
About Hermes

The typeface is a reinterpretation of a type sample from a 1966 typewriter, the Hermes 3000, which was manufactured by Swiss firm Paillard. It was notably Jack Kerouac's last typewriter, which he used from 1966 until his death in 1969.

Through its simple geometrical shapes, the typeface epitomizes modernism in the mechanical writing. Carefully drawn, the typeface family is delivered in three weights and their italic cuts, available with or without serifs (the original serif version is accessible by activating the corresponding Stylistic Set).

→ Released in 2003.

Designed by Gavillet & Rust

Gavillet & Rust is a graphic design studio based in Geneva. We work for clients in both cultural and commercial fields with a focus on editorial design, brand identities, and typeface development.

Recent projects have included editorial design for JRP|Ringier, art direction for Marc Newson's watch label Ikepod, and brand identity for Jay-Z's entertainment venture Roc Nation.

Hermes

Hermes Regular
105 pt

H e i

Hermes Light / Italic
105 pt

A a A a

Hermes Regular / Italic
105 pt

A a A a

Hermes Bold / Italic
105 pt

A a A a

Hermes Family
6 Styles

Hermes Light
Hermes Light Italic
Hermes Regular
Hermes Regular Italic
Hermes Bold
Hermes Bold Italic

OpenType Features

OpenType is a cross-platform font format developed by Adobe and Microsoft in the late 1990s. It has the advantage to include an expanded character set and layout features to provide richer linguistic support and/or advanced typographic control such as various numeral styles, ligatures, small capitals and contextual substitutions.

OpenType supports Unicode, which enables the fonts to contain more than 65,000 glyphs while 'PostScript®' fonts are a technically limited to a maximum of only 256 characters. This means that a user does not need to have separate fonts for Western, Central European or other languages, but could have one single file which supports all these encodings, basically less font files to deal with equals simpler font management.

OpenType fonts, as a new industry standard, will work in all applications, however only some applications take profit of the advanced OpenType features, other applications will only use the first 256 characters.

AA ALL CAPS [CPSP]

(A CASE SENSITIVE FORMS [CASE]

With both OpenType and other fonts, this function formats the text in uppercase. With OpenType fonts, it also applies 'Case Sensitive Forms' OpenType layout features for alternate uppercase positioning of punctuation, and spacing designed for all-cap use (not when text is typed in caps).

Feature OFF

All Caps

[X] = (4-7 x 8)
 HI@XYZ.CH
 «HERMES»

@ | () [] { } < > « » - —
 + ± × ÷ - ≈ = ≠ ≤ ≥ ¬ ∞

Feature ON

ALL CAPS

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AA SMALL CAPITALS [SMCP]

AA ALL SMALL CAPS [C2SC]

There are two ways of applying 'Small Capitals.' The first one replaces only lower case letters with small caps. The second method replaces also capital letters with small capitals, and replaces regular quotation marks, exclamation points and question marks with lowered small caps variations.

Small Caps

SMALL CAPS

SMALL CAPS

ALL SMALL CAPS

fi STANDARD LIGATURES [LIGA]

Standard ligatures are glyphs which are designed to improve the kerning and readability of certain letter pairs. For example, when this feature is activated, typing 'f' and 'i' will automatically produce the 'fi' ligature.

fi fi ffi

fi fi ffi

12 TABULAR LINING FIGURES [TNUM-LNUM]

12 PROPORTIONAL LINING FIGURES [PNUM-LNUM]

Tabular figures are all of equal width. They are only needed when the figures must all line up from one line to the next, as in a table. Proportional figures have varying widths, just like most letters; each number has a width appropriate to its design. Lining figures are all the same height, usually similar to that of capital letters. They are needed for use with all-capital settings.

Because some applications can't have access to this feature, tabular figures is the default choice for Optimo fonts.

0123456789

0123456789

0123456789

0123456789

1/2 FRACTIONS [FRAC]

Turns on fractions. Hermes has a set of pre-built fractions including 1/8, 3/8, 5/8, 7/8, 1/3 and 2/3. Other custom created fractions can be build by using the fraction feature.

1/2 1/3 1/4 1/8
2/3 3/4 3/8 5/8
7/8 0/0 0/00

1/2 1/3 1/4 1/8
2/3 3/4 3/8 5/8
7/8% ‰

H2 NUMERATOR [NUMR]

H2 DENOMINATOR [DNOM]

This feature will replace all styles of figures (not letters) with their numerator or denominator alternates. These are the same glyphs that are used to create pre-build fractions, their vertical position remains within the capital letters height.

Numr12
Denom12

0123456789
0123456789

Numr¹²
Denom₁₂

1234567890
1234567890

1st ORDINALS [ORDN]

Replaces regular glyphs (not numerals) with their matching superior glyphs such as the 'st' in 1st, 'nd' in 2nd, or the 'a' and 'o' required for Spanish segunda/segundo (2a, 2o).

2^a 2^o

abcdefghijklm
nopqrstuvwxyz
,.éè

2^ª 2^º

1 abcdefghijklm
2 nopqrstuvwxyz
3 ,.éè



SUPERScript/SUPERIORS [SUPS]

Substitutes all figures and lowercase letters with their superior letterforms, which can be used for footnotes references, etc. These designed glyphs match the weight of the regular letters and numbers, they are spaced more generously and therefore are more legible than scaled characters.

Sup^s12

0123456789
 abcdefghijklm
 nopqrstuvwxyz
 -+(),.=éè

Sup^s1²

H⁰123456789
 H^abcdefghijklm
 Hⁿopqrstuvwxyz
 H⁻⁺⁽⁾,.=éè



SUBSCRIPT / INFERIORS [SINF]

Substitutes all figures with their inferiors letterforms, commonly used for chemical compounds, and as mathematical exponents. These designed glyphs match the weight of the regular letters and numbers, they are spaced more generously and therefore are more legible than scaled characters.

Sub_s1₂

H₀123456789
 H₍₊₌₋₎

Sub_s1₂

H₁234567890
 H₍₊₌₋₎



STYLISTIC ALTERNATES [SS01]



STYLISTIC SET [SS01]

This feature will activate some alternative glyphs (serifs) which can be activated by turning on 'Stylistic Alternates' in Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop or on the other hand by selecting the 'Stylistic Set 1' feature in InDesign.

I I J J i j l l Ì Ì Í Í Î Î Ï Ï
 ï ï í í î î ï ï Ì Ì Í Í Î Î Ï Ï
 j j i i l l J J i j Î Î
 Î Í j j l l fi fl i j l

I I J J i j l l Ì Ì Í Í Î Î Ï Ï
 ï ï í í î î ï ï Ì Ì Í Í Î Î Ï Ï
 j j i i l l J J i j Î Î
 Î Í j j l l fi fl i j l



STYLISTIC SET 2 [SS02]

This feature will activate a wider version of the letters 'm' and 'w' by turning on the 'Stylistic Set 3' in InDesign.

m^m w^w w^w w^w w^w w^w w^wm^m w^w w^w w^w w^w w^w w^w



STYLISTIC SET 3 [SS03]

This feature will activate the alternative glyph 'a' by turning on the 'Stylistic Set 3' feature in InDesign.

a à á â ã ä å å̇ ā ă ą^a

a à á â ã ä å å̇ ā ă ą^a



STYLISTIC SET 4 [SS04]

This feature will activate the alternative glyph 'l' by turning on the 'Stylistic Set 4' feature in InDesign.

l l̇ l̈ l̉ l̊ l̋ ľ l̍ l̎ l̏ l̐ l̑ l̒ l̓ l̔ l̕ l̖ l̗ l̘ l̙ l̚ l̛ l̜ l̝ l̞ l̟ l̠ l̡ l̢ ḷ l̤ l̥ l̦ ļ l̨ l̩ l̪ l̫ l̬ ḽ l̮ l̯ l̰ ḻ l̲ l̳ l̴ l̵ l̶ l̷ l̸ l̹ l̺ l̻ l̼ l̽ l̾ l̿

l l̇ l̈ l̉ l̊ l̋ ľ l̍ l̎ l̏ l̐ l̑ l̒ l̓ l̔ l̕ l̖ l̗ l̘ l̙ l̚ l̛ l̜ l̝ l̞ l̟ l̠ l̡ l̢ ḷ l̤ l̥ l̦ ļ l̨ l̩ l̪ l̫ l̬ ḽ l̮ l̯ l̰ ḻ l̲ l̳ l̴ l̵ l̶ l̷ l̸ l̹ l̺ l̻ l̼ l̽ l̾ l̿



CONTEXTUAL ALTERNATES [CALT]

This feature substitutes a glyph or a combination of glyphs that only occur depending on what letters are nearby. For instance the letter 'x' placed after a number will be replaced by the 'multiplication' glyph. If the font has arrows, you will be able to display them by typing a combination of letter on your keyboard like 'hyphen + greater-than' or 'hyphen + less-than.' This feature is usually on by default in Adobe applications and QuarkXpress.

5x5
A-A B-0 1-2
-> -> <- <-

5x5
A-A B-0 1-2
→ → ← ←

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