

Aa

Dante®

BEST PRACTICES



Mardersteig designed his typefaces for letterpress printing. The ultimate triumph of the Dante design is that it now serves the diverse needs of digital text typography. Designed as a "book face," Dante can be ideal for long blocks of text copy.

FOUNDRY	DESIGNERS	CLASSIFICATION
Monotype	Giovanni Mardersteig	Old Style Serif

FAMILY Aa

Three weights of regular designs – each with a complementary italic

CONSTITUTIONAL

Rising social & economic inequality

1789-1799

The Marquis de Lafayette

Bastille fortress

An astute financier but a less astute politician

ROOTS

Giovanni Mardersteig began designing the Dante typeface shortly after the Second World War. He drew on his experience of using The Monotype Bembo® and Centaur® typefaces as a book designer to establish the framework for his new text typeface for fine printing. Punches for the original handset type were hand-cut by Charles Malin. Using these original punches as a model, Monotype's design office was able to produce an exceptionally accurate interpretation of the typeface.

New digital versions were made by Monotype's Ron Carpenter. Free from any restrictions imposed by machine-set technology, the new Dante family was issued in 1993.

FONT FACTS

- A 20-year old Matthew Carter cut punches for several letters in a bold weight to show proof of concept for the additional design.
- Metal fonts were produced at Monotype's factory in Frankfurt.
- The Dante family was Giovanni Mardersteig's last and his most successful design.

LEGIBILITY

The design of the serifs and top curves of the lowercase create a subtle horizontal stress, which helps the eye move smoothly across the page. Wide lowercase proportions and large x-height aid legibility.

SPLAYED SERIFS

PENNANT SHAPED SERIFS

Typography

SHARP RETURN ON LOOP

HOW TO SPOT

E F Top serif of E and F slant inward

w Pennant shaped lowercase top serifs

j J drops below baseline

a c A and C ball terminals are different

G Low crossbar on G

ALTERNATE CHOICES

Bembo® Book

ITC Berkeley Oldstyle

Laurentian

Sabon® Next

PERFECT PAIRINGS

Avenir® Next

Cachet™

Classic Grotesque™

Trade Gothic® Next