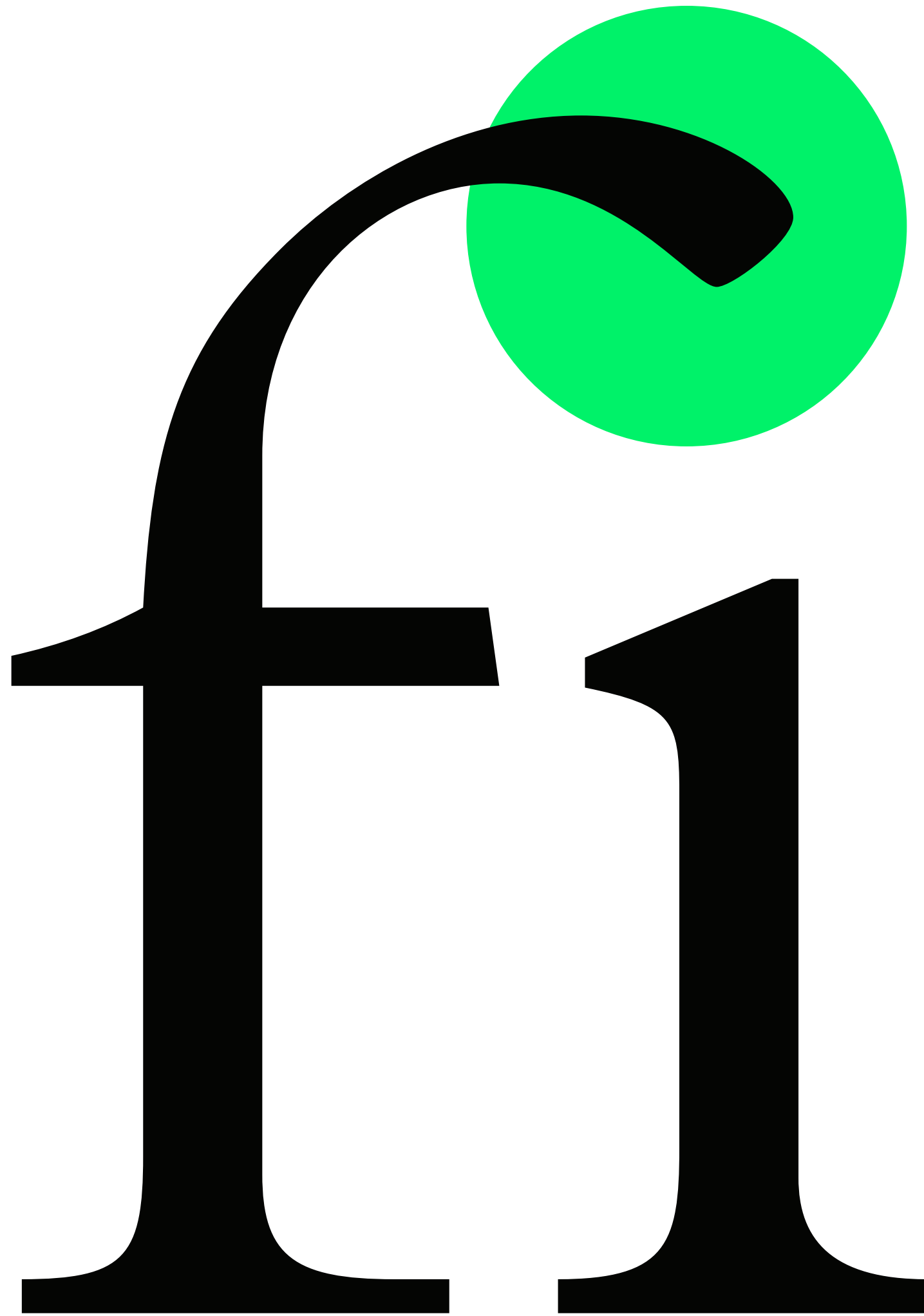The stroke connecting
the bowl and the loop
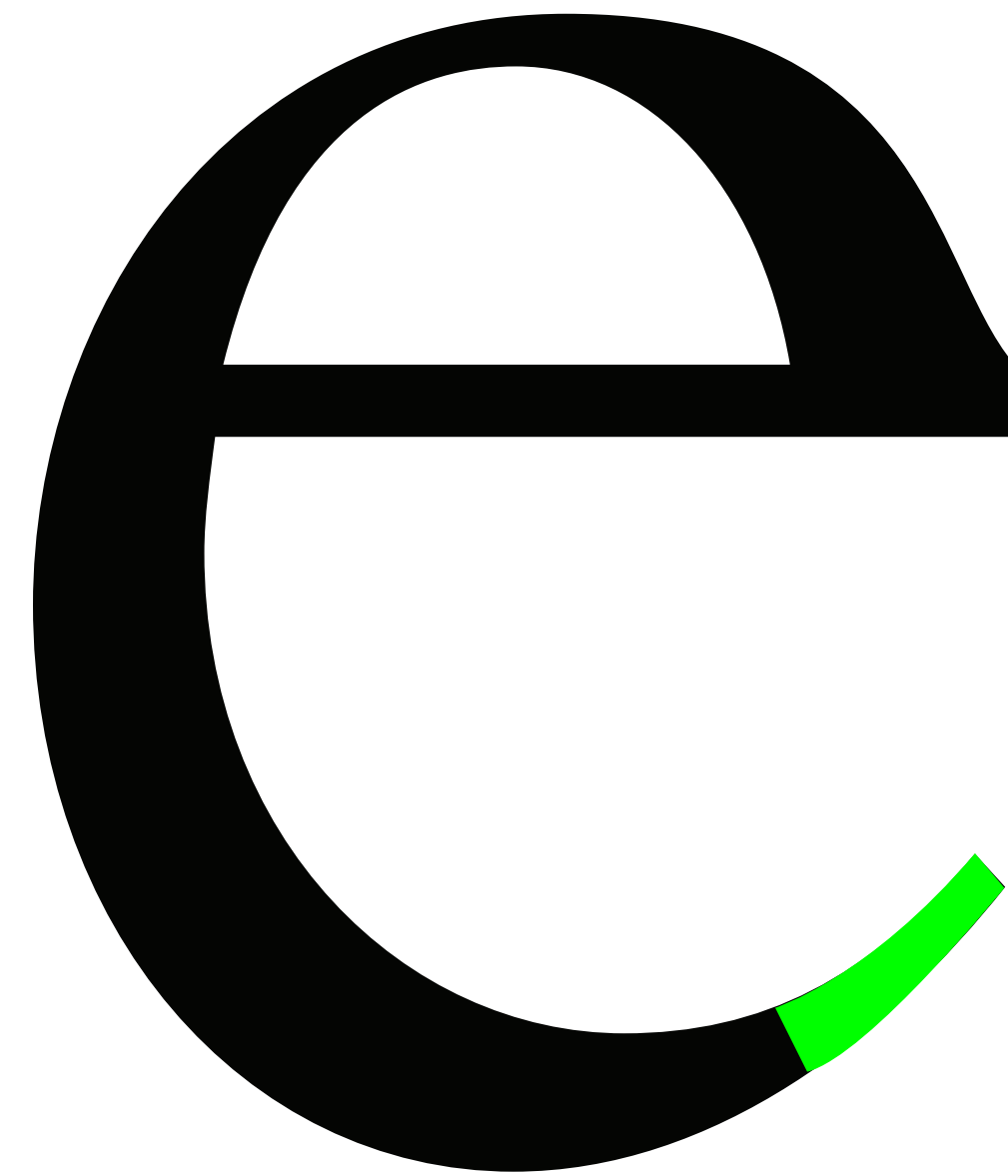
Tail
The descender of a Q or
the short diagonal stroke of an R

Swash
A fancy flourish replacing
a terminal or serif

Ligature

Finial

ﬀ ﬄ ﬃ ﬁ ﬂ ﬅ ﬁ Œ

Ligatures

Exercise 1