# The *Dynascript* Manual

## And Typesetting Guide

Another Alphabet Soup Type Founders Original

# Thank You!

If you've purchased Dynascript, or are just looking into it—Thank You! This manual will explain how Dynascript came to be, and how to access its unique features as well as give you a few pointers on how to use it to set copy correctly. On page 5 you'll find Dynascript's character set.

Dynascript is a totally unique font, unlike other script faces you will encounter. However it does have some historical precedent and, like Deliscript, the initial inspirational "spark" came from the letterforms in a vintage diner sign:



What I found compelling about these lowercase forms was the fact that they were heavier at the top than at the bottom. It seems there was a historical typographic curiosity that stretched from the 1920s in Germany up to the 1960s. Photo-Lettering called it "Zip-Top". Here's an excerpt from their Alphabet Thesaurus, Volume 2:

> *"Could legibility and reading speed be improved by highlighting the significant parts of letters – by designing them with more pronounced tops? We tried it, and found that the heavier tops formed a "reading bar" or rail on which the eye traveled swiftly across the line. It seemed to us that readability was noticeably improved, and we liked the fresh functional appearance of the letters. The increased legibility of zip-top will be noticed chiefly in the light and medium weights of lowercase."*

This was probably more marketing ploy than anything else, but I just liked the way letters looked when drawn top-heavy, and was pleasantly surprised to discover that weighting a script at the top actually does give its words a dynamic flow.

When I started designing this font it didn't begin as a script, but as a non-connecting italic. As I played with the forms they seemed to naturally evolve into a connecting script. However my original concept always stuck with me, and so I decided to try something that I don't believe had been tried before—to incorporate into one font a connecting script that had a corresponding non-connecting counter-part. On the next page I'll explain how with just the push of a button you can switch from one style to the other.

# Typesetting Tips for Dynascript

Setting beautiful copy with Dynascript is quite simple, but there are a few rules that need to be followed for best results.

*Stratus·Stratus*

The "cardinal" rule that must always be followed when setting this font is that the Standard Ligatures and Contextual Alternates buttons in the OpenType palette must be pressed. The difference can be seen in the samples above. At left, without those buttons being pressed, the text is missing the "St" ligature, and the final "s" isn't the one designated for ending words. At right, with those two buttons pressed, the sample sets correctly with ligature and alternate character.

*Stratus·Stratus*

To change the type style from the connecting script (the default—above, left) to the non-connecting italic, all one need do is press the Stylistic Alternates button, (above, right).
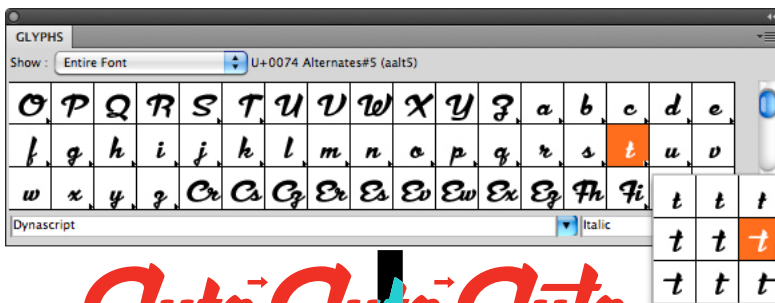
To access the various lower-case "t" characters with cross bars of varying lengths first select the "t" you'd like to change with the Type Tool. Open the Glyph Panel and you'll see that character is highlighted. With your cursor press and hold down on that box to open the pop-up menu

*Auto·Auto·Auto*

for the alternate glyphs for that character selection, and pick the type of "t" you want. The new "t" then replaces the old. You can also access alternates (if available) for any character for which you see a small triangle in the lower right corner of its glyph box.

In the connecting script it would not be a good idea to change the letterspacing between adjacent lowercase characters. The carefully aligned connectors will no longer line up if you add or delete space. However in the non-connecting italic you may add letterspacing by using tracking in the Character Palette. This can create a pleaseing effect with the italic.
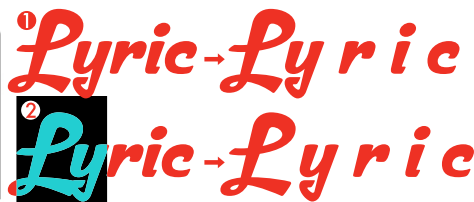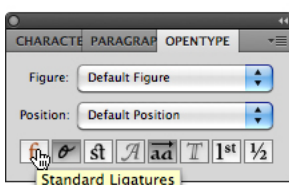
But—if the copy begins with a ligature[1], you must select that ligature then unclick Standard Ligatures[2]—this will eliminate the unwanted ligature. Then proceed to add letterspacing.

*Lyric·Lyric*
*Lyric·Lyric*

# More About Dynascript

I don't usually like to tell people what not to do with their fonts, but when it comes to scripts I have no problem stating that one should not set them in all caps:

## THIS IS A VERY BAD IDEA!

Most script fonts were not designed to be used like that—and that includes all of mine: Metroscript, Deliscript and Steinweiss Script and Orion.

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Dynascript is really two fonts in one. With the press of a button you can transform Dynascript's connecting version into something quite different. Just by pressing the Stylistic Alternates button you can change this connecting script…

## Radio Corporation of America

into this non-connecting italic…

## Radio Corporation of America

which can be especially useful if you need to set smaller text that relates closely to your headline, or if you just want a look that's slightly different.

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Also mentioned on the previous page was how to access the several different crossbar styles of the alternate lowercase "t" characters in the connecting script:

## Meteor Comet Futura Roadmaster

There are basically four variations on the crossbar—two going off to the left and two to the right. However if you wanted a little more variation in crossbar length, that is easily accomplished in a vector program such as Illustrator. For example if you wanted to set the word "Comet" (above) but with a crossbar that stretched the length of the word you could set the word as above, then convert to outlines:

## Comet Comet Comet Comet

Once you convert to outlines it's a simple matter of selecting just the points at the end of the crossbar, and pulling them out to the desired length.

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Dynascript has a full range of foreign accented characters which can be seen in and accessed from the glyph palette on the next page.

# Character Set

ABCCDEEFIGHIJKLMNOOPQRSSTIUV
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RED characters above represent the non-connecting italic. Dynascript's 693 glyphs can be used to set copy in the following languages: Albanian, Basque, Catalan, Cornish, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Esperanto, Estonian, Faroese, Finnish, French, Galician, German, Hungarian, Icelandic, Indonesian, Irish, Italian, Kalaallisut, Latvian, Lithuanian, Malay, Maltese, Manx, Norwegian Bokmål, Norwegian Nynorsk, Oromo, Polish, Portuguese, Slovak, Slovenian, Somali, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Turkish, and Welsh.

My thanks go out to Stuart Sandler of FontBros, for his advice and encouragement, and also to Patrick Griffen of CanadaType for his advice, ideas, and especially for his flawless OpenType programming and help with Dynascript.           — Michael Doret

# Dynascript

### Another New Concept in Scripts from
## Alphabet Soup Type Founders

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## Dynatype
### Another New Concept in Fonts from
## Alphabet Soup Type Founders

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### AND
## Deliscript Slant

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## POWERSTATION
## POWERSTATION
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### The Original...
## Metroscript

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http://MichaelDoret.com/AlphabetSoup/soup.html