Aa Univers® Next

FOUNDRY
Linotype

DESIGNER
Adrian Frutiger
Linotype design staff

CLASSIFICATION
Humanistic Sans Serif

FAMILY Aa

Univers Next has 76 versions, including four monospaced typewriter designs. Arabic, Cyrillic and Pan European, in addition to variable fonts, are also available.

generating waveforms through methods

synthesizer

self-contained instruments with built-in keyboards

AVANT-GARDE

amateur electronics market

1980s: Digital technology

BEST PRACTICES

There are few applications outside of Univers Next range. It is an excellent choice for text and display content – in hard copy or on screen.

ROOTS

Univers was the first typeface to be developed as a cohesive type family (with consistent weight and proportion changes) from its onset.

Originally released by Deberny & Peignot, through a series of acquisitions and licensing agreements, the family became part of Linotype in 1989.

Univers Next is a refined and updated version of the original Univers typeface family. All the existing weights of Univers were redrawn, with careful attention paid to making the proportions more consistent with each other and improving fine details, such as curves and thick-to-thin stroke ratios.

FONT FACTS

- The original Univers design was licensed to a wide variety of metal and phototype font providers. While each attempted to maintain absolute accuracy to Frutiger's original drawings, because of the various and different requirements of the typesetting equipment that used the fonts, perfect replications were not possible.

LEGIBILITY

Basic shapes translate well to a digital environment. Stroke terminals are parallel, or at right angles, to baseline – easiest to define in modest resolution. A slight squaring of the rounded shapes makes the most of digital real estate.

ROUND CHARACTERS ARE SLIGHTLY SQUARED

TOP OF BOWL ATTACHES AT 180°

Typography

RELATIVELY SHORT DESCENDERS

HOW TO SPOT

t   Angled top and curved base to vertical stroke of t

a   Top of a bowl attaches to vertical stroke at 180°

Q   Short horizonal tail on cap Q

k   Diagonal strokes of cap and lowercase K converge at a point

ALTERNATE CHOICES

Helvetica® Now

Avenir® Next

Classic Grotesque™

Neue Frutiger®

PERFECT PAIRINGS

Frutiger® Serif

Macklin™ Serif

Palatino® Nova

Serifa®