



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## THE #1 MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

**I installed the standard OpenType fonts, but they don't appear correctly in PDFs made with the PDF generator built into WordPerfect or Word for Windows.**

This is a [known limitation](#) of WordPerfect and Word. Switching to the OpenType TT fonts will cure the problem. So will switching to other PDF-making software (such as the Adobe PDF printer driver, which is included with Adobe Acrobat).

## INSTALLATION

**Should I use OpenType (.otf) or OpenType TT (.ttf)?**

Both formats work with Windows and Mac OS. If you primarily use Microsoft Office on Windows or WordPerfect, then you should use the OpenType TT fonts, because those programs are finicky. Otherwise, use the OpenType fonts.

**Can I have both formats installed simultaneously?**

No. Pick one.

**How do I install or remove the fonts in Windows?**

Right-click the fonts and select *Install*. Or, from the Start menu, open *Control Panel* → *Appearance and Personalization* → *Fonts* and drag the fonts into this folder. To remove fonts, quit any running programs, and then delete the fonts from this folder. I've found that it's wise to restart after installing fonts, and before deleting. More detailed [installation](#) and [removal](#) instructions are found under those links.

**How do I install or remove the fonts on Mac OS?**

From the main directory of your system drive, open the folder *Library*, then the folder *Fonts*. Drag the fonts into this folder. (To remove fonts, delete them from this folder.) You can also use *Applications* → *Font Book* to install and remove fonts. More detailed [installation and removal instructions](#).

**Do I have to install them all?**

No. You can just install the ones you need (or install them all, and delete the ones you don't need).

**How do I use the fonts in my documents?**

Once installed, each family will show up in your Font menu under multiple subfamily names. (The number depends on the number of weights and widths in the family.)

**Do you issue updates for the fonts?**

Yes, if I find a bug, which is rare. (If you find one, [tell me](#).)

**How should I install updated versions of the fonts?**

Following the instructions above, remove the old versions, and then install the new ones. On Windows, it's wise to restart before removing the old versions, and restart again after installing the new ones.

## MICROSOFT WORD

**The font-embedding feature of Word isn't working.**

This feature is only supported in Windows versions of Microsoft Word, and requires that you use the OpenType TT fonts. Even then, it's still pretty rickety. Avoid.

## LICENSE

**Can I use the fonts in an e-book or app?**

If your e-book or app format supports read-only embedding of fonts, yes—you don't need an additional license.

**Can I use the fonts on my website, as webfonts?**

Sure, subject to the limitations [in the license](#).

**Where are the webfonts?**

They're in the WOFF subfolder of the zip file you downloaded and extracted.

**Can I upgrade my license to cover more people?**

Yes, by paying the difference in price between licenses. Email me at [mb@mbtype.com](mailto:mb@mbtype.com) and I will send you an upgrade link.

**Can I use the fonts in an open-source project?**

No, because [my font license](#) is not compatible with any open-source license.

**Why can't I store the fonts on GitHub?**

Because people assume everything on GitHub is free for the taking. It's become a major vector of unlicensed font usage. For non-open-source website repositories, I don't mind if you base64-encode the fonts within a CSS file.

**I want to buy a two-person license but my employer needs you to fill out this vendor paperwork with your social-security number and home address and ...**

Sorry, but no. The costs of these chores would far exceed the price of the font license.

## LANGUAGES

### What languages do the fonts support?

Afrikaans, Albanian, Basque, Catalan, the Celtic languages, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, Galician, German, Hungarian, Icelandic, Indonesian, Irish, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Malay, Maltese, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Tagalog, and Turkish.

## TYPOGRAPHY

### Why do only certain styles of each family have bold versions?

Only the lighter weights of each family are linked to bold styles. That way, when you're using one of those weights in your typesetting program, you can apply bold formatting and get the right result. But the heavier weights are already bold, so they can't be further emboldened.

### What's the difference between Text and Caps styles?

The Text styles are for body text, and have the usual upper- & lowercase character set. Each Caps style has the same uppercase characters as the corresponding Text style, but with small caps in the lowercase positions. The Caps styles also have wider default spacing than Text.

### What are the Tab styles?

The Tab styles are identical to the standard styles, but they have their tabular figures in the default positions, rather than proportionally spaced figures. They're provided primarily for compatibility with programs like Microsoft Excel that need tabular figures but don't support the OpenType features. But you can use them in any program. You can also have them installed alongside the standard fonts—they won't conflict with each other. They appear separately in your Font menu, with "Tab" appended to the subfamily name.

### If I'm setting all caps, should I use Text or Caps styles?

You can use either. The uppercase letters look the same, but they have more letterspacing in Caps, which can be convenient. If your typesetting program supports OpenType features, I also recommend activating the OpenType uppercase feature, which turns on the caps-optimized punctuation.

### How do I get small caps?

Switch to the Caps style and use the lowercase characters. [More on small caps.](#)

### How do I convert both uppercase and lowercase to small caps?

Switch to the Caps style and activate the OpenType all-small-caps feature. This will also activate the small-caps optimized punctuation. This feature is duplicated in stylistic set 10.

### What about that box in my layout program for small-cap formatting? Should I turn it on?

Don't touch that box—it's evil! It does not invoke the small caps I made for you. Rather, it creates synthetic small caps by scaling down the uppercase characters. Pretend it doesn't exist.

### Can I add letterspacing when I'm using a Caps style?

Sure. It's not mandatory—consistent with [my letterspacing recommendations](#), my Caps styles already have about 8% more letterspacing than the Text styles. But if you want to, go ahead.

### Do the fonts have fractions?

Yes, my fonts have the standard single-digit fractions. All these fractions are accessible in programs that support the OpenType fractions feature. Microsoft Word does not—so use the *Insert* → *Symbol* option to put fractions in your document.

### Do the fonts have tabular figures?

The default figures in my fonts are proportional lining figures (*proportional* = different widths; *lining* = same heights). Tabular figures—i.e., figures that are the same width—are available through the OpenType tabular-figures feature. If you need tabular figures in a program that doesn't support OpenType tabular figures (e.g., Microsoft Excel) just use the Tab versions of the fonts. [More on alternate figures.](#)

### Do the fonts have oldstyle (non-lining) figures?

Yes. They're available through the OpenType oldstyle-figures feature. If you also activate the OpenType tabular-figures feature, you'll get tabular oldstyle figures. (Exception: Advocate has no oldstyle figures, because it's an all-caps family.)

### Do the fonts have ligatures?

Those that need them because of character collisions (e.g., Equity) have them. Fonts that don't have character collisions (e.g., Concourse), don't have ligatures, because they're unnecessary. [More on ligatures.](#)

### Where can I see the OpenType features of each family?

Visit [mbtype.com](http://mbtype.com)—each family has a "Features" page that lists the available OpenType features and lets you demo them in the browser.

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## ADVOCATE

**Your other fonts have a T series and C series, but Advocate only has a C series?**

Right. It's strictly a caps font. Regular caps in the uppercase slots; small caps in the lowercase slots.

**What do the style numbers mean?**

The first digit indicates the weight (4, 5, or 6, corresponding to regular, medium, and bold) and the second digit indicates the width (1, 3, or 5, corresponding to condensed, narrow, and regular).

**What's the difference between Advocate and Advocate Slab?**

Just the presence of slab serifs on certain characters. The other characters are identical between the two styles.

**What are the Mid fonts?**

They're the same as regular fonts, but with the small caps elevated to the vertical midline. In your Font menu, the Mid fonts have the word "Mid" appended to the style. The Mid alternates are also available through OpenType stylistic set 11.

**How do I choose which style to use for my project?**

Use whatever you like best. Experiment. Have fun! The styles are designed to harmonize with each other. You can mix weights, width, and cases.

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## CENTURY SUPRA

**How do I choose between weights 3 and 4?**

Weight 3 is slightly lighter than weight 4, to account for office printers that tend to produce darker text. I recommend printing some test documents in both 3 and 4 to see which looks best on your printer. If you're preparing a document for professional printing, you probably want weight 4.

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## CONCOURSE

**Why do the OpenType stylistic sets have names like "British Mode," "German Mode," and so on?**

Each stylistic set is inspired by a sans serif face associated with that area. The names are meant as a nod to these models. Unfortunately, there's no way to make these names show up in layout programs, so you'll have to remember their boring OpenType names—

Eastern Mode = stylistic set 1  
British Mode = stylistic set 2  
French Mode = stylistic set 3  
Swiss Mode = stylistic set 4  
German Mode = stylistic set 5  
Swedish Mode = stylistic set 6

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## EQUITY

**What's the difference between the A and B subfamilies?**

Only the weight: the B fonts are slightly lighter than the A fonts, to account for office printers that tend to produce darker text. I recommend printing some test documents in both A and B to see which looks best on your printer. If you're preparing a document for professional printing, you probably want the A weight.

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## HERMES CLASSIC

**How do I get Hermes Classic?**

It's a special-order item. Email me at [mb@mbtype.com](mailto:mb@mbtype.com).

**What makes this font "Classic"?**

I designed the Hermes family in 1993. Until 2017, I offered it through another font vendor. Today, I offer a revised version called Hermes Maia. I suggest you get that instead. But I also want to keep the previous version available for those who have already been using it & whose documents depend on it. Hence "Classic".

**So it's the same as the original '90s version?**

Yes, in the important ways: the character set, glyph design, and horizontal metrics are the same as before. But I've changed the style names to be consistent with other MB Type fonts, and adjusted some small technical details. But in general, you can substitute it for the original Hermes without any text reflow.

Also consistent with the original, Hermes Classic supports only Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Icelandic, Italian, Norwegian, Portuguese, Swedish, and Spanish.

**Your other fonts have a T series and C series, but Hermes Classic only has a T series?**

Right. It's strictly a text font in six weights, with italic styles. There are no small-cap styles. (Hermes Maia has a C series, however.)

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**How do the old style names correspond to the new ones?**

Hermes Thin = Hermes Classic T2  
Hermes Book = Hermes Classic T3  
Hermes Regular = Hermes Classic T4  
Hermes Semibold = Hermes Classic T6  
Hermes Bold = Hermes Classic T7  
Hermes Black = Hermes Classic T8

**Have you expanded the character set to be consistent with your other fonts?**

No. It has the same character set as before. I will not be expanding it. It is a perfect '90s time capsule.

**TYPOGRAPHIC FEATURES****What ligatures are in Hermes Classic?**

Just the *fi* and *fl*.

**Does Hermes Classic have fractions?**

No.

**Does Hermes Classic have oldstyle (non-lining) figures?**

No.

**Any weird OpenType features?**

For backward compatibility, there are some unicase alternates in the OpenType unicase feature. I loathe these. But I can't take them out now. File under "seemed like a good idea at the time."

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**HERMES MAIA****Is this the same as the Hermes you designed for that other font reseller?**

No. The design is similar, but I've substantially revised it—especially the character spacing and the numerals.

**Why?**

A lot of people liked the original Hermes. But when I looked at it, I saw a lot of things that could be improved. So I did.

**Can I get the original Hermes?**

Yes, I offer it as Hermes Classic (see above).

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**TRIPLICATE****Should I use T3 or T4 for body text?**

Whatever looks best. If you're trying to match an existing layout, T4 is closer in weight to the default Courier font on Mac OS; T3 is closer to the Courier New font that's included with Microsoft Office.

**What are the Poly & Code fonts?**

They're just like the regular fonts, but with the Poly or Code alternates in the default positions, so they can be used in programs that don't support OpenType layout features. In your Font menu, the Poly fonts have a "p" appended to the family name; the Code fonts have a "c."

**What are the Short fonts?**

They're just like the regular fonts, but they have vertical spacing that matches the standard Mac OS Courier font, for use in programs that expect a font with those metrics. The Short fonts have an "s" appended to the family name.

**Are the Poly & Code alternates available as OpenType features?**

Yes. The Poly alternates are available as stylistic set 1; the Code alternates as stylistic set 2.

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**VALKYRIE****How do I choose between weights 3 and 4?**

Weight 3 is slightly lighter than weight 4, to account for office printers that tend to produce darker text. I recommend printing some test documents in both 3 and 4 to see which looks best on your printer. If you're preparing a document for professional printing, you probably want weight 4.