Perfect Font Pairings Scripts

Perfect Font Pairings: Scripts

Script typefaces are emotional, lyrical, and even passionate communicators. They elevate the written word with a unique soul and heart. Copy set in script exemplifies something greater than the sum of its parts.

Among all letter styles, scripts are perhaps the most expressive and versatile typographic tools. The bold, rounded strength of a typeface like Forte™ conveys a very different personality than the passionate Bendigo™, while both are distinctly different from the refined elegance of Elegy™.

Forte

Bendigo

Elegy

Caveats for pairing scripts

First, scripts are harder to read than serif or sans serif typefaces. We are not as familiar with their character shapes as we are to those in more traditional typeface designs. This slows down the reading process – and can affect document comprehension and information retention. Studies have also shown that blocks of script copy are not inviting to the reader.

While scripts stand out, they also tend to create a busy visual texture that is subtly off-putting to readers. A few words set in a script can make for an engaging and powerful headline – and they can be excellent choices for creating wordmarks. Just don't rely on them for textual copy.

What to look for in fonts that pair well with script typefaces

- Avoid pairing two script fonts together. Script typefaces carry strong, distinct personalities that often compete rather than complement. Mixing two scripts in the same design tends to create visual confusion rather than harmony.
- Pair script fonts with simple, clean typefaces.
- Choose sans-serif or serif fonts with minimal decoration to balance the decorative nature of scripts.
- Complement or contrast the script's demeanor with it companion design. For example, pair a formal, elegant script with a classic serif like Walbaum or a playful, casual script with a friendly sans-serif like Gotham® Rounded.

Mixing two scripts is a bad idea

Complementary pairing takes advantage of similar weights, proportions and demeanor, creating typographic harmony

Nadianne
Upscale Consignment Boutique

Young Baroque
Fine Real Estate

Blaze
Power Tools

Pairing contrasting weights, proportions and demeanor creates energy and dynamism.

There are hundreds of script fonts and a thousands of excellent fonts to pair with them. Pairing guidelines are pretty straightforward. Just remember that scripts are a strong spice, so fold them into your projects with care.

The following typefaces were used in this article

ITC Banner
Berkeley Oldstyle
Bendigo
ITC Charter
Gotham Rounded
Greyhound
Egyptian Slate
Elegy
Forte
Futura® Now
Helvetica® Now
Nadianne®
Savoye
Snell Roundhand®
ITC Souvenir®
Walbaum
Young Baroque™
Zapf® Dingbats