Proxima Nova Supplemental Fonts

WHAT ARE "SUPPLEMENTAL" FONTS?

Proxima Nova is a full-featured OpenType font. It has many typographic extras such as small caps, old style figures, and alternate characters. This is great if you are using Adobe Creative Suite 1 or 2, or QuarkXPress 7 (or later), which have solid support for all (or nearly all) the advanced features in OpenType fonts.

Unfortunately, not every application has been updated yet to take advantage of OpenType fonts. Or, you may not be ready to upgrade to a version that has been. Until now, if you used Flash, MS Word, Freehand, earlier versions of QuarkXpress or Adobe applications, you could only use the basic characters in Proxima Nova. (Some non-OpenType-savvy applications can access the extra characters using your system's character palette.)

For this reason, the Proxima Nova supplemental fonts were created. These are also OpenType format, meaning they still have the advantage of a single font file that works on both Macs and PCs. However, some of the standard characters have been replaced with otherwise inaccesssible ones.

SMALL CAPS AND OLD STYLE FIGURES

Proxima Nova ScOsf gives access to the small cap and old style figure set, including punctuation and number symbols designed to match. These are essentially the same as what you get if, when using Proxima Nova in an OpenType-savvy application, you apply the Small Caps or Old Style Figures features.

ALTERNATE CHARACTERS

Proxima Nova Alt provides access to the alternate forms of the a, f, l, y, and G, including ligatured and accented forms of these characters. These are essentially the same as what you get if, when using Proxima Nova in an OpenType-savvy application, you apply the Stylistic Alternates feature. (Note: In the Proxima Nova Alt Italic fonts, the lowercase a retains the one-story form.)

WHAT EXACTLY IS IN THE FONTS?

The standard character set and the two supplemental sets are shown at right. Special characters—the ones normally inaccessible in non-OpenType-savvy applications—are highlighted.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

The supplemental fonts cover the same character set as the normal fonts, such as other currency symbols, tabular figures, superscript, subscript, fractions, case-sensitive punctuation, ligatures, and many miscellaneous symbols. The difference is that certain OpenType features (small caps, for example) will have the opposite effect if you use them in an OpenType-savvy program, which could be confusing. Use the supplemental fonts only if you must.

PROXIMA NOVA CHARACTER SET (IN NON-OPENTYPE-SAVVY APPLICATIONS)

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
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PROXIMA NOVA ALT CHARACTER SET

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PROXIMA NOVA SCOSF CHARACTER SET

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HOW TO INSTALL THE SUPPLEMENTAL FONTS

The Proxima Nova supplemental fonts are installed the same way as any other fonts and may be installed alongside the standard version of Proxima Nova.

FONT NAMES

In applications that group fonts according to family, the standard Proxima Nova fonts will be in one group, the Small Caps and Old Style fonts in a second group, and the Alternate Character fonts in a third group. (Condensed and Extra Condensed are also grouped separately.)

The font names follow a consistent pattern to make it easy to find the font you need. For example:

SOME OF THE STANDARD FONTS:

Proxima Nova Regular
Proxima Nova Bold
Proxima Nova Condensed Thin Italic
Proxima Nova Extra Condensed Black

THE MATCHING SMALL CAP & OLD STYLE FIGURES FONTS:

Proxima Nova ScOsf Regular
Proxima Nova ScOsf Bold
Proxima Nova ScOsf Condensed Thin Italic
Proxima Nova ScOsf Extra Condensed Black

THE MATCHING ALTERNATE CHARACTER FONTS:

Proxima Nova Alt Regular
Proxima Nova Alt Bold
Proxima Nova Alt Condensed Thin Italic
Proxima Nova Alt Extra Condensed Black

Note: In some applications (MS Word, QuarkXPress, most Windows applications), the font names may be abbreviated.

USING THE FONTS

In general, use these the same way you would use any other separate fonts together. That is, select the text you wish to change an choose the font from the font menu.