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Width Class	Medium
PFM Family	Decorative
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Distributor	Monotype Imaging, Inc.
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I. Design Background

Tornos is an ancient word root that means *to create with circles*. It appears in modern languages in words that refer to polishing (rubbing in a circular motion) or using a lathe (a machine that fashions wood or metal into circular shapes). This is the essence of Tornosa: its repetition and symmetry make it pleasing to look at but difficult to read, like a baroque decorative design that hides deeper meaning behind its circular glyphs and complex decorations.






The Tornosa font forms a unique cypher alphabet that is perfect for use in fantasy, science fiction, and role-playing game scenarios. It can be used to create illustrations, props, and accessories for RPG campaigns or festivals with fantasy or science fiction themes. It can be used to add depth and complexity to your worldbuilding for your graphic novels, and in the illustrations for the fantasy or science fiction series you are writing.

II. Design Details

A. The visual basis for the font is the circle. Consonants and consonant combinations are represented by letters composed of one or more circles, and may have ascenders or descenders. The only exception is H, which is a simple vertical stroke. There is no distinction between uppercase and lowercase letters.

∞	q	db	qr	od
B	C	CH	CY	D
o	eq	γ	odbo	q
F	G	H	J	K
θ	ed	bo	q	q
L	M	N	NG	P
qq	qqp	b	p	b
Q	QU	R	S	SH
d	d	oo	po	qr
T	TH	V	W	X
p	po	bo	pp	d
Y	Z	ZH	ß	p

B. Vowels are written as accents on the preceding consonant. In settings where isolated “floating” accents might be confusing or overlooked, there is an option to attach vowels to a “placeholder” letter in words that begin with vowels, or when a vowel appears in isolation. The following table shows the vowel accents written with the placeholder letter. Remember that when the vowel appears after a consonant, that placeholder will be replaced by that preceding consonant.

				
A	E	I	O	U

Consecutive vowels are written by positioning the vowel accent in different locations: the first vowel is above and to the left, the second is below and to the left, the third is above to the right, and the fourth is below and to the right. The word “plateauing” is perfect for illustrating this:

ရဲဘဲဉ်း

C. Tornosa supports an extensive range of accented letters in order to support the dozens of non-English languages that use the Latin alphabet. Most accents resemble their standard Latin alphabet shapes, although some of them have been modified specifically so that they will not be easily confused with vowels. Some examples of words with accented letters are:

ò	íóđ	ô ɔ̃	ë ɸ
PIÙ	IDÉ	CÔTE	KÄSE
ǵ	ĩḃ	ĩḃ	ɹʊḃʊɹɔ
CA	AÑO	ANĀ	ZANŠAP

When diacritics are applied to vowels, they appear above the vowel; whereas when a consonant with a diacritic is followed by a vowel, the diacritic is almost always offset from the vowel mark. (This is illustrated in the examples above.)

Be cautious with words that have multiple consecutive accented vowels, or that combine accented letters with consecutive vowels, as the “stacking” of the vowel marks with the accent marks produce positioning conflicts that make the word difficult to read.

D. Numbers and mathematical symbols generally have a narrower stroke width than other text in the Tornosa font, allowing them to stand out and be easily recognizable. Otherwise, they follow the same design principles as the rest of the font.

○	⊖	⊕	⊗	⊘
0	1	2	3	4
⊙	⊚	∅	⊗	⊘
5	6	7	8	9
+	−	×	÷	¼
+	−	×	÷	¼

E. Punctuation is vertically centered to add to the overall symmetry of the aesthetic in Tornosa. For the same reason, marks that normally are followed by a space (e.g. period, comma, colon, semicolon, question mark, exclamation point) have space added to the left of the mark so that they appear “centered” between words.

,	.	!	?	—
.	,	!	?	—
=	÷	()	”
:	;	()	"

F. Letter-like symbols either look like their standard Latin alphabet counterparts, or they have been created based on design principles that make them consistent with Tornosa lettering. For example: the dollar sign is the Tornosa letter “S” with a vertical line through it, the copyright symbol is a small Tornosa letter “c” with a circle around it, the Yen symbol is the Tornosa letter Y with two horizontal strokes through it, and so on. Some examples are:

+	ϕ	⊕	⊗	₣
&	\$	£	⊗	¥
©	ρ		⊗	#
©	μ	¶	*	#

Implementation Details

A. Tornosa uses the following OpenType features: required ligatures, discretionary (optional) ligatures, and “initial” and “isolated” positional forms.

Consonant pairs and vowel-vowel combinations are implemented as required ligatures, because they are necessary for the font to work as intended. Most programs allow you to activate OpenType required ligatures, or activate them by default.

The placeholder character associated with vowel-initial words and isolated vowels are implemented using these corresponding “positional forms” features in OpenType. Many applications, including Microsoft Word and Adobe products (InDesign, Photoshop, etc), do not have this feature activated by default. You may need to go into the character settings for your text, find the OpenType features, and change the “Positional Forms” feature from “General” to “Automatic” in order to get the placeholder character to appear with initial and isolated vowels.

Some applications do not let you activate the positional forms features. If you are using an application that does not provide a way for you to do this, the font implements an alternative method. Tornosa has set up discretionary ligatures of SPACE+(vowel) combinations to display the placeholder character with the appropriate vowel. This approach is not perfect, for example: If a line begins with a vowel, so the initial vowel is not preceded by a SPACE, then the placeholder character will not be displayed. However, with the exception of this “new line glitch,” activating the discretionary ligatures for text in applications that do not support positional forms is a reasonable alternative for all other contexts.