Essay Text

An elegant serif with a broad palette of typographic goodies.
Essay Text is an elegant serif typeface by Stefan Ellmer with many stylistic alternates and other typographic niceties. It is a highly legible text face that complements the natural flow of reading.

Essay Text is intended for setting books and this is enhanced by a slight slant of the roman, the combination of open and closed apertures, and the amalgamation of organic strokes and counters with a static, fully straight baseline.

Essay Text’s regular style looks back to the spirit of the French Renaissance (between the 15th and early 17th centuries), when the Roman typographic letterforms became fully emancipated.

Departing from that historical reference, Essay Text rids itself of all antiquated sentimentality and becomes a contemporary interpretation of that period’s archetypes.

Essay Text’s italic style refers to that more vaguely, resulting in a formalised look with fairly upright and open shapes and minimal cursiveness. As in the Renaissance before the mating of roman and italic styles, Essay Text’s italic works as a distinct textface and a perfect secondary type.

The name Essay is derived from the literary meaning of the word: attempt or trial. Therefore, the typeface can be seen as an attempt to express an opinion about reading, the omnipresence of history, the importance of calligraphy and the inevitability of deviating from that calligraphic source, as well as an attempt to crystallise lettershapes in balance between convention and the designer’s personal idiom.

Essay Text comes in two styles, speaks multiple languages, and, along with our entire catalogue, has been optimised for today’s varied screen uses.

**Styles**

- Regular
- Italic
République

Søsterskab
ELEGANT BOOK LAYOUT
½ teaspoon ground ginger & ¼ cup maple syrup

How much? 58.912.476?!

Oh the quart pot, pint pot & half a pint

Möbius function $\mu(n) = 1$

Incomplete Theory of Quantum Gravity*

Crackers & Party amenities

TYPOGRAPHOBIE

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE CALLED «BELLE DE JOUR»?

Enchilada de Queso
And now I was on my journey, in a pair of thick boots and with a hazel stick in my hand. Naturally, I was going to London, which lay a hundred miles to the east; and it seemed
Whenever Henry Wilt took the dog for a walk, or, to be more accurate, when the dog took him, or, to be exact, when Mrs Wilt told them both to go and take themselves out of the house so that she could do her yoga exercises, he always took the same route. In fact the dog followed the route and Wilt followed the dog. They went down past the
As might have been foreseen, Franconia proved to be an excellent place in which to study the difficult family of flycatchers. All our common eastern Massachusetts species were present — the kingbird, the phoebe, the wood pewee, and the least flycatcher — and with them the crested flycatcher (not common), the olive-sided, the traill, and the yellow-bellied. The phoebe-like cry of the traill was to be heard constantly from the hotel piazza. The yellow-bellied seemed to be confined to deep and rather swampy woods in the valley, and to the mountain-side forests; being most numerous on Mount Lafayette,

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ESSAY TEXT  LANGUAGE TEXT SETTINGS

GERMAN 9/11PT

Im speziellen Sinn bezeichnet das Wort Sprache eine bestimmte Einzel-sprache wie Deutsch, Japanisch oder Schwäbisch. Die gesprochenen Spra-chen der Menschheit werden gemäß ihrer genetischen Verwandtschaft in Sprachfamilien gegliedert. Jede einzelne Sprache wird dabei anhand der sogenannten Language Codes nach den ISO-639-Teilnormen international eindeutig klassifiziert. Von den heute rund 6500 gezielten Einzelsprachen – laut National Geographic Society seien...

FRENCH 9/11PT

Les gestes sont la méthode de communication la plus connue, utilisée par diverses espèces dont l’ensemble des primates. C’est également le cas des abeilles et leurs danses : lorsqu’une abeille exploratrice revient vers sa ruche après avoir trouvé une source de nectar, elle peut effectuer une danse en rond indiquant que cette source se situe à moins de 50 mètres, ou une danse en huit indiquant que cette source est plus lointaine. De plus, la vitesse et la durée de ces danses témoignent de...

CZECH 9/11PT

Vědecký obor zabývající se zkoumáním jazyka se nazývá lingvistika. Otázky tý-kající se filozofie jazyka byly pokládány již ve starověkém Řecku, byly zde otáz-ky typu zdá mohou slova reprezentovat zkušenost nebo motivovánost obsahu slov, konkrétními památkami jsou například Platónovy dialogy Gorgias a Faidros. Ještě časnějším dokladem uvažování o jazyku jsou gramatiky san-skrtu, nejrannější záznamy o kodifikaci liturgického jazyka a uspořádání znaků do abecedy patří do období 8. století...

POLISH 9/11PT

Język służy do przedstawiania rze-czywistości dotyczącej przedmiotów, czynności czy abstrakcyjnych pojęć za pomocą znaków. Zbiór znaków w języku jest otwarty. Wynika to z faktu, że znakiem językowym jest każdy tekst, każda sformułowana wypowiedź, poz-wiadająca znaczenie. Jednostka posługują-jąca się językiem może więc za pomocą jego systemu tworzyć nieskończoną liczbę nowych znaków, także takich, z którymi nigdy się wcześniej nie spotk-a-1. Znak te niekoniecznie wzbogacają...

FINNISH 9/11PT


FINISH 9/11PT

NORWEGIAN 9/11PT

Et språk er et dynamisk sett av synlige, hørbare eller fylbare symboler for kommunikasjon og elementer som brukes for å manipulere dem. Språk kan også henvise til bruken av slitte systemer som et generelt fenomen. Eksempler på språk er naturlig språk (menneskelige enkeltspråk, for eksempel norsk), kun-stige språk (for eksempel esperanto) og programmeringsspråk (for eksempel Java). Menneskespråk omtales vanligvis som naturlige språk, og vitenskapen om menneskespråk kalles lingvis-

SPANISH 9/11PT

Spráhle es un modelo dinámico de comunicación, con elementos que hacen uso de señales visuales, auditivas, y de tacto. Existen ejemplos de lenguaje natural (spráhle simples, por ejemplo español) y lenguajes artificiales, como lenguajes de programación (por ejemplo, lenguaje de programación). Los lenguajes humanos, en el sentido de que son lenguajes naturales, y la ciencia que los estudia se llama lingvística.

TURKISH 9/11PT


ICELANDIC 9/11PT

Mál er kerfi merkja, tákna, hlíjóda og orða sem notuð eru saman til þess að lýsa hugtökum, hugmyndum, merkin-gum og hugsumum. Malfræðingar eru þeir sem að rannsaka mál, en í núttum manum var malfræði lýsir lýsir sem viðindagrein af Ferdinand de Saussure. Þeir sem að tala mál, eða nota það til að annan öðru, eru taldir með sem hluti af þeir sem að talda mál, eða nota það á vísindagrein af Ferdinand de Saussure. Þeir sem að tala mál, eða nota það til að annan öðru, eru taldir með sem hluti af þeir sem að talda mál, eða nota það til að annan öðru, eru taldir með sem hluti af þeir sem að talda mál, eða nota það til að annan öðru, eru taldir með sem hluti af þeir sem a...
ALL CAPS

¿para texto?
1708 a–b [ende] H@I

¿PARA TEXTO?
1708 A–B [ENDE] H@I

ALL SMALL CAPS

¿Para texto?
1708 A–b [Ende] H@I

¿PARA TEXTO?
1708 A–B [ENDE] H@I

ALL CAPS

¿Para texto?
1708 A–b [Ende] H@I

¿PARA TEXTO?
1708 A–B [ENDE] H@I

LIGATURES

The, Affiliate, físico, fjord, offkey
Interrowwhat!? what!? etc.

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DISCRETIONARY LIGATURES

Häckeln, contacto, estaño

PROPORTIONAL OLDSTYLE FIGURES

0123456789$€¢£¥ƒ₺%‰

PROPORTIONAL LINING FIGURES (DEFAULT)

0123456789$€¢£¥ƒ₺%‰

TABULAR OLDSTYLE & SLASHED ZERO

00123456789$€¢£¥ƒ₺

TABULAR LINING FIGURES & SLASHED ZERO

00123456789$€¢£¥ƒ₺

NUMERATOR/DENOMINATOR

345(x+y)/678, 89/120

545(x+y)/678, 89/120

ARBITRARY FRACTIONS

½ ¾ ⅓ ⅝ ⅔ ⅞

SUPERIOR/INFERIOR

H₂O x₈y³+5 aIndex

ORDINALS

1st 2nd 3rd Mlle 2e 85th Ma No.

1ᵉʳ 2ᵉⁿᵈ 3ʳᵈ Mʳᵗ 2ᵉ 85ᵗʰ Mⁿ Nʳ

HISTORICAL FORMS

That is the question

CAROLUM

That if the quefion

CAROLVM
SUPPORTED LATIN LANGUAGES

Abenaki, Afaan Oromo, Afar, Afrikaans, Albanian, Alsatian, Amis, Anuta, Aromanese, Aranese, Aromanian, Arrernte, Arvanitic (Latin), Asturian, Atayal, Aymara, Bashkir (Latin), Basque, Belarusian (Latin), Bemba, Bikol, Bislama, Bosnian, Breton, Cape Verdean Creole, Catalan, Cebuano, Chamorro, Chavacano, Chichewa, Chickasaw, Cimbrian, Cofán, Cornish, Corsican, Creek, Crimean Tatar (Latin), Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dawan, Delaware, Dholuo, Drehu, Dutch, English, Esperanto, Estonian, Faroese, Fijian, Filipino, Finnish, Folkspraak, French, Frisian, Friulian, Gagauz (Latin), Galician, Ganda, Genoese, German, Gikuyu, Gooniyandi, Greenlandic (Kalaallisut), Guadeloupean Creole, Gwich’in, Haitian Creole, Hän, Hawaiian, Hiligaynon, Hopi, Hotçak (Latin), Hungarian, Icelandic, Ido, Ilocano, Indonesian, Interglossa, Interlingua, Irish, Istro-Romanian, Italian, Jamaican, Javanese (Latin), Jèrriais, Kala Lagaw Ya, Kapampangan (Latin), Kaqchikel, Karakalpak (Latin), Karelian (Latin), Kashubian, Kikongo, Kinyarwanda, Kiribati, Kirundi, Kurdish (Latin), Ladin, Latin, Latino sine Flexione, Latvian, Lithuanian, Lojban, Lombard, Low Saxon, Luxembourgish, Maasai, Makhwa, Malay, Maltese, Manx, Māori, Marquesan, Megleno-Romanian, Meriam Mir, Mirandese, Mohawk, Moldovan, Montagnais, Montenegrin, Murrinh-Patha, Nagamese Creole, Ndebele, Neapolitan, Ngiyambaa, Niuean, Noongar, Norwegian, Novial, Occidental, Occitan, Oshiwambo, Ossetian (Latin), Palauan, Papiamento, Piedmontese, Polish, Portuguese, Potawatomí, Q’eqchi’, Quechua, Rarotongan, Romanian, Romansh, Rotokas, Sami, Samoan, Sango, Saramaccan, Sardinian, Scottish Gaelic, Serbian (Latin), Seri, Seychellois Creole, Shawnee, Shona, Sicilian, Silesian, Slovak, Slovenian, Slovio (Latin), Somali, Sorbian, Sotho, Spanish, Sranan, Sudanese (Latin), Swahili, Swazi, Swedish, Tagalog, Tahitian, Tetum, Tok Pisin, Tokelauan, Tongan, Tshiluba, Tsonga, Tswana, Tumbuka, Turkish, Turkmen (Latin), Tuvaluan, Tzotzil, Uzbek (Latin), Venetian, Vepsian, Volapük, Vöro, Wallisian, Walloon, Waray-Waray, Warlpiri, Wayuu, Welsh, Wik-Mungkan, Wiradjuri, Wolof, Xavante, Xhosa, Yapese, Yindjibarndi, Zapotec, Zulu, Zuni, ...

EXTENDED TYPOGRAPHIC FEATURES:

All small caps, basic ligatures, case-sensitive forms, class kerning, contextual alternates, discretionary ligatures, denominators & numerators, fractions, alternative fractions, historical forms, 5 sets of figures (oldstyle numerals, lining figures, proportional figures, tabular figures, and small caps), localised forms, ordinals, ornaments, small capitals, small capitals from capitals, stylistic sets (SS01, SS02, SS03, etc), superiors & inferiors, slashed zero, ...
Ellmer Stefan (1982) grew up in the Austrian alps, was trained in analogue and digital prepress techniques, and studied Graphic Design with a growing tendency towards Type, in Vienna, Arnhem, and Leipzig.

Now based in Oslo, he is working as an independent type designer and lecturer, trying to balance profound historical awareness with a ludic attitude and idiosyncratic necessity.

At the moment Ellmer is deeply fascinated by the typographic lunacies of the 19th century.

Ellmer designed and published Essay Text with TypeTogether in 2014.

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Lead design and concept
Ellmer Stefan

Engineering
Sonja Stange

Graphic design
Elena Veguillas

Copywriting
Joshua Farmer

AWARDS
- Typeface Design of 2014, Communication Arts
- Rutenia 2014
- ISTD 2014 Fontshop’s Best of 2014
- Typefacts’ Best of 2014
- Typographica’s Best of 2014
- Finalist, 2014 European Design Awards
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