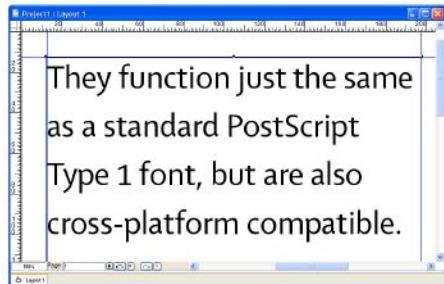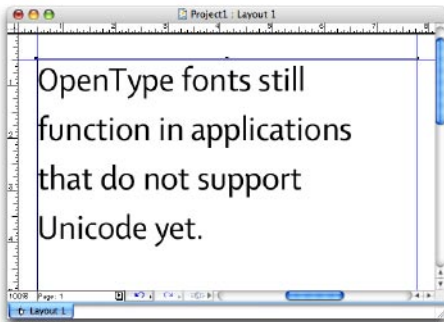## Open Type Introduction

We are now releasing OpenType fonts for all our typefaces. This cross-platform technology is the same one we used for the Aspect typeface, successfully introduced in 2002.

Initially the design press appeared to fail to understand the full potential of the OpenType format. It has therefore been slow taking off, but be assured, OpenType is here to stay and is the next rung on the digital type ladder.

OpenType fonts still function in applications that do not support Unicode yet.

They function just the same as a standard PostScript Type 1 font, but are also cross-platform compatible.

An OpenType font being used in QuarkXPress

For a simple introduction to what OpenType consists of the following is an exert from the Adobe website, where a full explanation for those more technically inclined can be found. *"OpenType is a new cross-platform font format developed by Adobe Systems and Microsoft Corporation that can include an expanded character set and special layout features for richer linguistic support and advanced typographic control. OpenType fonts use a single font file for all of their outline, metric, and bitmap data, making file management simpler. In addition, the same font file works on Macintosh and Windows computers, improving cross-platform portability of documents."*
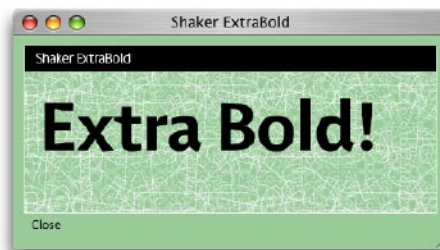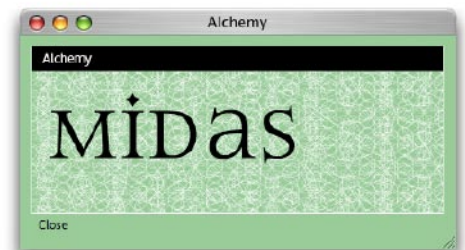

TypeBookOne specimen book

Here are a few links relating to OpenType:
Information to download as a PDF
MyFonts.com
Linotype
Adobe
Microsoft

The OpenType fonts from Jeremy Tankard, now include the following:
Bliss, Enigma and Shaker all offer small caps; a full range of figures (including tabular, proportional, lining and old style); fractions; ligatures; symbols and support for many European languages including the new member countries of the EU. In addition, Shaker also has a new weight, 'Extra Bold' added to all its width variations. Alchemy has all its fonts brought

together to form one single font now called 'Alchemy Midas'. The Shire Types have not been

expanded, but as OpenType fonts now take advantage of the cross-platform ability.

PostScript and TrueType formats?

These font versions may still be of use to you, so we include them on the CD master when you licence the new OpenType version.

For example, if a licence is purchased for Bliss Light, the CD will contain the new OpenType Bliss Light fonts together with all the Bliss Light fonts for Macintosh PostScript, Windows PostScript and Windows TrueType.

New type specimen book

To mark the launch of the OpenType fonts we have published a book. TypeBookOne is a new

sample book produced to cover the full range of typefaces produced by Jeremy Tankard. Each typeface is shown with its complete character set together with a brief design history. The samples in the book complement the individual PDF sample settings available via the website.

Two short articles are included in the book, one on the history and development of the type sample whilst the second is an introduction to the OpenType format. It is intended that, as well as being informative and useful, the book will prove to be an interesting addition to any design bookshelf.
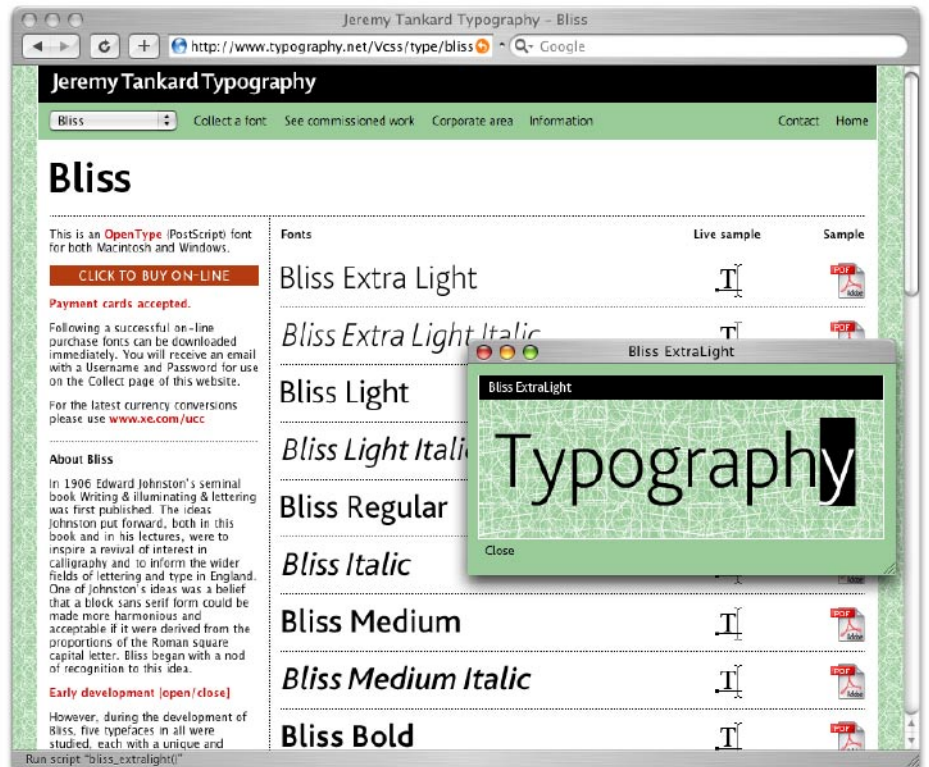
Website update

www.typography.net has been updated for the new fonts and simplified, making it even easier to use. The site now also functions quicker, with each typeface described on a separate page together with the type's development notes.

Each font of the typeface family has its own PDF sample, this sample illustrates the OpenType ability, full character set and sample settings at various sizes. Where appropriate these settings show the fonts in a variety of European languages.

So why not have a look and get the download on what is available, but be sure to load lots of paper in your printer – especially if you want to view every font!

Type font costs are now slightly higher, but you are getting a lot more for your money.

What is a Glyph?

Some of you may have noticed the word 'glyph' occurring recently when reference is being made specifically to characters in a font. The term appears in recent Adobe applications and also when discussing OpenType fonts in various articles. Apple and Microsoft both use the term 'character'. However, one character may be represented by many glyphs. In the example below, the character 'h' can be represented by six glyphs, all of which are still 'h'.

h

Character

ħ ħ ħ ħ ħ ħ

Glyph

So be prepared! Glyph is a word that is being used more and more.