

# 1. FONT INSTALLATION

Unicode is an encoding, not a type of font. A “Unicode” font can be any of a number of types: TrueType, OpenType, Type1, PostScript etc.

For Windows and Macintosh users, the easiest fonts to use are TrueType and OpenType.

ALPHABETUM is a TrueType font (TTF) and it is intalled on your computer like any other fonts of the same type.

Steps to install a font in Windows:

1. click the Start button on the taskbar, then choose Settings and click on Control Panel.
2. once the Control Panel window is opened, double-click on the Fonts icon.
3. select the File menu, then click Install New Font. Add Fonts dialog box will appear.
4. in the dialog box Add Fonts select the drive and navigate to the folder where you saved the font file and contain the font you want to add.
5. when the name of the font with the extension .ttf you wish to install appear in the list of fonts, select (highlight) it, then click OK to add the font.
6. close the font dialog when it is finished. Start your word processor and you should see the name of the new font in the list of available fonts.

## 2. QUALITY OF THE FONT

ALPHABETUM Unicode has more than 2,000 glyphs and 305 “kerning pairs” to avoid unsightly gaps between letters. (Some combinations of letters, such as “Y” followed by “o”, do not look good because the characters come too far apart. To fix this problem a special technique called *kerning* has been developed. Kerning information is used to adjust the space between specific pairs of characters).

A good example is the AV pair. In the following picture you can see a few examples of inter-character spacing, with and without kerning: AV AV WA WA Yo Yo We We

ALPHABETUM, like other high-quality fonts, contains kerning information that word-processors can use to “kern” the text, that is, to adjust the spacing between such pairs.

For best appearance, you must make sure that kerning is turned on.

In Microsoft Word, choose Format/Font/Character Spacing and make sure that the Kerning box is checked. Kerning is not usually applied to font sizes smaller than 10 points or so.

However on screen at specific sizes or low resolutions this font may not look as good as products from the large companies such as Monotype, Adobe, Microsoft and so on.

On screen, some stems of ALPHABETUM letters will look uneven, unlike Times New Roman, for example. This is because these companies have the resources to carry out special ‘hinting’ which improves the appearance of characters on a monitor. (At its most basic level, *hinting* or *instructing* a font is a method of defining exactly which pixels are turned on in order to create the best possible character bitmap shape).

The technical knowledge and the software required for such super-hinting is beyond my reach, so ALPHABETUM has only automatic hints, I have not yet done hand hinting of the characters.

I was trained as a scholar rather than in graphic arts. I have spent hundreds of hours learning to make fonts and developing ALPHABETUM, but the truth is that I will never do work of the quality that can be achieved by a professional.

Some of the fonts distributed by big companies do feature this high quality hinting but do not contain all the characters that classicists need; polytonic Greek, classical Latin and other ancient languages are a relatively low priority in the computer industry.

Users will have to compromise between aesthetics and coverage in picking their font.

ALPHABETUM does not look its best on a low-resolution screen.

Nevertheless, the outlines of ALPHABETUM are only distorted at a specific number of small sizes or if you use output devices with low and medium resolution; the contours of the letterforms at higher resolutions remain unchanged and undistorted.

In any case, this problem does not affect printed output. Computer screens operate at a much lower resolution than printers.

Please remember that the print quality will normally be better than screen display.

## HOW TO IMPROVE THE APPEARANCE OF A FONT ON A MONITOR:

### 1 = Font smoothing or anti-aliasing. (Windows 98/2000/Me)

To improve the appearance of ALPHABETUM on the screen, be sure that the function *font smoothing* or *anti-aliasing fonts* is activated on your computer.

By default this function is switched off in Microsoft Windows, but it is a simple matter to switch it on:

- Double click on *My PC* icon on your desktop, then click on *View* menu.
- Select *Folder options*, command at the bottom of the menu.
- In the next window, click on the *View* tab located near the top of the window.
- Scroll down to the bottom of the list.
- Click on the Checkbox labelled ***Smooth Edges of Screen Fonts***.
- Press OK.

That's all there is to it!

Font smoothing reduces the jagged edges of on-screen text.

Note that this function only works with Windows 98 and higher, but there is a "patch" for Windows 95 available as a free download for Windows 95 users in Microsoft Typography website.

### 2 = ClearType. (Windows XP)

ClearType is a software technology developed by Microsoft that improves the readability of text on existing LCDs, such as laptop screens, Pocket PC screens and flat panel monitors.

Readability on CRT traditional monitors will be improved somewhat, but ClearType does not provide the same benefits that you experience on an LCD screen. Nevertheless, feel free to give it a try.

With ClearType font technology, the words on your computer screen look almost as sharp and clear as those printed on a piece of paper. ClearType is turned off by default, so if you are using WinXP and have an LCD monitor, be sure that you have the *ClearType option* turned on.

Steps to enable ClearType:


- 1- right-click in a blank space on the desktop.
- 2- choose *Properties*
- 3- select the *Appearance* tab.
- 4- click the *Effects* button at the lower right of the dialog box.
- 5- make sure that there is a check mark next to "Use the following method to smooth edges of screen fonts" and select "***ClearType***" from the drop down box.
- 5- click OK to exit.

This makes a very significant improvement in the on-screen appearance of ALPHABETUM.

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