

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [\[Infamous\] The all-in-one guide to Fonts \[Infamous\]](#)

Baghead - October 3, 2012, 6:12 pm

The all-in-one guide to Fonts.

Fonts are a huge aspect of graphic design and the right font can complete a piece of work. If you're a beginner, picking a font is probably a challenge for you. You'll flee to the first font pack you see, open it up, and go ballistic with that cool batman font you just found. This is a huge mistake. I visit the RMG section every day to give CnC and learn from other graphic artists, and I always see beginners using terrible and obnoxious fonts. With this guide, you'll never make the mistake of using that obnoxious gothic font you just found ever again.

I apologize in advance for the lack of imagery, as I don't have access to Photoshop right now so I'm unable to create examples.

Simplicity and Readability

When picking a font, you should always look for two characteristics: It must be easily readable, and it should be fairly simple. Of course, you don't always have to use a plain white block font, but it shouldn't be some unreadable cursive or graphical cluster. A good example of a simple and nice looking font is [Bebas Neue](#). It's easy to read and easy on the eyes, and if used right will make your design look simple and elegant. You should avoid gothic and grafitti fonts most of the time as they're usually hard to read and not appealing. Additionally, you should always keep font size in mind. Font size comes into play whenever you're using text. The text should be big enough to read but small enough to fit and match the other elements of your design. But as with all things, make sure not to overuse any one font. In any given piece there should only be two to five fonts at the most, depending on what you're creating. For instance, a thread design should have around three fonts: A header font which can be flashy and big, a body font which should be easy to read but fairly small and simple, and a font or two for other things such as contact info and payment options. As well as the font itself being readable, you should always make sure that it's dark enough against your background to be read easily and without effort. For instance, if you have a white background and you're using a light gray font, you may want to reconsider your choice of color. Black on white is the most obvious combination of font on background and can never go wrong.

Font Compliments

Fonts look nice on their own, however certain elements such as drop shadow, color, background, bevel (Be careful with this one), and size can greatly improve the quality of your font and piece overall. Fonts also compliment other fonts. Some fonts look nice together, and there are ways to combine fonts to create something nice and simple. Cursive and Block is a good example of a nice looking font combination. When a block font (Such as Bebas Neue) is put down next to a cursive font (Such as Branboll) the resulting effect is very appealing and professional looking. Font combination is a common technique used in logos and headers, and can even be used in my signature. As well as combining fonts, some fonts just look nice with each other in the same piece. For example, when creating a thread design you should use fonts that look nice and compliment

each other rather than fonts that clash. If you create a thread design with all cursive fonts, chances are it won't look good. However if you create a thread design with a cursive font for the header and a nice and simple font for the body, the whole thread will look much better.

Picking an appropriate font

You should always use a font which relates to your design in some way. For instance, if I'm creating an invitation to my grandmother funeral I wouldn't use comic sans (although I would never use comic sans anyways). Picking a situation appropriate font is always important. If you're creating a logo for a wedding cake company, a cursive font would be a good choice. If you're making a thread design advertising a minecraft server, then using the minecraft font would look nice. You get what I'm saying; use fonts that are appropriate for your design and avoid fonts that are the opposite. However don't restrict yourself; if you're creating a design and you find a related font which doesn't compliment the rest of your design, don't use it. Be creative, but if a font doesn't look good or your second guessing your choice. Oh, and if you're stuck and can't choose I found this cool and funny flowchart on picking an appropriate font here:

<http://clussman.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/typeface-flowchart.jpg> use a different font.

The good, the bad, and the downright awful

If you don't have a good collection of fonts or you're wondering whether your favorite font is actually terrible, here's a list of some fonts I like to use and some fonts you should try to avoid.

Some of my favorite fonts:

[Bebas Neue](#)

[House Slant](#)

[Nevis](#)

[Branboll](#)

[District Pro](#)

Common Bad fonts:

[Batman Forever](#)

Comic Sans (This goes without saying)

Any graffiti font

Impact

Urban Fonts

Gothic Fonts

Brushscript

Sometimes those fonts on the 'bad font' list work with your design, such as the Batman Forever font. That font was used on the Serenity userbar and it actually works. Those fonts should usually be avoided, but sometimes you're piece just needs an obnoxious font to finish it off.

As you can see, picking a font is always so easy. You should always consider readability, simplicity, and situation. Try different colors, layer styles, and techniques. Anyways, I apologize for the lack of graphical headers and whatnot and I wish I could make this guide look more appealing, but I can't :/. I hope you enjoyed the guide and thanks for reading:)

Cyba - October 3, 2012, 6:13 pm

Thanks for the thread baghead, it's very helpful.

Regards,

Cyba.

Earl Sweatshirt - October 3, 2012, 6:14 pm

Wow, very HQ post. Helpful for me as I just started GFX.

Keep it up.

;HiFrag

Baghead - October 4, 2012, 6:21 pm

thanks for the feedback guys. This tutorial took a while, hope it helps a few people out.

Cody - October 4, 2012, 6:22 pm

I love Bebas, great thread seems like you put some real effort! :)

billy - October 4, 2012, 7:26 pm

Impact is a perfect font. I love using it when ghosting something to the background or something.

Gold? - October 4, 2012, 9:13 pm

Thanks for this thread.

You gave me some good info, and some niceeee fonts.

Thanks again.

Baghead - October 4, 2012, 9:47 pm

(Oct 4, 2012 07:26 PM)kvlt Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Impact is a perfect font. I love using it when ghosting something to the background or something.

Like I said, some of the fonts on that list can be used for certain things, however it's generally a good idea to avoid them.

(Oct 4, 2012 09:13 PM)Filthy. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Thanks for this thread.

You gave me some good info, and some niceeee fonts.

Thanks again.

No problem. I'm glad you found it useful, and I trust you'll put those fonts to good use;)

Skorp - October 4, 2012, 9:48 pm

Nice contribution to a subject that is barely talked about.

Retribute - October 4, 2012, 9:56 pm

Nice tutorial. Luckily I have this natural feeling of whether a font fits a design or not ^__^

+Awesome - October 4, 2012, 10:01 pm

Thanks for mentioning the second last line.

No font is bad, but the depends where it is used.

Nice guide overall.

Syberpro - October 5, 2012, 7:08 pm

Hey buddy since your thread talks about font erm maybe you can help me it seems whenever I switch font my photoshop says i don't have that font but in folder i have it.

Here is what im talking about:

Yurt - October 6, 2012, 8:40 pm

Amazing tutorial dude, thank you for sharing! Now I know never to use the batman font :S
:P

Text - October 6, 2012, 11:09 pm

Great tutorial. Thanks for this mate.

Baghead - October 8, 2012, 5:41 pm

@Syberpro, I'm not sure what your problem is. If I were you I'd reinstall the font.

@everyone else, thanks for the feedback:) I'm glad you all like the tutorial.

juniiflow - October 8, 2012, 8:16 pm

Impact is not a bad font AT ALL.

Good Font's:

Helvetica

Avant garden

Futura

EuroStyle

bankgothic

Arial (in PC)

Arial BLACK (in PC)

Compacta

you never mentioned none of those and i am wondering why?
nice guide by the way.

Baghead - October 8, 2012, 9:49 pm

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Helvetica= Arial... Helvetica and Arial are literally the exact same font, however Helvetica is what the font is called on Apple devices. Arial Black is bad for graphics as well. I didn't mention those fonts because there are hundreds of good fonts out there. I named my favorites, you can't expect me to name every single appealing typeface out there.

By the way, Impact is a bad font to use in most situations. And thanks for the feedback:)

LimPong - October 10, 2012, 6:36 am

I agree with you. I'm new to graphic so sometimes picking suitable fonts quite hard

juniiflow - October 10, 2012, 3:26 pm

(Oct 8, 2012 09:49 PM)BagHead Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Helvetica= Arial... Helvetica and Arial are literally the exact same font, however Helvetica is what the font is called on Apple devices. Arial Black is bad for graphics as well. I didn't mention those fonts because there are hundreds of good fonts out there. I named my favorites, you can't expect me to name every single appealing typeface out there.

By the way, Impact is a bad font to use in most situations. And thanks for the feedback:)
no they are not. and not its not in most situations is all depending on what you are designing.

prada ? - October 10, 2012, 4:53 pm

Lol, I couldn't agree with the font categories more... people use some fonts way too much, I think simplicity is the key.

Prophet Banana - October 10, 2012, 5:44 pm

I use to love Bebas Neue until I realised it was overused just about everywhere.

Eclipse - October 12, 2012, 10:30 pm

Thanks for the guide man.

This has definitely the know how around different types of texts in different conditions.

Thanks alot!
xHysteria.

Rulerzz - October 12, 2012, 10:41 pm

Nice Guide.

Loved it.

Learned a Lot.

Captain Adams - October 12, 2012, 10:52 pm

Absolutely excellent tutorial, I was just browsing and I enjoyed reading this. I like the flowchart too, lol.

Baghead - October 12, 2012, 11:04 pm

(Oct 10, 2012 05:44 PM)Waleed Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I use to love Bebas Neue until I realised it was overused just about everywhere.

Yeah, it is overused. I love the font however I try to avoid using it as much because of the fact that it's simply overused.

Cuddle - October 15, 2012, 10:39 am

(Oct 12, 2012 11:04 PM)BagHead Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Yeah, it is overused. I love the font however I try to avoid using it as much because of the fact that it's simply overused.

What fonts are used in your signature?

Those look really good together!

Tech - October 15, 2012, 2:53 pm

I am using bebas in my sig that I made, I have fallen in love with the font.

lavos ct - October 15, 2012, 3:57 pm

My favorite font = augustus

<http://www.dafont.com/search.php?q=augustus>

Baghead - December 21, 2012, 4:20 pm

(Oct 15, 2012 10:39 AM)Cuddle Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) What fonts are used in your signature?
Those look really good together!
Bebas Neue+Champagne and limousines.

Amphibious Garbage - December 21, 2012, 7:21 pm

Great thread! Thanks a lot man its very helpful.

alcadar - December 27, 2012, 12:49 pm

You gave me some good info too, and some niceeee fonts.

alexlandonflicksss - December 30, 2012, 9:44 am

Bookmarked this thread....nice thread...please don't remove this cuz I want it for future reference....Mr.BAGHEAD I would like to know the fonts used in your signature....love them...please PM me if you're or post it here...anyway thanks a lot for this...:-)

Baghead - December 30, 2012, 1:59 pm

(Dec 30, 2012 10:44 AM)alexlandonflicksss Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Bookmarked this thread....nice thread...please don't remove this cuz I want it for future reference....Mr.BAGHEAD I would like to know the fonts used in your signature....love them...please PM me if you're or post it here...anyway thanks a lot for this...:-)

Glad you enjoyed the guide, I don't plan on ever taking this down so keep it bookmarked;)

I used Champagne and limousones as the first font and bebas as the second. Both can be downloaded for free with a simple google search.

HIGH PAID FELLA - February 20, 2013, 11:35 am

Very nice man, this should help people with choosing the correct fonts. HQ. post

bobby dazzler - February 22, 2013, 1:45 pm

thanks for thi s..really interesting stuff

B????? - February 22, 2013, 1:53 pm

Thanks for this, picked up a nice few fonts. Thanks for recommending that batman forever one, I'm going to use it on everything I ever do. Kidding btw. But yeah thanks a bunch.

Warren G - February 23, 2013, 9:05 pm

I really like the Babas Nues font, thanks so much bro.

Prayanthem - March 12, 2013, 5:40 am

Thanks for the share, it was a good read. Still find it hard to pick font size etc. in webdesign though.

Cam Rellim - March 24, 2013, 7:22 am

thanks a lot dude, great post, i'll be sure to use some of those!

Claptrap™ - March 24, 2013, 6:26 pm

Nice share, my favorite is "batman forever".

Astronome - March 25, 2013, 12:22 pm

I disagree with many points you have said, especially categorizing fonts by good and bad. Every font can look good you just have to figure out where to use it.

Alya12 - March 25, 2013, 12:28 pm

Thnx man for this tutorial i like it

Baghead - March 25, 2013, 1:37 pm

(Mar 25, 2013 12:22 PM)Heisenberg. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I disagree with many points you have said, especially categorizing fonts by good and bad.

Every font can look good

[quote='Heisenberg.' pid='31477164' dateline='1364239349']

I disagree with many points you have said, especially categorizing fonts by good and bad.

Every font can look good you just have to figure out where to use it.

That's true and knowing fonts is really a matter of learning to use them appropriately, but I bet you can't make Comic Sans look good in a design.

I compiled the list of bad fonts to help beginners know what to stay away from; obviously experienced designers don't need this guide.

SIM-1029192 - March 26, 2013, 4:55 am

This is an awesome tutorial for beginners. Thank You.

Astronome - May 4, 2013, 12:55 am

(Mar 25, 2013 01:37 PM)BagHead Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) That's true and knowing fonts is really a matter of learning to use them appropriately, but I bet you can't make Comic Sans look good in a design.

I compiled the list of bad fonts to help beginners know what to stay away from; obviously experienced designers don't need this guide. Check this out

<http://www.smashingmagazine.com/2009/11/11/comic-sans-history-examples-best-practices/>

Baghead - May 4, 2013, 9:15 am

(May 4, 2013 12:55 AM)Heisenberg. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Check this out

<http://www.smashingmagazine.com/2009/11/11/comic-sans-history-examples-best-practices/>

Haha this was part of that article

<http://jpaul.deviantart.com/art/anti-comics-sans-2-56429543>

Atomisk - June 4, 2013, 8:06 pm

Very informative. I wasn't even focusing on this topic in the first place, but you drew me in. Will most definitely be putting this knowledge to good use! :3

Mittu - June 4, 2013, 9:36 pm

Nice tutorial. Luckily I have this natural feeling of whether a font fits a design or not ^__^

BisualZ - June 12, 2013, 4:10 am

Nice tutorial dude, i really liked it!

23oscar23 - October 25, 2013, 3:02 pm

Nice tutorial & Retribute nice Signature that is pretty Boss :)

Brand?n - October 25, 2013, 5:43 pm

This is a great thread. I have never been the best with fonts. Very HQ.

23oscar23 - October 27, 2013, 7:55 am

I love these Fonts Good Job! These really look good with my Wallpaper i was making!