

the basics of  
*type anatomy*

Letters sit on this line.

baseline

**Baseline:** *the imaginary line upon which a line of text rests*

midline  
baseline

x-height { main portion of lowercase letter

x a n

**x-height:** *the distance between the baseline and the top of the main portion of a lower case form (originally based on the lowercase x).*



midline  
baseline

x-height { main portion of lowercase letter

midline - - - x Apple - - - x Apple  
Mrs. Eaves Garamond

*note: the **midline** (or **mean line**) is the between the baseline and cap height. The **midline** and **x-height** may or may not be the same size, this depends on the typeface.*



cap height

baseline

Height of Capital Letters

H

**Capital Letters:** *formerly called **majuscule** letters, are uppercase letters originally stored in upper drawers or “upper cases” in print shops.*

ascender height  
cap height  
midline  
baseline

descender height

Descenders dip below baseline

j p }

**Descenders:** *the portion of a lowercase letter that extends below the baseline.*

ascender height  
cap height  
midline  
baseline

Height of Ascenders

d

**Ascenders:** *a part of a letter that extends above the main portion of the lowercase form*

# *serif vs. sans serif*



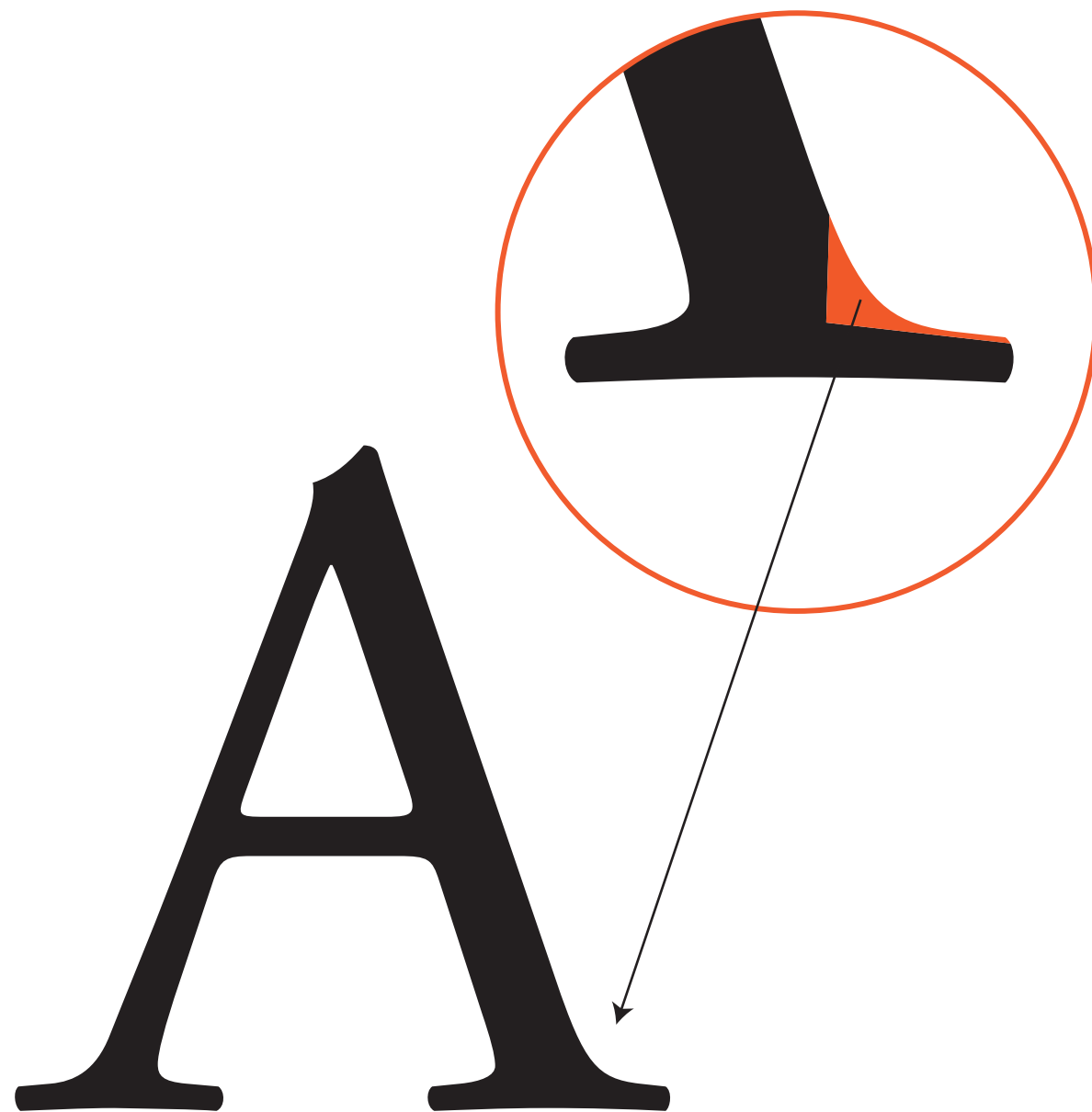
*serif*

*a stroke stemming off main  
stems of a letterform*

*sans serif*

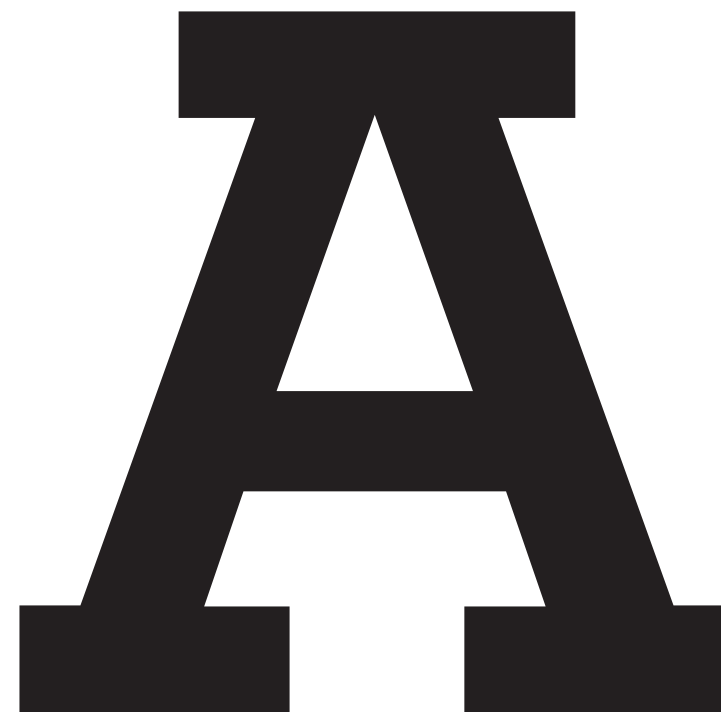
*without serif*





### **bracketed serifs**

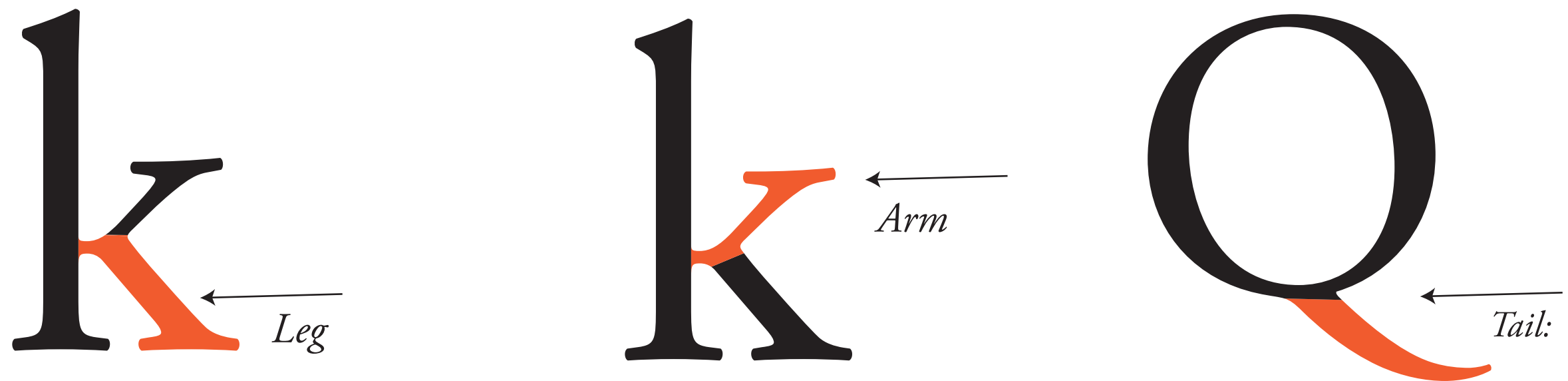
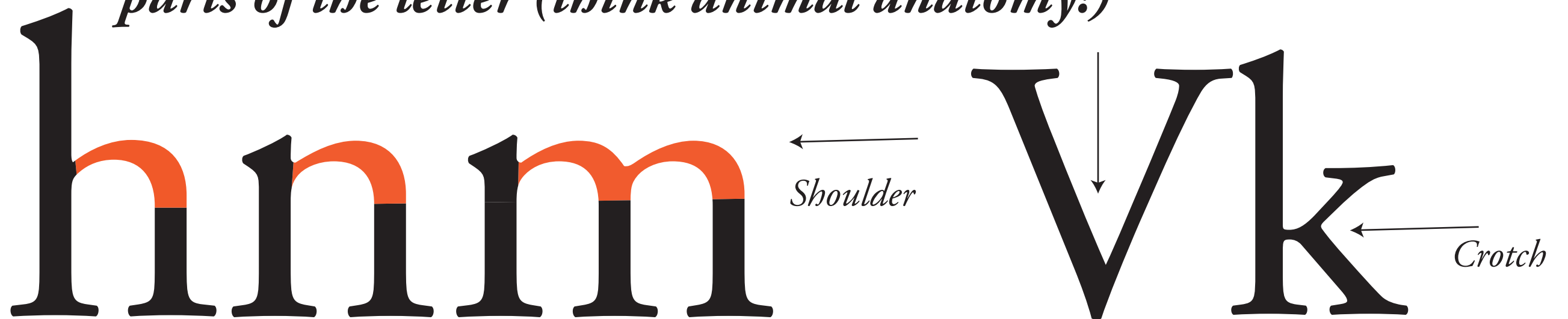
*A curved or wedge-like connection between the stem and serif of some fonts.*



### **slab serifs & unbracketed serifs**

*attach directly to the strokes of the letterform, sometimes abruptly or at right angles.*

*parts of the letter (think animal anatomy!)*

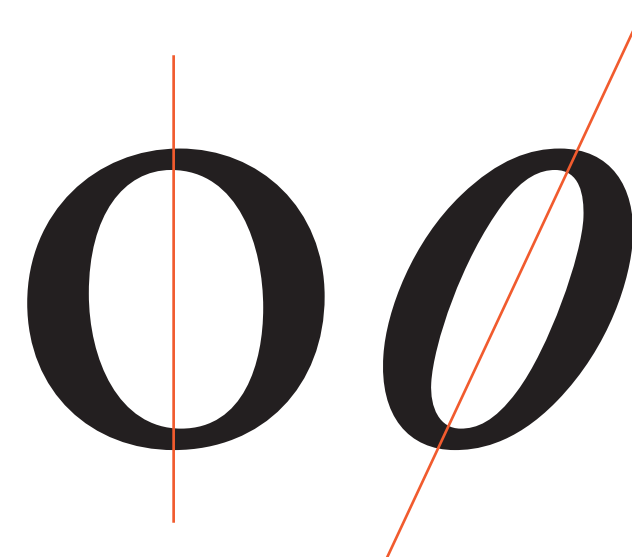




*Stem*



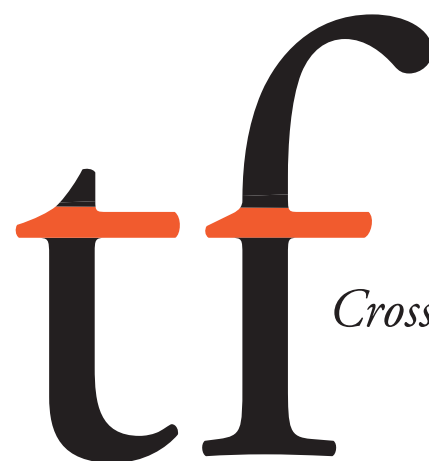
*Counter*



*stress*



*Crossbar*



*Crosstroke*



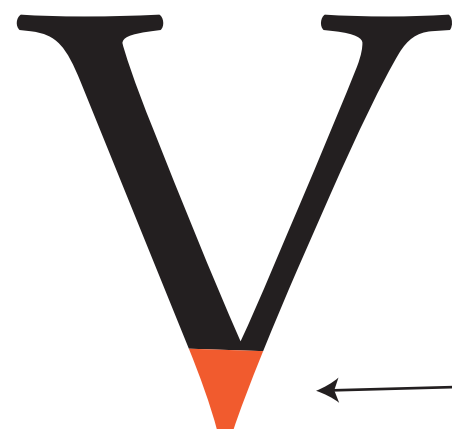
*link*



*loop*



*Apex:*

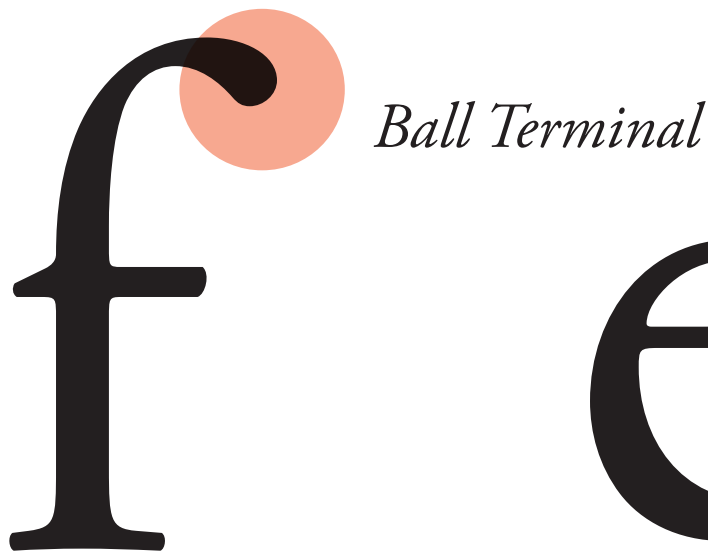


*Vertex:*



*bowl*

*end strokes & decorative strokes*



# *ligatures*

fl ff ff ff ff fj ff

fl ff ff ff ff fj ff



*spacing*

M

*Em space*

N

*En space*

*Em dash*



*En dash*



*hyphen*



*uppercase numerals*

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

*uppercase letters*

A B C D E F G H I J K

*lowercase numerals*

*(non-lining or old-style numerals)*

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

*small capitals letters*

A B C D E F G H I J K

## *type measurements*

type sizes are measured in **points (pts)**

the distance from the baseline of one line to type to the next is called **leading**, in reference to the strips of lead used to separate lines of metal type.

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leading is measured from  
{ baseline to baseline

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## *type measurements*

**1 inch = 6 picas = 72 points**

**1 pica = 12 points**

### **type notations:**

6 picas is written: **6p or 6p0**

6 picas 7 points is written: **6p7**

7 points is written **7 pts., 0p7 or p7**

10 point Universe with 2 point leading is written:  
**10/12 Univers**