German Design Award
WINNER 2015

NDEBELE

Favorite Characters

Weights

PLAIN

HALF

CONDENSED

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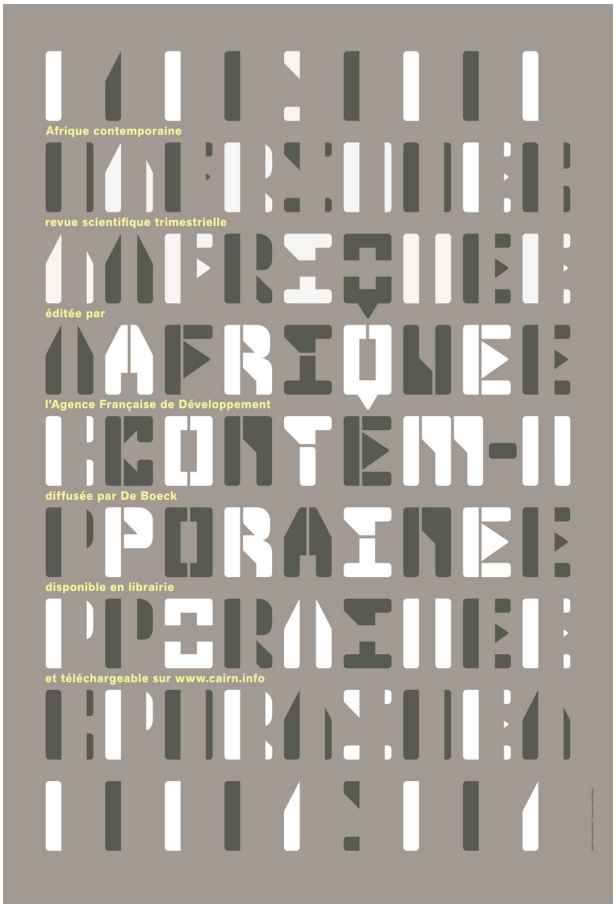
In 2010, the ‘Agence Française de Développement’ (AFD) commissioned Philippe Apeloig to design a new visual identity for its journal, ‘Afrique Contemporaine’. For this opportunity, he developed letterforms which became ultimately the typeface ‘Ndebele’.
This font draws on the South African Ndebele tribe’s tradition of painting their houses with a vivid, graphic system of symbols. ‘Ndebele’ uses only geometric uppercase letters with rounded angles.
The font consists of stylized letterforms that appear representational but verge on abstraction. ‘Ndebele’ employs a fine vertical break in the middle of each letter, which is progressively enlarged, in three stages.



Philippe Apeloig
Afrique contemporaine

Paris, Agence française
de développement
175 × 118,5 cm
2010

VIBRANT
STYLE

BOLDED
POSTERS

TEXTILE &
MECHANIC

Ndebele Sampletext

6

ONE MORNING, WHEN GREGOR SAMSA WOKE FROM TROUBLED DREAMS, HE FOUND HIMSELF TRANSFORMED IN HIS BED INTO A HORRIBLE VERMIN. HE LAY ON HIS ARMOUR-LIKE BACK, AND IF HE LIFTED HIS HEAD A LITTLE HE COULD SEE HIS BROWN BELLY, SLIGHTLY DOMED AND DIVIDED BY ARCHES INTO STIFF SECTIONS. THE BEDDING WAS HARDLY ABLE TO COVER IT AND SEEMED READY TO SLIDE OFF ANY MOMENT. HIS MANY LEGS, PITIFULLY THIN COMPARED WITH THE SIZE OF THE REST OF HIM, WAVED ABOUT HELPLESSLY AS HE LOOKED. 'WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME?' HE THOUGHT. IT WASN'T A DREAM. HIS ROOM, A PROPER HUMAN ROOM ALTHOUGH A LITTLE TOO SMALL, LAY PEACEFULLY BETWEEN ITS FOUR FAMILIAR WALLS. A COLLECTION OF

8

ONE MORNING, WHEN GREGOR SAMSA WOKE FROM TROUBLED DREAMS, HE FOUND HIMSELF TRANSFORMED IN HIS BED INTO A HORRIBLE VERMIN. HE LAY ON HIS ARMOUR-LIKE BACK, AND IF HE LIFTED HIS HEAD A LITTLE HE COULD SEE HIS BROWN BELLY, SLIGHTLY DOMED AND DIVIDED BY ARCHES INTO STIFF SECTIONS. THE BEDDING WAS HARDLY ABLE TO COVER IT AND SEEMED READY TO SLIDE OFF ANY MOMENT. HIS MANY LEGS, PITIFULLY THIN COMPARED WITH THE SIZE OF THE REST OF HIM, WAVED ABOUT HELPLESSLY AS HE LOOKED. 'WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME?' HE THOUGHT. IT WASN'T A DREAM. HIS ROOM, A PROPER HUMAN ROOM ALTHOUGH A LITTLE TOO SMALL, LAY PEACEFULLY BETWEEN ITS FOUR FAMILIAR WALLS. A COLLECTION OF TEXTILE SAMPLES LAY SPREAD OUT ON THE TABLE – SAMSA WAS A TRAVELLING SALESMAN – AND ABOVE IT THERE HUNG A PICTURE THAT HE HAD RECENTLY CUT OUT OF AN ILLUSTRATED

12

ONE MORNING, WHEN GREGOR SAMSA WOKE FROM TROUBLED DREAMS, HE FOUND HIMSELF TRANSFORMED IN HIS BED INTO A HORRIBLE VERMIN. HE LAY ON HIS ARMOUR-LIKE BACK, AND IF HE LIFTED HIS HEAD A LITTLE HE COULD SEE HIS BROWN BELLY, SLIGHTLY DOMED AND DIVIDED BY ARCHES INTO STIFF SECTIONS. THE BEDDING WAS HARDLY ABLE TO COVER IT AND SEEMED READY TO SLIDE OFF ANY MOMENT. HIS MANY LEGS, PITIFULLY THIN COMPARED WITH

16

ONE MORNING, WHEN GREGOR SAMSA WOKE FROM TROUBLED DREAMS, HE FOUND HIMSELF TRANSFORMED IN HIS BED INTO A HORRIBLE VERMIN. HE LAY ON HIS ARMOUR-LIKE BACK, AND IF HE LIFTED HIS HEAD A LITTLE HE COULD SEE HIS BROWN BELLY, SLIGHTLY DOMED AND DIVIDED BY ARCHES INTO STIFF SECTIONS. THE BEDDING WAS HARDLY ABLE TO COVER IT AND SEEMED READY TO SLIDE OFF ANY MOMENT. HIS MANY LEGS, PITIFULLY THIN COMPARED WITH THE SIZE OF THE REST OF HIM, WAVED ABOUT HELPLESSLY AS HE LOOKED. 'WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME?' HE

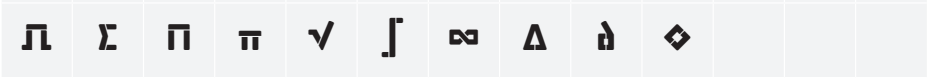
Uppercase / Lowercase

Accented Uppercase / Lowercase

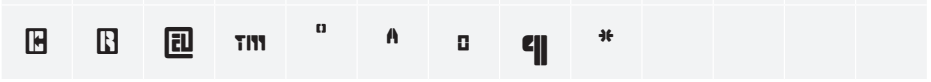
Figures

Superscript
Subscript

Currency, Fractions & Mathematical Signs



Punctuation & Ideographs



Arrows & Stylistic Alternates

Discretional Ligatures

INFO → ↗

Fractions

1½ 1¼ 1¾

Stylistic Alternates 01

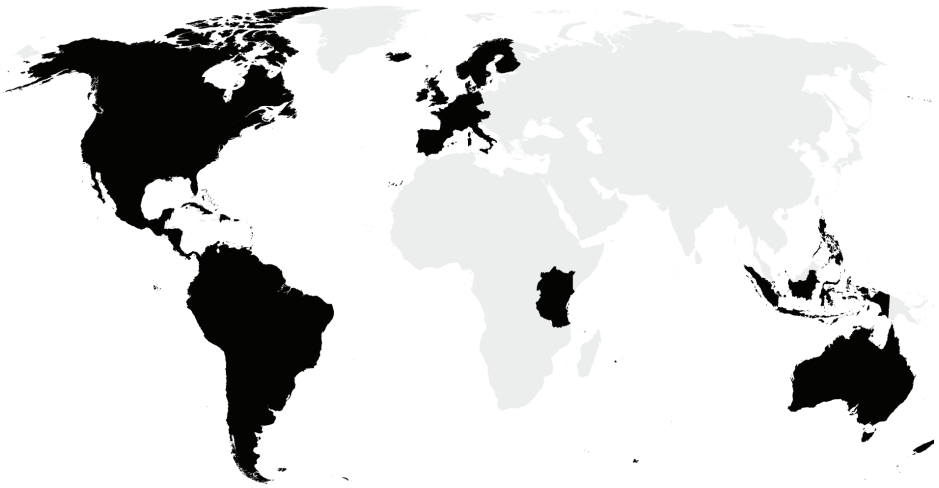
Subscript / Denominators

H_2O H_2

Superscript / Numerators

H^3 M^2

Language and codepage support



Supported Character Set

Tables:
Unicode Basic Latin,
Latin-1 Supplement

Supported languages

Albanian
Danish
Dutch
English
Estonian
Faroese
Finnish
Flemish
French
German
Icelandic
Indonesian
Irish
Italian
Malay
Norwegian
Portuguese
Scottish Gaelic
Spanish
Swahili
Swedish
Swissgerman
Tagalog

That's it!

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Online ordering is the fastest and most convinient way to order and receive your fonts. After payment you will instantly receive your fonts via mail.
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To install the typeface onto a desktop machine or server that distributes to a number of desktop machines, a desktop licence must be purchased.

Web Self-hosting Licence
To embed the typeface onto a website, a Web Self-hosting License must be purchased.

Testing fonts (Trust License)
We believe that font testing should be as simple as possible. Therefore we offer all our fonts as trial versions for free. Just go through the purchase process as if you would buy the font and select the 'Trust License' button before checkout. If you like the typeface, drop us a friendly line and we will get back to you with the full version asap. Once you will use it for a project you will need to buy the license according to your use.

Basic vs Standard
Please check Glyph Sheet + Language Support page to get detailed informations about the characterset.

Designer
Philippe Apeloig

Development
Nouvelle Noire

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Nouvelle Noire GmbH, Zürich

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1.0

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2013

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