
new alphabet

abc

New Alphabet

cathode ray tube
pneumatic system
phototypesetting
comic dictionary

Wim Crowel

new alphabet was by
on the side neurosis,,
so I began with a
square and drew
the letters around
the square,, all
with the same space
between them and
exactly the width
of a single bar..

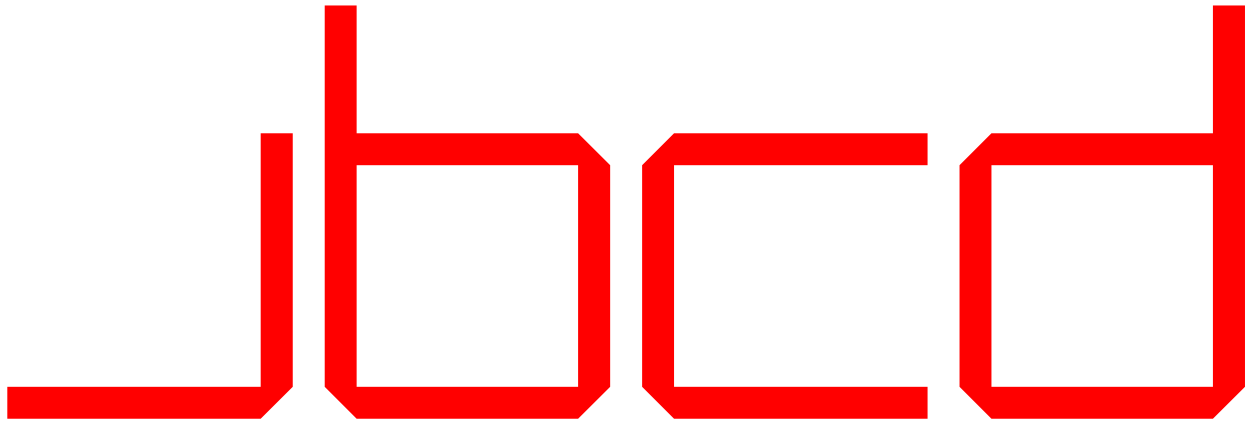
Introduction

New Alphabet, created as a four weight family in close collaboration with Wim Crouwel. His most radical experiment, conceived during the late 1960s in response to his experience of the first device for electronic phototypesetting; characters were designed to follow the underlying system. With his strong interest in grids, Crouwel worked within the constraints of existing electronic technology, producing characters that worked with the mechanical means that conveyed them.

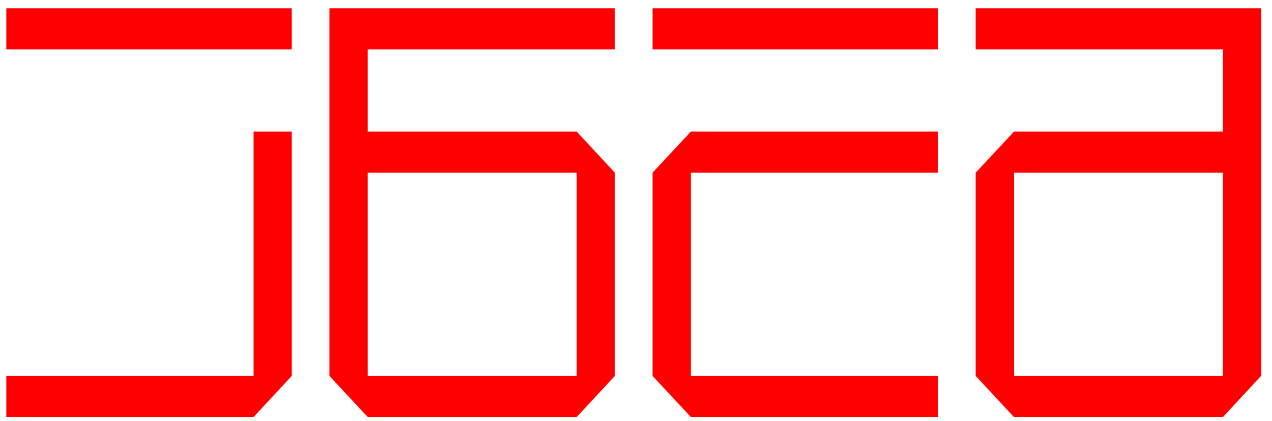
A personal, experimental project where Wim embraced the limitations of Cathode Ray Tube technology – used by early electronic screens and phototypesetting equipment. Conventional typefaces suffered under these extreme conditions. Crouwel's premise was to adapt the design to work within the new technology by creating letterforms that only contained horizontals and verticals, Crouwel explained, 'It would have to be based on a pattern of horizontal and vertical rows of pixels and a 45-degree angle. When you enlarged, reduced, widened or narrowed it, the patterns would always remain the same. That was the cornerstone for everything'.

The letters were based on a 5 by 9 grid, with 45-degree corners. There is no differentiation between uppercase and lowercase except for a bar above the letter to indicate a capital. The letters m and w have a bar below indicating they are double width characters, differentiating them from the n and u. Many of his peers were of the opinion that the design was too experimental and that it went too far. So much so, that it received a lot of publicity and lively debate. For Crouwel it was mostly a theoretical exercise and never intended the typeface to be used but to stimulate discussion, instead it caused a furore. The New Alphabet was a radical experiment, a point of departure and discussion, it was never meant to be use

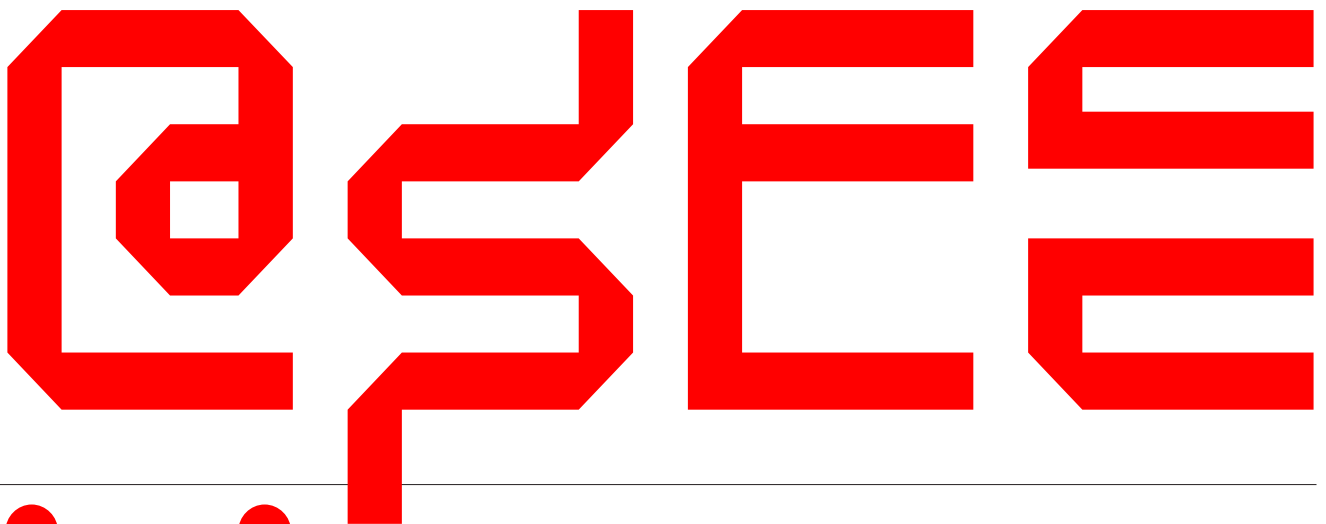
One



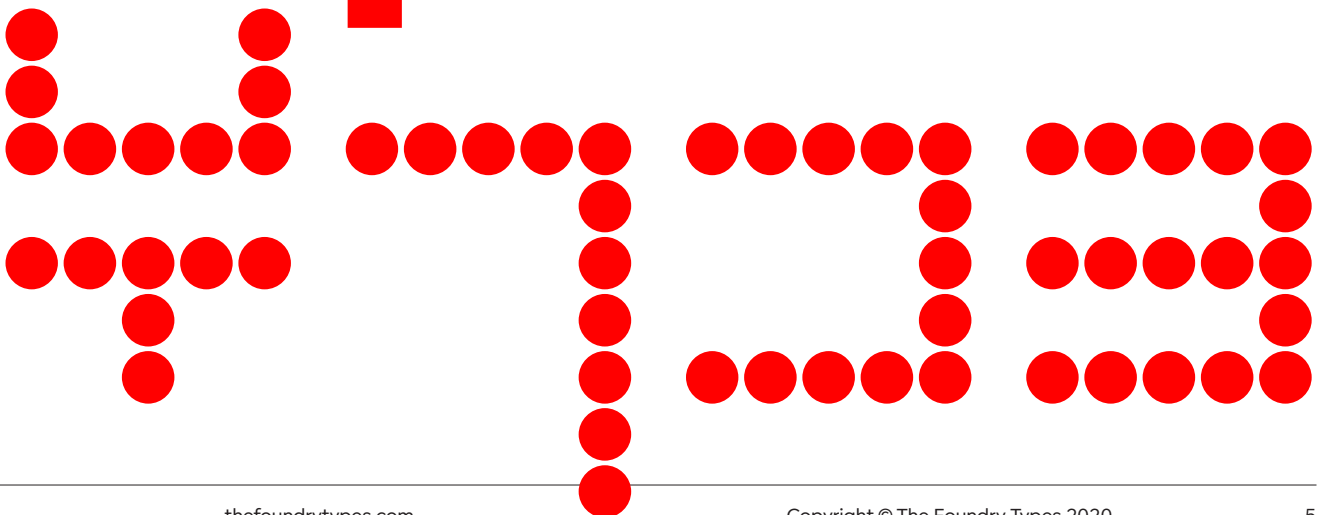
Two



Three



Dot



One

ALPHABET

Two

TYPEFACE

Three

ÄTHODE

Dot

NEURCH

New Alphabet

One

new Alphabet,
created as a four
weight family in
close collaboration
with Dan Crowder.
His most radical
experiment,
conceived during
the late 70s
in response to
his experience of
the first device
for electronic
phototypesetting;
characters were
designed to follow

New Alphabet

Two

new Alphabet,
created as a four
weight family in
close collaboration
with Gün Crowel
his most radical
experiment,
conceived during
the late 1960s
in response to
his experience of
the first device
for electronic
phototypesetting;
characters were
designed to follow

New Alphabet

Three

ñey ÿlphabet,,
created by a four
weight family in
close collaboration
with Gün Crouvel
his most radical
experiment,,
conceived during
the late 70s
in response to
his experience of
the first device
for electronic
phototypesetting;;
characters were
designed to follow

New Alphabet

Dot

new alphabet,
created by a four
digit family in
close collaboration
with the original
file not real
experiment,
concluded during
the late 1960s
in response to
his experience of
the first device
for electronic
phototypesetting;
characters were
designed to follow

New Alphabet

Capitals

J B C D E F G H I L 7 E L G O P Q R S F
U V W X Y Z

Lowercase

j b c d e f g h i l 7 e l g o p q r s t
u v w x y z

Figures

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 A B C D E F

Mathematical symbols

+ - ± √ ÷ = |

Punctuation

— _ = ! " " " " " " " ' , : ; :
: : . 4 7 8 + F 7 C] - 0 1 2 + # % & ©

Language support

Abenaki,	Finnish,	Lojban,	Scottish Gaelic,	Xhosa,
Afaan Oromo,	Folkspraak,	Lombard,	Seri,	Yapese,
Afar,	French,	Low Saxon,	Seychellois,	Yindjibarndi,
Afrikaans,	Frisian,	Luxembourgish,	Shawnee,	Zapotec,
Albanian,	Friulian,	Makhuwa,	Shona,	Zulu,
Alsatian,	Galician,	Malay,	Sicilian,	Zuni
Amis,	Genoese,	Manx,	Slovio,	
Anuta,	German,	Marquesan,	Somali,	
Aragonese,	Gooniyandi,	Meriam Mir,	Sotho Northern,	
Aranese,	Greenlandic,	Mohawk,	Sotho Southern,	
Arrernte,	Guadeloupean,	Montagnais,	Spanish,	
Arvanitic,	Gwichin,	Murrinhpatha,	Sranan,	
Asturian,	Haitian Creole,	Nagamese Creole,	Sundanese,	
Aymara,	Han,	Ndebele,	Swahili,	
Basque,	Hiligaynon,	Neapolitan,	Swazi,	
Bikol,	Hopi,	Ngiyambaa,	Swedish,	
Bislama,	Ido,	Norwegian,	Tagalog,	
Breton,	Ilocano,	Novial,	Tetum,	
Cape Verdean,	Indonesian,	Occidental,	Tok Pisin,	
Catalan,	Interglossa,	Occitan,	Tokelauan,	
Cebuano,	Interlingua,	Oshiwambo,	Tshiluba,	
Chamorro,	Irish,	Palauan,	Tsonga,	
Chavacano,	Italian,	Papiamento,	Tswana,	
Chickasaw,	Jamaican,	Piedmontese,	Tumbuka,	
Cofan,	Javanese,	Portuguese,	Tzotzil,	
Corsican,	Jerriais,	Potawatomi,	Ukrainian,	
Danish,	Kala Lagaw Ya,	Qeqchi,	Uzbek,	
Dawan,	Kapampangan,	Quechua,	Venetian,	
Delaware,	Kaqchikel,	Rarotongan,	Volapuk,	
Dholuo,	Kikongo,	Romansh,	Voro,	
Drehu,	Kinyarwanda,	Rotokas,	Walloon,	
Dutch,	Kiribati,	Sami Southern,	Waraywaray,	
English,	Kirundi,	Samoan,	Warlpiri,	
Estonian,	Klingon,	Sango,	Wayuu,	
Fijian,	Latin,	Saramaccan,	Wikmungkan,	
Filipino,	Latino Sine,	Sardinian,	Wiradjuri,	

OpenType features

Tabular lining figures

new alphabet

NEW