Helvetica
Now

Monotype
Contents

3  Introduction

4  Quick Start Guide

5  The Font Files

6  The Glyph Set

7  Optical Sizes

8  Alternate Glyphs

9  Additional Glyphs

10 Improvements

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Quick Start Guide

**a**

**Install the fonts.**

There are 48 fonts in all:

- 12 Micro fonts for captions and tiny type
- 16 Text fonts for small heads and running text
- 20 Display fonts for larger heads, headlines, and other big type.

**b**

**Use the fonts.**

**c**

Kindly let us know what you think.
The Font Files

Helvetica Now consists of 48 font files in three optical sizes: Display, Text, and Micro.

The 20 Helvetica Now Display fonts are meant to be used at display sizes—customarily, any type above 14 point. Display fonts range in weight from Hairline to ExtraBlack.

The 16 Helvetica Now Text fonts are intended for standard text sizes, typically eight to 12 point. Text fonts range from Thin to Black.

The 12 Helvetica Now Micro fonts are intended for very small type (and type in low-fi environments). Micro fonts range from ExtraLight to ExtraBold.
The Glyph Set

The character (glyph) set is consistent across the Helvetica Now range. Each font contains 812 glyphs (38,976 characters in all).

The glyph set contains an extensive complement of Latin and accented forms. There are two sets of figures (lining and non-lining); extensive superscript, inferior, numerator, and denominator forms; a wide range of monetary symbols, reference marks, and fractions; and robust punctuation sets.

"Helvetica arrow" sets and informational "circled" and "squared" figure sets are also included.

Finally, there are number of alternate forms that can be accessed via OpenType stylistic sets: round punctuation and accents; a single-story lowercase q; a rounded capital G; a straight-legged capital R; a straight t; a simplified lowercase u; a rounded lowercase a; a straight-legged round punctuation and accents; a single-story capital R; a straight t; a simplified lowercase u; a rounded lowercase a; a straight-legged
Optical Sizes

Helvetica Now is produced from size-specific drawings and with size-specific spacing. The larger Display sizes are carefully drawn to show off the subtlety of Helvetica and spaced with headlines in mind.

The standard Text sizes are drawn and spaced to deal with the rigors associated with legibility in extended text. The strokes are robust; contrast is reduced (compared to display drawings); and spacing is comfortably loose.

The Micro sizes are for very small typesetting and type in low-resolution environments. The forms are simplified and exaggerated to maintain the impression of Helvetica, and the spacing is noticeably loose—an essential ingredient to hyper-legible micro-text.
Alternate Glyphs

Helvetica Now reintroduces some historical alternate glyphs and introduces a few new alternates. These glyphs are each assigned to one of eight OpenType stylistic sets, and allow type users to subtly and/or dramatically change the typographic character of headlines, text, and captions.
Additional Glyphs

Helvetica Now includes additional glyphs that update the fonts (like the Bitcoin symbol and the capital form of the German double s) and others that make them more useful (like a suite of Helvetica arrows and sets of circled and squared figures).
The first digital version of Helvetica (Neue Helvetica) was produced 35 years ago. It had one master (no optical sizes) and was completed well before everyone had an email address. Improvements like the addition of the Micro range and the redrawing of the at-sign are obvious necessities. There are thousands more improvements that are far less obvious. Every glyph has been redrawn accross the entire family.
Contact

For any questions about this pre-release or about the Helvetica Now family more generally, please contact us at helveticanow@monotype.com