

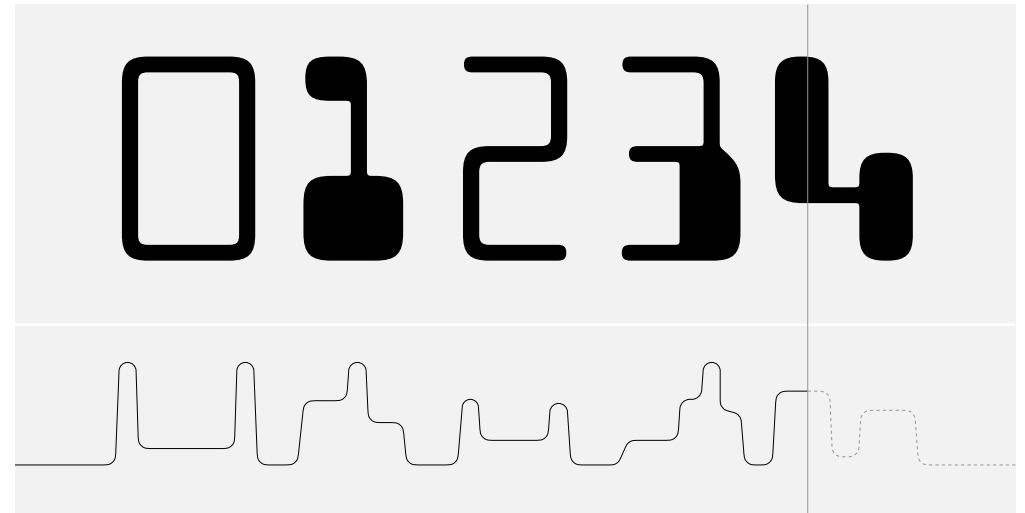
MD Polychrome

MD Polychrome is a typeface based on the unique aesthetic of Magnetic Ink Character Recognition (MICR), and the pre-digital typefaces it inspired.

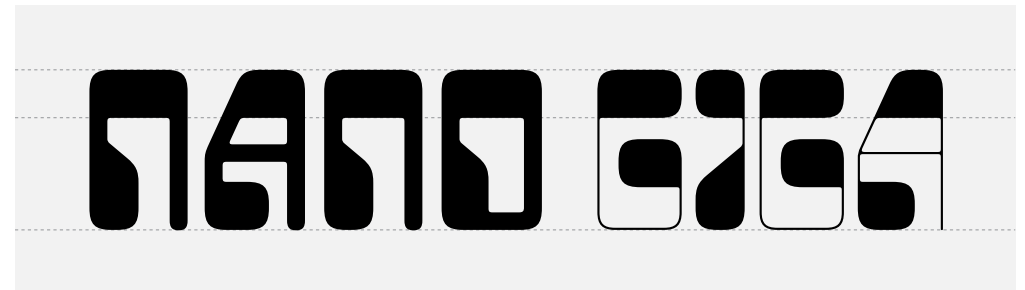
Invented in the late 1950s, MICR allows human-readable characters to also be recognised by a magnetic scanner, on account of each character producing a different magnetic 'signature' when scanned from left to right.

The need for each signature to be unique resulted in a set of glyphs with a bizarre, evocative appearance — and by the mid-1960s, typefaces inspired by the 'MICR look' were becoming increasingly popular.

MD Polychrome both refines and expands on this original MICR aesthetic: balancing its typically uneven texture, improving its spacing, and pushing the limits of optical size to create a version fit for the largest posters and boldest layouts.



△ The glyphs above produce the 'signature' below when scanned with a magnetic reader, which detects the amount of ink in each vertical 'slice' of the image.



△ MD Polychrome's design is expressed through size, rather than weight. At larger optical sizes, the heavy parts of glyphs remain fixed, while thin lines become thinner.

MD Polychrome is available in four discrete styles: **Nano**, **Kilo**, **Mega**, and **Giga**, which correspond to *optical size* rather than weight. The Nano style has bolder strokes, wider glyphs and looser spacing, which helps details hold up at smaller sizes than the Giga style — the hairline strokes of which look best when used very large.

Rather than the finely-tuned optical sizes of a text typeface, the styles of MD Polychrome are (as their names also imply) a guideline rather than a rule. There's no specific point size at which each one must be used — you're free to experiment and find the style and scale that you prefer.

For finer control over the optical size, MD Polychrome is also available on request as a variable font. The variable version is free with all licenses of the complete typeface family.



Nano

80PT

HARDWARE

DISCOVERY

ARMOURED

BORSKRAK

LIQUIDITÉ

TAXONOMY

Nano

80PT

Megawatts

Gekopieerd

Avalanches

Hafsljöldið

Retroactive

Kalizjańska

Nano

160PT

Venus 1986

Nano

100PT

201 GHz Resolution

Nano

60PT

M74 (Phantom Galaxy), Group 3

Nano

40PT

Saturn (9.5 AU {1.426 km; 880m mi} from Sol)

Kilo

80PT

TIDEWATER
 BÄGÅDAN
 DISCWORD
 LANACAO
 HEXAGONAL
 CHROMATIC

Kilo

80PT

Conductivity
 Fösthållandet
 Käymäänekö
 Aeronautical
 Gelisticdiğimi
 Photovoltaic

Kilo

160PT

AS1 North →

Kilo

100PT

Newfoundland & Co.

Kilo

60PT

86% of \$21.99, and Other Queries

Kilo

40PT

Magnetic Ink Character Recognition (MICR) uses a



Mega

80PT

AUGMENTED
 PUSCARASA
 GEOGRAPHIC
 STEINBERG
 MAGNETRON
 ARRANGATA

Mega

80PT

Geometrically
 Lynlåsstøvels
 Schlußendlich
 Townscapes
 Oxiaacetilénico
 Mielaširdyste

Mega

160PT

Picture Gallery

Mega

100PT

Hyperspace Warp 17/21

Mega

60PT

1970s. City Driving at Night. Miami, FL.

Mega

40PT

"An Overwhelming Surplus of Gravitas", the predecessor



Giga

||

//

80PT

K N G U E R A O
 N S C R P T N N
 A U Y H E R T J E
 H Y P E R C U B E S
 M I C R O T E S L A
 G R A N D S I Y E N

Giga

80PT

Entanglement
 Gadadykhus
 Atmospheres
 Reingestoben
 Brainstorming
 Zwyczytym

Giga

160PT

Now Showing

Giga

100PT

Stable Diffusion AI "Art"

Giga

60PT

32 (The Nevada Monolith) - Unknown

Giga

40PT

The Ω^2 diagram used extensively in (DATA INTERFACES) is



Proportional Numbers

0123456789

Tabular Numbers

0123456789

Diacritics

.. . ~ / " ^ ˇ ˘ ˚ ~ -
˘ ˘

Fractions

$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{3}$ $\frac{2}{3}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{1}{8}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{5}{8}$ $\frac{7}{8}$

Numerators, Denominators,
Superscript & Subscript

0123456789/**0123456789** **0123456789**¹**0123456789**

SS01 Square A	Android	Android	SS02 Diagonal N	ANDROID	ANDROID
SS03 Chonky Arrows	Gate 7 →	Gate 7 ➡	SS04 Interlocking Pairs	HEAVEN	HEAVEN
LOCL Localised Forms (<i>Romanian & Moldavian; Catalan; Dutch</i>)	Şţ Ł·Ł íj	Şţ ŁŁ íj	ORDN Ordinals	1 ^o 1 ^a	1 ^o 1 ^a
TNUM Tabular Figures	01.28.49	01.28.49	CALT Contextual Alternates	DANGEROUS ADVENTURE P. 18-25	DANGEROUS ADVENTURE P. 18-25
FRAC Arbitrary Fractions	123/456	123/456			
CASE* Case-Sensitive Forms	iH ¿H H-H-H-H→H↔H	iH ¿H H-H-H-H→H↔H			

*Also triggered by the CALT feature when a glyph with an uppercase form appears between two numbers or uppercase glyphs.

Supported Languages

Afrikaans	Gusii	Malagasy	Soga
Akan	Hausa	Malay	Somali
Albanian	Hawaiian	Maltese	South Ndebele
Asu	Hungarian	Manx	Southern Sotho
Azerbaijani	Icelandic	Māori	Spanish
Bafia	Ido	Meru	Sundanese
Bambara	Igbo	Meta'	Swahili
Basque	Inari Sami	Mohawk	Swati
Bemba	Indonesian	Morisyen	Swedish
Bena	Interlingua	Nigerian Pidgin	Swiss German
Bosnian	Irish	North Ndebele	Taita
Breton	Italian	Northern Sami	Taroko
Catalan	Javanese	Northern Sotho	Tasawaq
Cebuano	Jju	Norwegian Bokmål	Teso
Chiga	Jola-Fonyi	Norwegian Nynorsk	Tongan
Colognian	Kabuverdianu	Nyanja	Tsonga
Cornish	Kalaallisut	Nyankole	Tswana
Corsican	Kalenjin	Occitan	Turkish
Croatian	Kamba	Oromo	Turkmen
Czech	Kikuyu	Polish	Upper Sorbian
Danish	Kinyarwanda	Portuguese	Uzbek
Duala	Koyra Chiini	Quechua	Vunjo
Dutch	Koyraboro Senni	Romanian	Walloon
Embu	Kurdish	Romansh	Walser
English	Kwasio	Rombo	Welsh
Esperanto	Latvian	Rundi	Western Frisian
Estonian	Lingala	Rwa	Wolof
Faroese	Lithuanian	Samburu	Xhosa
Filipino	Lojban	Sango	Yangben
Finnish	Low German	Sangu	Zarma
French	Lower Sorbian	Sardinian	Zulu
Friulian	Luba-Katanga	Scottish Gaelic	
Fula	Luo	Sena	
Ga	Luxembourgish	Shambala	
Galician	Luyia	Shona	
Ganda	Machame	Sicilian	
German	Makhuwa-Meetto	Slovak	
Guarani	Makonde	Slovenian	

Details

Designed By	Rutherford Craze
Version	1.003
Released	October 2022
Styles	4
Glyphs	616
UPM	2000
Formats	OTF, WOFF, WOFF2, Variable TTF
Credits	With thanks to Luke Charsley for his feedback throughout the design process, along with everyone who tested early versions of MD Polychrome.
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Variable Fonts	Available Formats		Filesize
MD Polychrome Variable	Desktop	TTF	133 KB
	Web	WOFF2	45 KB
	Legacy	WOFF	55 KB

Static Fonts	Available Formats		Filesize
MD Polychrome Nano	Desktop	OTF	~ 152–157 KB
MD Polychrome Kilo	Web	WOFF2	~ 31–38 KB
MD Polychrome Mega	Legacy	WOFF	~ 36–44 KB
MD Polychrome Giga			

Variation Axes	Minimum	Maximum
Optical Size (opz)	24	196

Instances opsz

Nano 24

Kilo 34

Mega 72

Giga 196