

About Plain

Every word could be a logotype. Text composes effortlessly balanced lines, Plain works from footnote to poster sizes. The graphic aesthetic is unique yet universal.

Plain investigates the rational simplicity of modernism and brings it to a new level of achievement. Few typefaces achieve this state of visual alchemy, which is epitomized by the classic Helvetica from times in which photo lettering was ubiquitous. Plain is incredibly fluid thanks to a drawing that is neither constrained by a geometrical approach nor structured according to the idiosyncrasy of the stroke. Glyphs are designed optically as plain surfaces and, beneath an apparent modern simplicity, their dynamic interactions create a distinct identity.

Plain comes in an exceptionally large range of weights offering to graphic designers a multi-sidedness tool, ready to prove its utility.

- → Second release in 2023
- → First release in 2013

Designed by François Rappo

François Rappo lives and works in Lausanne, Switzerland. Rappo studied graphic design in the early 1980s at the École cantonale des beaux arts (ECBA) in Lausanne, where he specialized in typography. After years of graphic design practice in both the cultural and the corporate fields, he became active in design education.

Since the mid-1990s, he teaches editorial and type design at the École cantonale d'art de Lausanne (ECAL), where he established the art direction master's degree program in 2009, which became the type design master's degree program in 2016. Additionally, Rappo frequently lectures about his typographic practice in Europe, Russia, and the USA.

From 2001 to 2007, he was the president of the jury for The Most Beautiful Swiss Books competition. He was awarded the prestigious Jan Tschichold Prize in 2013 for his outstanding achievement in editorial design through his influential typeface designs.

Plain Regular 260 pt

Plain Skeleton/Italic 105 pt

Plain Hairline/Italic 105 pt

A

Aa

Plain Ultrathin/Italic 105 pt

Aa

<u>Aa</u>

Plain Ultralight/Italic 105 pt

Aa

Aa

Plain Thin/Italic 105 pt

Aa Aa

Plain Light/Italic 105 pt

Aa

Aa

Plain Regular/Italic 105 pt

Plain Medium/Italic 105 pt

Plain Bold/Italic 105 pt

Plain Extrabold/Italic 105 pt

Plain Black/Italic 105 pt

Plain Super/Italic 105 pt

Plain Family 24 Styles

Plain Skeleton Plain Hairline Plain Ultrathin Plain Ultralight Plain Thin Plain Light Plain Regular Plain Medium **Plain Bold Plain Extrabold Plain Black Plain Super**

Plain Hairline Italic Plain Ultrathin Italic Plain Ultralight Italic Plain Thin Italic Plain Light Italic Plain Italic Plain Medium Italic Plain Bold Italic **Plain Extrabold Italic Plain Black Italic Plain Super Italic**

Plain ® Character Map

Uppercase

Lowercase

Standard Punctuation

Symbols

Standard Ligatures

Proportional Lining Figures

Slashed Zero

Mathematical Symbols

Currencies

Fractions

Numerators

Denominators

Superscript/Superiors

Subscript/Inferiors

Ordinals

Arrows

Accented Uppercases

Accented Lowercases

Circled figures [ss14]

Black circled figures [ss15]

Pictograms [ss19]

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

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fi ffi fl ffl ff

0123456789

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ΨΕ+ΟΓΟΜΝΩΚΨΙΧΩ10Π+ΩΡΨΩΝ

1/4 1/2 3/4 1/3 2/3 1/8 3/8 5/8 7/8 12345/67890

H0123456789abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz()[].,=-+

H0123456789abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz()[].,=-+ H0123456789abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz()[].,=-+

H_{0123456789abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz()[].,=-+}H^{ao}

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0123456789

Language Support

Afrikaans, Albanian, Asu, Basque, Bemba, Bena, Breton, Bosnian, Catalan, Chiga, Colognian, Cornish, Croatian [Latin], Czech, Danish, Dutch, Embu, English, Esperanto, Estonian, Faroese, Filipino, Fijian, Finnish, Flemish, French, Friulian, Frisian, Galician, Ganda, German,Gusii, Greenlandic, Hawaiian, Hungarian, Icelandic, Inari Sami, Indonesian, Irish, Italian, Jola-Fonyi, Kabuverdianu, Kalaallisut, Kalenjin,

Kamba, Kikuyu, Kinyardawanda, Latin, Latvian, Lithuanian, Lower Sorbian, Luo, Luxembourgish, Luyia, Machame, Makhuwa-Meetto, Makonde, Malagasy, Malay, Maltese, Manx, Maori, Meru, Morisyen, Moldavian, North Ndebele, Nothern Sami, Norwegian Bokmål, Norwegian Nynorsk, Nyankole, Oromo, Portuguese, Polish, Quechua, Provençal, Rhaeto-Romanic, Romanian, Romansh, Romany, Rombo, Rundi, Rwa, Samburu, Sango, Sangu, Sámi [Inari], Sámi [Luli], Sámi [Northern], Sámi [Southern], Samoan, Scottish Gaelic, Sena, Serbian [Latin], Spanish, Shambala, Shona, Slovak, Slovenian, Soga, Somali, Swahili, Swedish, Swiss German, Taita, Teso, Tagalog, Turkish, Upper Sorbian, Uzbek, Volapük, Vunjo, Walser, Wallon, Welsh, Western Frisian, Wolof, Zulu

Optimo Latin Extended Character Set

Adobe

Adobe Latin-1

Apple Macintosh

- · MacOS Roman (Standard Latin)
- · MacOS Central European Latin
- MacOS Croatian
- · MacOS Iceland · MacOS Romanian
- · MacOS Turkish

ISO 8859

- · 8859-1 Latin-1 Western European
- 8859-2 Latin-2 Central European
- 8859-3 Latin-3 South European
- 8859-4 Latin-4 North European
- 8859-9 Latin-5 Turkish
- 8859-13 Latin-7 Baltic Rim
- 8859-15 Latin-9
- 8859-16 Latin-10 South-Eastern European

Microsoft Windows

- · MS Windows 1250 Central European Latin
- · MS Windows 1252 Western (Standard Latin)
- · MS Windows 1254 Turkish Latin
- · MS Windows 1257 Baltic Latin

Encoded Glyphs

- Basic Latin
- Latin-1 Supplement
- Latin Extended-A
- Latin Extended-B
- · Latin Extended Additional

OpenType Features

OFF

ON



All Caps [cpsp]

Case Sensitive Forms [case]

This function formats the text in uppercase and adjusts spacing between all capital letters. It also applies the 'Case Sensitive Forms' feature which replaces certain characters with alternates that are better suited for all capital text, especially related to punctuation.

All Capital

(278) «Optimo» hi@xyz.ch

H@|\()[]{};;<>«»-----

ALL CAPITAL

(278) «OPTIMO» HI@XYZ.CH

H@|¦()[]{}¿i‹›«»-----

Tabular Lining Figures [tnum-Inum]



Proportional Lining Figures [pnum-Inum]



Tabular Oldstyle Figures [tnum-Inum]



Proportional Oldstyle Figures [pnum-Inum]

This typeface includes lining and small figures available in tabular or proportional spacing formats, Lining figures have an invariable height and aligned to the capitals height, comparatively to small figures who are slightly smaller. For contexts in which numbers need to line up such as columns or tables, the tabular setting is perfectly adapted as all numerals width is uniformized. Proportional setting generates numerals suitable for text; each number has an appropriate width based on its shape,

H0123456789 H0123456789 H0123456789 H0123456789

H0123456789 H0123456789 H0123456789 H0123456789

Contextual Alternates [calt]

This feature adapts the position of a glyph after its surrounding context. For instance, a dash placed between two uppercase letters or numbers will be replaced by an uppercase version of the dash, slightly higher. This feature is usually active by default in Adobe applications.

Standard Ligatures [liga]

Standard ligatures replaces a sequence of characters with a single ligature glyph, they are designed to improve kerning and readability of certain letter pairs.

A-B-C-D 1-2

A-B-C-D 1-2

fi

fi fl

fi fl

Plain® OFF ON 6



Fractions [frac]

With this feature, any numbers separated by a slash will automatically turn into a fraction. To fit in fraction configuration, numerals have been designed smaller and their weights have been adjusted to suit the typeface.

1/2 1/3 2/3 1/4 3/4 3/8 5/8 7/8 1/2 1/3 2/3 1/4 3/4 3/8 5/8 7/8



Ordinals [ordn]

This feature replaces any letter following a numeral with its matching superior letters. French language uses the ordinal indicators such as 'er' for 1er premier, while Spanish, Portuguese and Italian require the feminine and masculine ordinals 'a,' 'o' for 1°, 1ª. Ordinals are designed to match the weight of the typeface.

2a 2o 1er

2ª 2º 1er



Slashed Zero [zero]

Originally created to avoid the confusion between the '0' and the '0', this feature substitutes all zeros in a selected text by a slashed form of the

0

0



Numerators [numr]

This feature substitutes glyphs with their matching smaller alternates. The numerators are the same glyphs that are used to create fractions, their vertical position remains within the capital letters height. These glyphs are reduced in size and designed slightly heavier to keep them consistent with the rest of the font.

H0123456789-+= Habcdefghijklmno Hpqrstuvwxyz()[]., H0123456789-+= HabcdefghijkImno Hpqrstuvwxyz()[].,



Denominators [dnom]

This feature substitutes glyphs with their matching smaller alternates and low position glyphs. The denominators are the same glyphs that are used to create fractions, their vertical position remains within the base line. These glyphs are reduced in size and designed slightly heavier to keep them consistent with the rest of the font.

H0123456789-+= Habcdefghijklmno Hpqrstuvwxyz()[].,

H0123456789-+= Habcdefghijklmno Hpqrstuvwxyz()[].,



Superscript/Superiors [sups]

This feature substitutes glyphs with their matching smaller alternates which are set slightly above the height of the capital letters. These glyphs are reduced in size and designed slightly heavier to keep them consistent with the rest of

H0123456789-+= Habcdefghijklmno Hpqrstuvwxyz()[]., H⁰¹²³⁴⁵⁶⁷⁸⁹⁻⁺⁼ H^{abcdefghijklmno} H^{pqrstuvwxyz()[].,}



Subscript/Inferiors [subs]

This feature substitutes glyphs with their matching smaller alternates which are set slightly below the baseline. These glyphs are reduced in size and designed slightly heavier to keep them consistent with the rest of the font.

H0123456789-+= Habcdefghijklmno Hpqrstuvwxyz()[]., H₀₁₂₃₄₅₆₇₈₉₋₊₌ H_{abcdefghijklmno} H_{pqrstuvwxyz()[].,}



Stylistic Set 6 [ss06]

This feature activates alternate lowercase positioning of mathematical symbols.

4-7×8 up+down

4–7×8 up+down

 $H+\pm \times \div -= \approx \neq \leq \geq \neg \infty$

 $H+\pm x \div -= \approx \neq \leq \geq \neg \infty$



Stylistic Set 20 [ss20]

This feature substitutes the letter "x" into the multiplication sign,



Discretionary Ligatures [dlig]

This feature activates discretionary ligatures which are specific to the typeface. It applies all other designed ligatures that are not classified as standard ligatures.



32×50 cm



 \rightarrow \leftarrow



Stylistic Set 14 [ss14] Circled figures



Stylistic Set 15 [ss15] Black circled figures

This feature replaces glyph(s) with stylistic alternate(s). Basel Grotesk includes figures which are enclosed into an outlined circle and/or enclosed into a filled circle. H0123456789 H0123456789

H0023456789



Stylistic Set 19 [ss19] Pictograms

This feature activates a set of pictograms.

abcdefgh
ijklmnop
qrstu
vwxyz
ABCDEF
GHIJKLM
NOPQR
STUVWXYZ
0123456789
!"#\$%&'()*
+,-./:;<=
>?@[\]^_

`{|}

Plain Skeleton 60 pt

The car was a boxy late model Ford sedan,

Plain Skeleton 36 pt

The car was a boxy late model Ford sedan, white over black, innocuous bordering on invisible, and very fast. It had been

Plain Skeleton 24 pt

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