

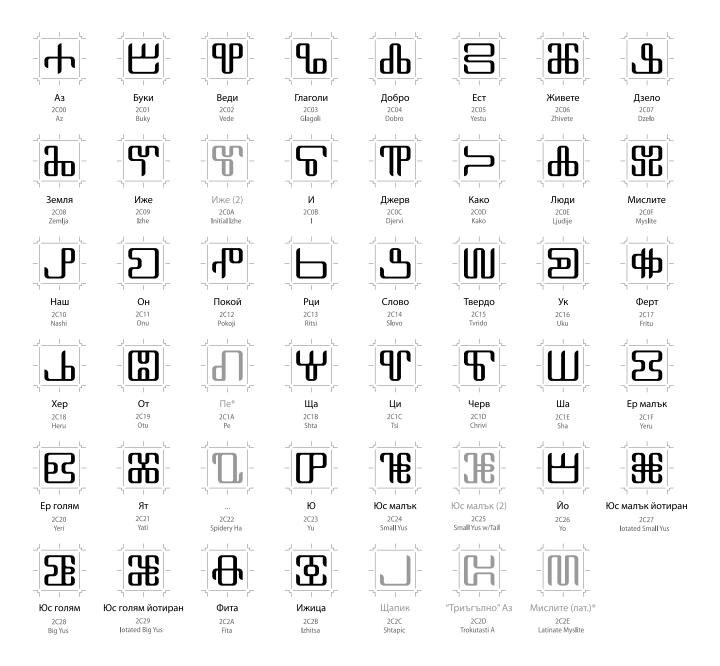


by alphadesigner

A faux-modern version of the Glagolitic alphabet

AN ACCOUNT OF LETTERS

BECAUSE EACH SOUND DESERVES A FACE



"Being still pagans, the Slavs did not have their own letters, but read and communicated by means of tallies and sketches. After their baptism they were forced to use Roman and Greek letters in the transcription of their Slavic words but these were not suitable ... At last, God, in his love for mankind, sent them St. Constantine the Philosopher, called Cyril, a learned and upright man, who composed for them thirty-eight letters, some (24 of them) similar to the Greek, but some (14 of them) different, suitable to express Slavic sounds."

NEOGLAGOLITIC ALPHA

A FAUX-MODERN VERSION OF THE GLAGOLITIC ALPHABET

This font is a result of a stylistic experiment based on the Glagolitic alphabet which was created in 855 AD¹ and was used in various Slavic cultures throughout history. However, soon after its emergence, it began to lose popularity and was subsequently replaced by the Cyrillic alphabet². Therefore, it never enjoyed the systematic development and evolution of most modern scripts still in use.

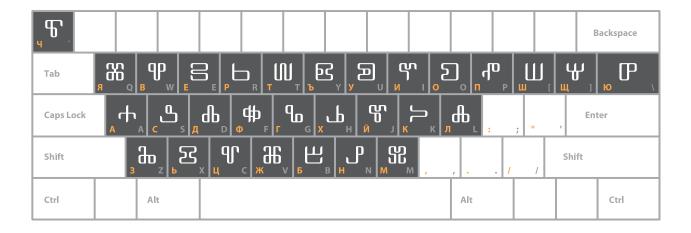
The purpose of this experiment is to create a faux-modern Glagolitic script by simplifying and unifying the various character shapes and also to make an "artistic" guess about the way they could have evolved through the centuries. The original Glagolitic alphabet is famous for its complexity, which was probably well suited for the cursive aesthetics of its time. It is important to notice that "simplifying" doesn't necessary equal "improving" from a designer's point of view. And yet, as a tool that has a predominantly practical side, after the invention of the press its simplification would have been unavoidable.

Traces of such "simplification" can be observed in the Croatian version of the Glagolitic script, where the character shapes are more rectangular. In Croatia, the alphabet was in use for ecclesiastical purposes until the beginning of the 20th Century, while in all other places, its use was discontinued 8 centuries earlier.

Because if its premature decline, scientists today occasionally have difficulties identifying and organizing all Glagolitic characters3. In this project, I followed the order of their inclusion in the Unicode Standard, Version 5.2.

KEYBOARD LAYOUT

The font contains all the Unicode characters in the range 2C00 - 2C2E (corresponding to all "capital" Glagolitic letters). Additionally, some of the symbols have been assigned to the default Latin range from 0041 - 007E. These Glagolitic characters are the equivalents to the Cyrillic characters in the order in which they appear in the Bulgarian Phonetic keyboard layout under Windows XP.



TERMS OF USE

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¹ According to Chernorizets Hrabar in his "An Account of Letters"

² It is widely accepted that the Glagolitic alphabet was created by Saint Cyril. On the other hand, the Cyrillic alphabet was created after the Glagolitic, probably by the students of Saint Cyril. Nevertheless, it is the one that carries his name.

³ The origin and authenticity of the <u>Pe character is disputed</u>. However, it is included in the Unicode reference table. The Latinate Myslite is obviously a modified version of the original Myslite character. The Trokutasti (Triangle) A is used interchangeably with the original Az letter in some texts.