



by Jenifer Juris

Secrets of Terrific Type

Lesson 01-05: Font Classes

Now that we know the difference between font types, it's time for us to learn about font classes. In this lesson, we will go over the main font classifications and we will briefly discuss why it's important to know and understand the differences between them.

When it comes to the style of a font, there are numerous font classes or classifications. For our purposes, we are going to cover the 8 main font classes. There are even more classifications out there than the ones we will cover but covering the 8 main classes should be enough for our purposes.

But before we get into each font class, let's quickly discuss why it can be important to know the differences.

The main reason it helps to know and recognize the main font classes is for design purposes. When working on a digital project, combining two fonts can either elevate your project or bring it down. Knowing how to pair two different fonts successfully can be THE thing that makes your design pop!

Later in this class, we will cover the topic of font pairing in depth and the font classifications we learn here are going to be an essential part of understanding those lessons later on. So, with that in mind, let's jump right in and start identifying the 8 main font classes.

#1 - Serif

Serif fonts are fonts that have letters with small lines attached to the end of a stroke. With each example, I've included the name of the font after the dash so that if you like the font, you know what it's called.

Serif - Argent CF
Serif - Questa Grande
Serif - Didonesque
Serif - Big Caslon

#2 - Slab Serif Fonts

Slab Serif fonts are fonts that have letters with small lines attached at the end of a stroke, but these small lines are thick and block-like in nature. I've shown you two fonts here that are considered slab serif.



Slab Serif - Decour

**Slab Serif -
Henderson Slab**

#3 - Sans Serif fonts

Sans Serif fonts are fonts that have letters WITHOUT the small lines attached at the end of a stroke.



Sans Serif - Arial

Sans Serif - Avenir

Sans Serif - Futura

Sans Serif - Monopoly Light

#4 - Script Fonts

Script fonts are fonts that are varied and often contain fluid or connecting strokes. Many script fonts are created by handwriting.



Script - Amelia Script

Script - Charlotte

Script - Flamingo-OT

Script - Limon Script

#5 - Blackletter fonts

Blackletter fonts are fonts that are created to look like lettering before the invention of movable type. They are usually very decorative and something you would find on important documents when all legal documents were handwritten.



Blackletter - Deutsch Gothic
Blackletter - PlainBlack

#6 - Monospace fonts

Monospace Fonts are fonts where each letter takes up the exact same horizontal space. These fonts are also sometimes called fixed-width fonts. These fonts usually aren't the prettiest but they can be handy for specific type design issues when an evenly spaced font is necessary.



Monospace - Courier
Monospace - Menlo
Monospace - Realtime

#7 - Handwritten fonts

Handwritten fonts are fonts that mimic handwriting. As you can see, many script fonts are also Handwritten fonts but not all handwritten fonts are script fonts.



HANDWRITTEN - CAFERUS SLIM REGULAR
HANDWRITTEN - DESMOND
Handwritten - Kenstein
Handwritten - Sarah Jane

#8 - Decorative fonts

Decorative fonts are fonts with extreme features such as swashes or exaggerated serifs. This is the most diverse font class as it can range from handwritten to super fancy script. And, once again, some script fonts can also be decorative fonts, but not all decorative fonts are script fonts.



So now that we've seen examples of these 8 main font classes, I don't want you to stress! I've included in the class downloads a Font Class Cheat Sheet that you can print off and have handy for future lessons.

Remember, these font classes will become important to us when it comes time to pair fonts for maximum effect!