

Signs Spanning Numbers

Some characters in Arabic script are signs that span (or enclose) numbers. Over time these have been variously called:

- *prepending concatenation marks*
- *subtending marks*
- *prefixed format control characters*

Since digit choice is dependent on regional use, these marks may be used with European digits (U+0030..U+0039), ARABIC-INDIC digits (U+0660..U+0669) or with EXTENDED ARABIC-INDIC digits (U+06F0..U+06F9).

From a practical standpoint there isn't a need to support an arbitrary-length sequence of digits. For SIL fonts, we have found the maximum number of digits as documented in the following table to be sufficient for most uses.

Examples of how these are formatted are shown below using varying number of digits with *hamza* used as a separator.

Characters	Glyph	max # digits
0600 ARABIC NUMBER SIGN	١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩٠	3
0601 ARABIC SIGN SANAH (year sign)	١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩٠١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩٠	4
0602 ARABIC FOOTNOTE MARKER	١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩٠	2
0603 ARABIC SIGN SAFHA	١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩٠١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩٠	4
0604 ARABIC SIGN SAMVAT	١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩٠١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩٠	4
0605 ARABIC NUMBER MARK ABOVE	١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩٠١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩٠	4
0890 ARABIC POUND MARK ABOVE	١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩٠١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩٠	4
0891 ARABIC PIASTRE MARK ABOVE	١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩٠١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩٠	4
06DD ARABIC END OF AYAH	١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩٠١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩٠	3
08E2 ARABIC DISPUTED END OF AYAH	١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩٠١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩٠	3

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