

Contra Specimen



Contra Family

Regular, Regular-Italic, Regular-Smallcaps

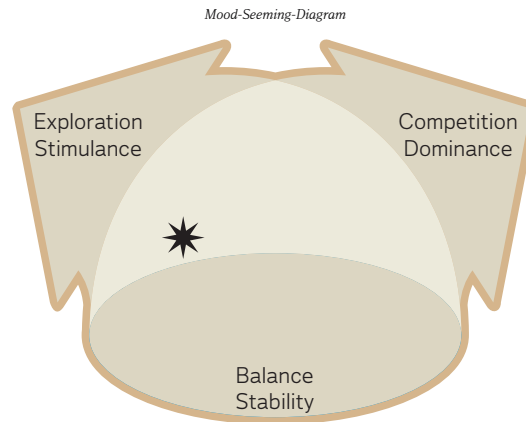
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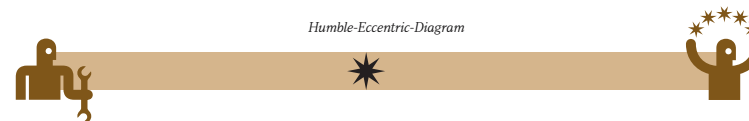
Contra Diagrams

Contra I always wanted to be a contemporary serif. It is quite sharp and expressive. Still in small sizes the expressive parts seem to soften and keep a good legibility. There is a Regular, an Italic and a Smallcaps version, because in the Sans there are plenty of weights to help in the hierarchy of text.



Mood-Seeming-Diagram

Based on the concept of Hans Georg Häusel this diagram shows the main emotional motivations the human brain can follow. Stimulation, Dominance and Balance. The position in the diagram shows the proportion of each motivation a typeface touches



Humble-Eccentric-Diagram

Here you can see how neutral or expressive a typeface is. From a craftsman to a Hollywood diva.



Classic-Classicistic-Diagram

Between the 15th and the 18th century the proportions of type changed. In this range most typefaces find a position. proportions also play an important role in the ideal column width. More in the next chapter.



Book-Magazine-Diagram

Depending on the proportions a typeface works better in a book, or a magazine.

Ideal column width

Every typeface has got it's own rhythm of how it hyphenates in a column and how much leading it requires. In typefaces with a small x-height (1, the same line space looks more open then in typefaces with a big x-height (2). Naturally the font with a big x-height looks bigger then the one with a small x-height.

When we reduce example 2 to appear the same optical size like example 1 (3), we can see, that the column width can be narrower and the line spacing can be tighter.

Example 1 with the small x-height follows classic proportions (4). The early roman typefaces from the Renaissance where structured like that. The ideal of geometry shown in the Capitalis Monumentalis influenced the capitals and the lower case. The O, almost a geometric circle has a massive counter. The letter next to the O therefore needs to step away. Classic proportions only look good with much space inbetween and arround. Books with wide and open columns are the best places to be for this typefaces.

Example 2 with the big x-height follows classic proportions (5). Younger typefaces from the 18th century like Walbaum stand at the end of a transitional period that not only influence the stroke. The width of the capitals is more similar here. The O is narrower then a circle. Classic proportions seem to deal with space more effectively. Because columns can be narrower these typefaces work best in newspapers, magazines and as a corporate typeface.

So why not show some right column width with the right line spacing in the specimen (6).

In the examples only 8 pt, 9 pt and 10 pt copy is shown. By choosing i. e. 8.5 pt you can change the column width for your specific design.

Picture 1, Example 1

3,3 mm Line space 54 mm column width +2 spacing 54
 Lorem ipsum vel in inimicus appellatur, mel eius vulputate reprimique ea. Ad sit liber debet comprehensam, per ad nemore persius, complectitur contentiones ut eos. Mutat iisque ea cum, ad est esse incidere int suscipiantur. Est latine urbanitas in. Melius aliquid partiendo an ius, insolens postulant mei eu. Duo at utroque molestie. Possim concludaturque ei vel. Et mel

Picture 2, Example 2

3,3 mm Line space 54 mm column width +2 spacing 54
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Picture 3, Example 2

3,1 mm Line space 49 mm column +3 spacing 49
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Picture 4, Example 1

H O M d g o

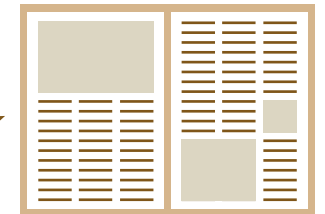
big
small
big



Picture 5, Example 2

H O M d g o

small
big
small



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3,5 mm Line space 66 mm column width +2 spacing 66
 Lorem ipsum vel in inimicus appellatur, mel eius vulputate reprimique ea. Ad sit liber c
3,4 mm Line space 58 mm column width +2 spacing 58
 Lorem ipsum vel in inimicus appellatur, mel eius vulputate reprimique ea. Ad sit liber d
3,3 mm Line space 54 mm column width +2 spacing 54
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Picture 6



Contra Ideal column width

8 pt

54
3,3 mm Line space 54 mm column width +2 spacing
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58
3,4 mm Line space 58 mm column width +2 spacing
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66
3,5 mm Line space 66 mm column width +2 spacing
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72
3,6 mm Line space 72 mm column width +2 spacing
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9 pt

59
3,7 mm Line space 59 mm column width
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67
3,8 mm Line space 67 mm column width
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77
3,9 mm Line space 77 mm column width
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88
4 mm Line space 88 mm column width
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10 pt

64
4,2 mm Line space 64 mm column width
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4,3 mm Line space 69 mm column width
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84
4,4 mm Line space 84 mm column width
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97
4,5 mm Line space 97 mm column width
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