





Autobahn

OCR-B

Autobahn

OCR-F

Autobahn

DIN-MITTELSCHRIFT

Autobahn

FF DIN MEDIUM



e Industrie Norm

About FF DIN

After re-working and expanding OCR-B to include three weights for the FontFont 14 release (FF OCR-F), Albert-Jan Pool began working on his second FontFont, the famous DIN-Mittelschrift. This face has not only dominated the traffic signs and public buildings in Germany, but with its technical orientation and straightforwardness it has also found many friends internationally. FF DIN has been expanded into a family of five weights. For each weight there is an Alternate cut with old style figures, circular i-dots and full points, and oblique terminals on some characters.

Pool himself considers **DIN-Mittelschrift** – the German »Autobahn« typeface – to be »probably the most non-designed typeface ever made«. Taking this opinion as a starting point it seemed to be logical to enhance the typographic quality of the design while maintaining its overall appearance. The original **DIN-Mittelschrift** is built up from strokes having a constant thickness, all curves being drawn with a pair of compasses. This provides a spotty typeface with quirky letterforms, as can especially be seen in the characters a, e and s. Compared with characters with fewer strokes, such as b, d, p, q, and o and n, they appear rather black.

a beardy person

DIN MITTELSCHRIFT & FF DIN MEDIUM

a beardy person



FF DIN FEATURES ARROWS ON THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS IN THE CHARACTER SET:

< > IN ALTERNATE FONTS
t AND u IN EXPERT FONTS

For FF DIN, the weight of the horizontal strokes has been reduced, and the curves were designed in a more fluent way. The medium weight of FF DIN resembles the original weight of DIN-Mittelschrift. Using it for reading text in smaller point sizes gives a rather dark appearance. The weight scheme for FF DIN was conceived in such a way that a new and lighter "regular", version fits in. Each of the weights has been provided with over 700 kerning pairs, including those with international accents. With FF DIN, designers can now use the image and impact of a typeface family relating to items as "traffic", "engineering" and the German "Wirtschaftswunder". Apart from this intention, the FF DIN-Family has found many friends among designers, especially those working for labels that promote contemporary music.

How far the appearance of the original typeface is maintained is now left up to the designer, as he can opt for new weights or the alternate fonts having friendly circular i-dots and old style figures.



About FF DIN Condensed

The stimulus for a narrow version of FF DIN came in 1998 from Factor Design in Hamburg when they made C&A InfoType, a modified version of FF DIN to be used by the company C&A. A desire for a true condensed version for use in package design quickly followed and the three designers (Olaf Stein and Uwe Melichar from Factor Design and Albert-Jan Pool) worked together to create two new weights. Shortly after Albert-Jan Pool developed FF DIN Condensed, a five weight package with alternative characters that harmonizes well with the original FF DIN family. As with FF DIN, and unlike the somewhat ungainly DIN Engschrift, the letters in FF DIN Condensed have contrast (horizontals are thinner than verticals). Overall the letters of the condensed version are somewhat lighter than those of FF DIN, for this reason the closest approximation in letterweight and widths to the predecessor DIN Engschrift would be Bold Condensed.

As was the case with **FF DIN**, the curves of **DIN Engschrift** have been softened a bit in **FF DIN Condensed**.

Charlottenburg Charlottenburg Charlottenburg

DIN ENGSCHRIFT, C&A INFO TYPE BOLD

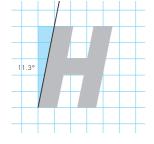
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FF DIN LINING FIGURES AND OLD STYLE FIGURES

About FF DIN Italic

At last, the long awaited addition to one of the most popular FontFonts, an italic version for FF DIN. The angle, according to Albert-Jan Pool, is »rational, like FF DIN, but not impersonal. Not an exaggerated angle of 20 or 30 degrees, rather a pleasant 11.3 degrees. The character shapes are also a combination of rationality and emotion. At first glance they appear to be Roman characters that have simply been tilted a bit (they're not), but on closer inspection they have clearly been drawn to be lighter and narrower. He explains the degree of difference with an anecdote:



- »Boiled eggs for Sunday breakfast a Dutch tradition. Father: You're putting too much salt on your egg!
- * Son (provokingly): How much salt is the right amount?
 Father: Just enough so that you can't actually taste it!
 It took a long time before I finally understood my father!«

THE 11.3 DEGREES ANGLE IN FF DIN ITALIC IS DECRIBED BY MOVING FIVE STEPS FORWARD AND ONE TO THE RIGHT

The FF DIN user looking for slightly less severity in a face can turn to the alternative characters – for a single-decker lowercase a for instance. There is also an »EU approved« Euro symbol (€) as well as the same alternatives as found in the Roman version: a more open C and G, round dots for the i, for umlauted characters and punctuation, and non-lining figures.











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Type specimen

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FF DIN...

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Bold

Black

Medium

FF DIN CE...

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FF DIN Light, Expert & Alternate

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FF DIN Regular & Regular Italic 7/9, 9/11, 13/15 pt

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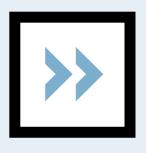
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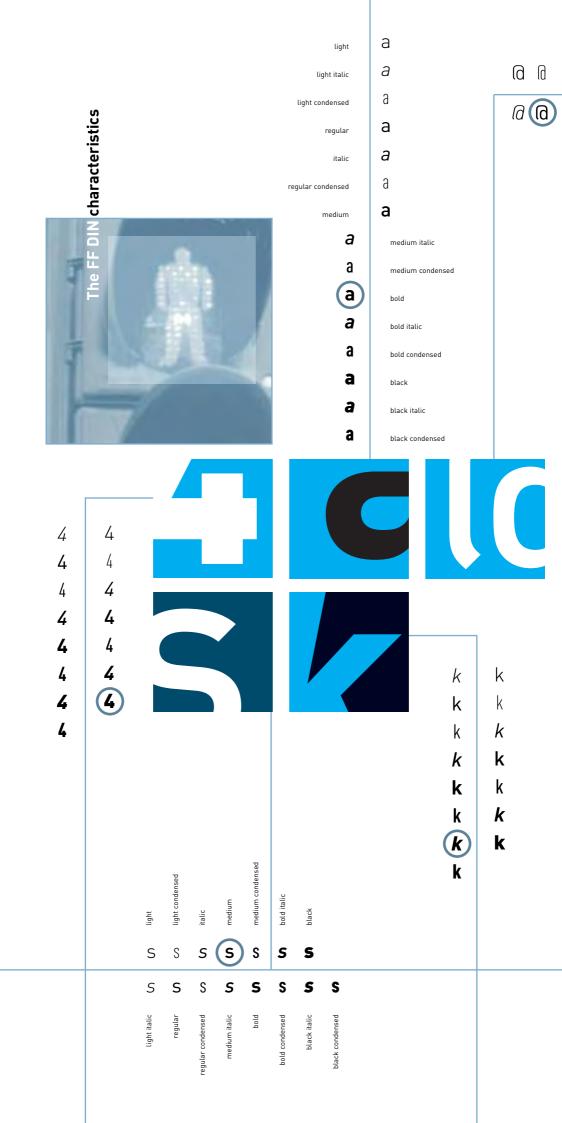
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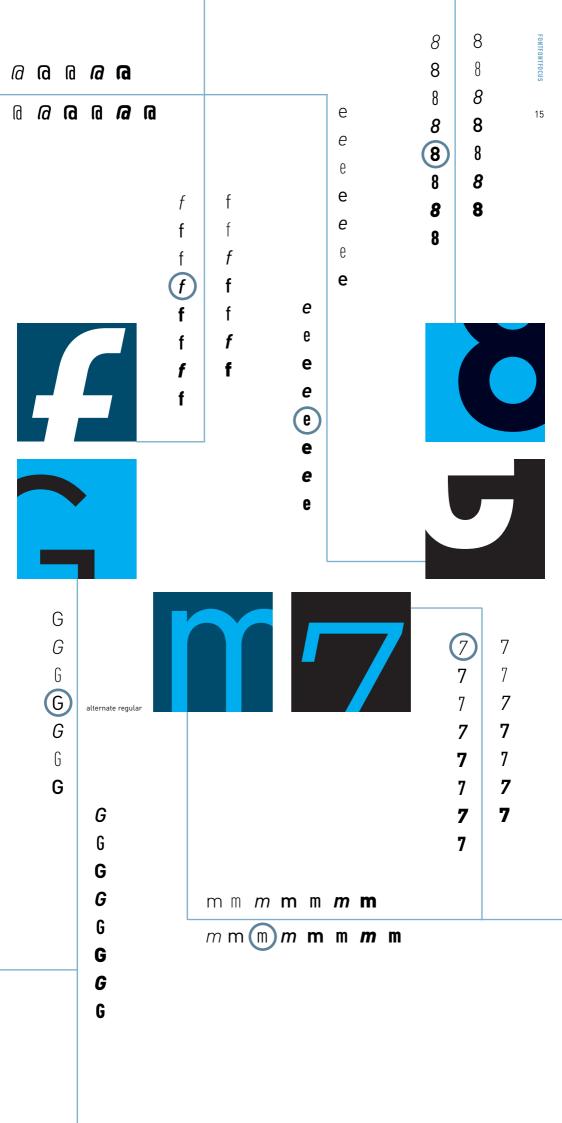
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Prof. Dr. Watter Sang Sett Hamburg









BART OUSTERHOURN CREATIVE

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Publications

Branding with Type, Mountain View, Adobe Press, 1995

»Schuin zetten« in Letters] & techniek, van de Garde, 1990

Today Sans Serif and Folio in Types Best Remembered/ Types Best Forgotten, Parsimony Press, 1993

Concept and Text for the typeface classification, typology, and typefinder of the URW Font-Collection Hamburg, URW ++ Design and Development, 1996

Typefaces

URW Imperial 1994 URW Linear 1994 URW Mauritius 1994 FF DIN 1995 FF OCR-F 1995 Jet Set Sans 1997 C&A InfoType 1998 DTL HEIN GAS 1999 FF DIN Italic 2000 FF DIN Condensed 2000 Regenbogen Bold 2001

Awards

Silver-Medal at »Berliner Type« for the customer magazine »Satzspiegel« 1995 together with Bruno Büssche, Ursula Packhäuser and Stefan Rögener.



Albert-Jan Pool was born July 9th, 1960 in Amsterdam. He studied in The Hague at the Royal Academy of Arts. He was one of the co-founders of Letters], a group of young Dutch type designers. Many of its members (Frank Blokland, Petr van Blokland, Jelle Bosma, Lucas de Groot, Bart de Haas, Henk van Leyden, Peter-Matthias Noordzij, Marie-Cécile Noordzij-Pulles, Just van Rossum and Peter Verheul) have become well-known type-designers.

From 1987 to 1991 he worked as the Director of Type at Scangraphic in Germany. And from 1991 to 1994 he was the Manager of Type Design and Production at URW in Hamburg. During this time he completed his type families URW Imperial, URW Linear and URW Mauritius. By January 1995 he started his own studio Dutch Design in Hamburg. He had been teaching type design at the Muthesius Hochschule in Kiel from 1995 to 1998 (as well as typography at the Hamburg Academy for Marketing and Media). Together with type-consultant Stefan Rögener of AdFinder GmbH and copywriter Ursula Packhäuser he wrote and designed a both useful and provocative book on the effects of type on brand image entitled »Branding with Type«.

Dutch Design finally merged into FarbTon Konzept + Design. The new company was co-founded 1999 with Jörn Iken, Klaus-Peter Staudinger and Birgit Hartmann, who is also the mother of their daughter, Pia-Elina (born 1999).

Reference numbers for FF DIN

DIN FF 9467 Mac/PC/TT

light, regular, medium, bold, black + alternates + experts

DIN CE FF 11203 Mac/PC/TT

light, regular, medium, bold, black + alternatives

DIN Italic FF 11202 Mac/PC/TT

light, regular, medium, bold, black + alternatives + experts

DIN Condensed FF 11201 Mac/PC/TT

light, regular, medium, bold, black + alternates + experts







