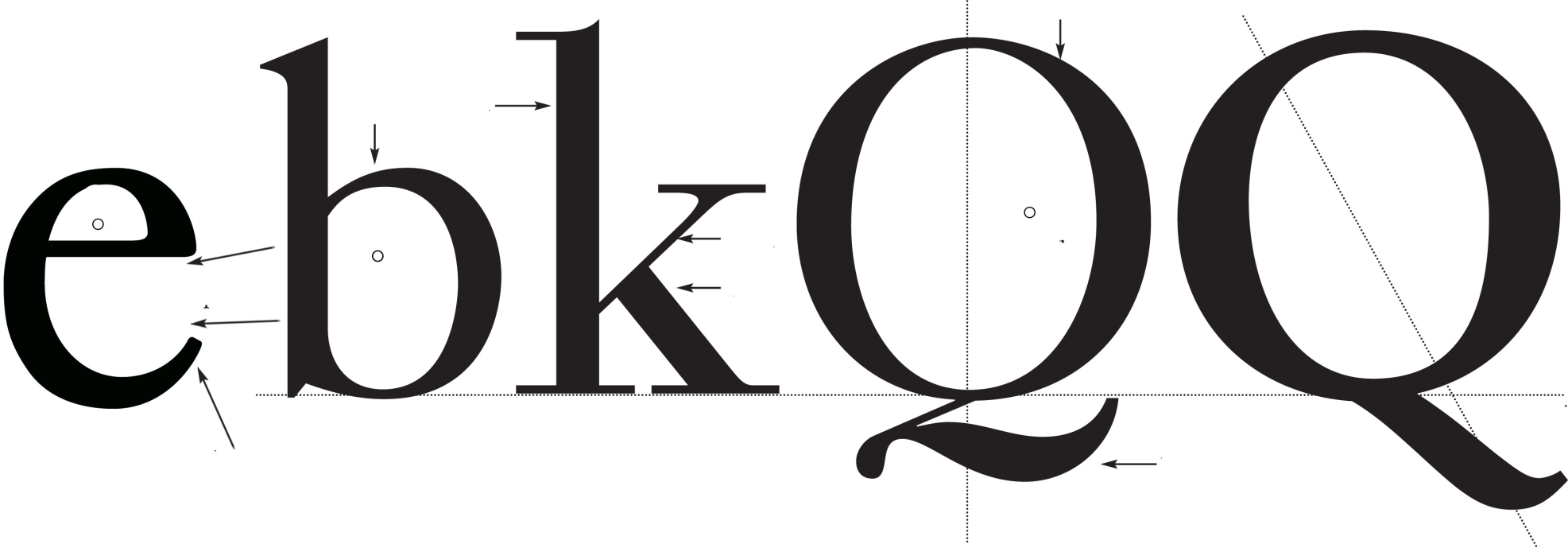




COMD1127 TYPE AND MEDIA

Type Anatomy Exercise



Type Anatomy

Ascender

The lowercase character stroke which extends above the x-height.

Ascender Line

The invisible line from where the ascender rises. It marks the height of the ascender.

Aperture

Opening at the end of an open counter.

Apex

The portion of letters A, M, and N where two strokes meet to form a peak. The point created by joining two diagonal stems (apex above, vertex below).

Arm

The diagonal or horizontal stroke that is not connected at one or both ends. Examples would be top of the capital T, the horizontal strokes of the F and the diagonal strokes in K.

Axis

An imaginary line drawn from top to bottom of a glyph bisecting the upper and lower strokes is the axis.
Also known as stress, angle of stress, design axis.

Baseline

The imaginary horizontal line to which the body, or main component, of characters rest.

Beak Terminal or Beak

A decorative stroke at the end of the arm of a letter. Found in Serif typefaces particularly on the f, and also often on a, c, j, r and y bottom of cap E

Body Size

The height of the face of the type, which in letterpress terms is the depth of the body of the type. Originally, this was the height of the face of the metal block .

Bowl

The fully closed curved or circular part of a character like B, e, g, o.

Bracket

A curved line connecting the serif to the stroke. The joining of the stem of a letter to the serif. This is also referred to as a fillet.

Cap Height

Height of the capital letter from the baseline.

Cap Line

A line marking the height of uppercase letters within a font.

Characters

The basic typographic element is called a character, which is any individual letter, numeral, or punctuation mark. The capital letters are called caps, or uppercase (u.c.) characters. Small letters are called lowercase (l.c.) characters. Numbers are called numerals or figures.

Character components

Typographic characters have basic component parts. The easiest way to differentiate characteristics of type is by comparing the structure of these components.

Chin

The angled terminal of a “G“.

Contrast

The amount of variation in between thick and thin strokes.

Crossbar

The horizontal stroke in a letter like A, ‘H’, ‘T’, ‘e’, ‘f’, ‘t’.
Also called bar

Cross Stroke

The horizontal stroke that intersects the stem in t and f.

Crotch

Acute angle made on the inside where 2 strokes meet.

Counter

The completely or partially enclosed area within a letter. Letters A, B, D, O, P, Q, R, a, b, d, e, g, o, p, and q. Letters containing open counters include c, f, h, i, s etc.

Descender

The lowercase character stroke which extends below the baseline.

Descender Line

The invisible line that marks the end of the descender. It marks the maximum height of the descender.

Diacriticals

The accent marks used on some characters ~`

Ear

Ear is a decorative stroke projecting out from the upper bowl of lowercase g.

Eye

In side counter space of a lowercase e.

Finial

The tapered curved end of the letter as in c and e.

Font

A selection of characters of one *size/design*.

Glyph

All the written characters representing one specific letter lower case, cap, italic etc.

Italic

A sloped or cursive variation of roman. Not a just slanted version of the roman face, a true italic font is drawn from scratch and has unique features not found in the roman face. Also called oblique, tilted, slanted.

Jot

A small round mark on top of i, j, also called tittle, dot

Hairline

The thin strokes of a serif typeface.

Hook

A curved, protruding stroke in a terminal. Usually found on a lowercase f.

Leg

Short, descending portion of a letter.

The lower, down sloping stroke of K, k, is called a leg.

Ligature

Two or more letters tied into a single character.

Link

A stroke connected the loop and the bowl of a g.

Lobe

Rounded projecting stroke attached to the main structure of a letter,, p, b.

Loop

The counter below the baseline. It is connected to the bowl with a link. The bottom part of the lowercase roman ‘g’.

Lowercase

The little letters or non-capital letters of the alphabet are lowercase glyphs. Also called small letters, or more formally minuscule.

Meanline

Half the distance from the baseline to the cap height. This may or may not be the x-height, depending on the design of the lower case letters.

Old-Style Figures

Numbers with varying heights, some aligning to the baseline and some below.

Overshoot

Ascenders extending into the space of a following character like cap F, T.

Point Size

The point size of a typeface refers to the size of the body, the imaginary area that encompasses each character in a font.

Quaint

An antiquated sort or glyph, used to recreate the typographic flavor of a bygone age.

Sans Serif

From the French, meaning “without serif”. A typeface which has no serifs. Sans serif typefaces are typically uniform in stroke width.

Serif

Tapered corners on the ends of the main stroke. Serifs originated with the chiseled guides made by ancient stonecutters as they lettered monuments. Some serif designs may also be traced back to characteristics of hand calligraphy. Note that serif type is typically thick and thin in stroke weight. Usually added at the beginning and end of the stroke.

Type Anatomy Exercise

San Serif

From the Latin sans serif without serifs. Typeface with no serifs.

Shoulder

This is the transitional section a curved stroke coming from the stem.

Slope

The angle of inclination of the stems and extenders of letters. Not to be confused with axis.

Special characters

Math signs Punctuation marks Accented characters Reference marks.

Spine

The main stem stroke that is curved or angled, diagonal of the letter s.

Spur

A small projection from a rounded stroke. Bottom right corner of capital G , end of a C. Smaller than a serif

Stem

A main stroke which is vertical or diagonal from which all strokes branch out from.

Stress

The direction in which a curved stroke changes weight.

Look at a serif of to see where thin strokes align.

Types of stress:

Oblique, or angled, stress

Semi-oblique stress

Vertical stress

Stroke

Typeface component which defines the typeface structure. The straight (vertical, horizontal, diagonal) and rounded strokes.

Swash

A flourish addition replacing a terminal or serif. Typographical flourish on a glyph, like an exaggerated serif.

Tail

The decorative stroke descending down in Q .

Terminal

The end of a stroke which does not terminate in a serif.
tear-drop terminal, bulbous terminal.

Tittle

Small round mark on top of i, j, called jot, dot.

Uppercase

Capital letters of the alphabet are uppercase glyphs. Also called capital letters, capitals, caps, large letters, or more formally majuscule.

Vertex

The outside point at the bottom or top of a character where two strokes meet.

X-height

The height of the body, minus ascenders and descenders, which is equal to the height of the lowercase 'x'.

Varies among typefaces in the same point size