Linotype Facts of Life

How it came about

The "Linotype Facts of Life" font family stemmed from the wish of the designer to give his children "pictures of life". Lionni was primarily interested in using simple images to answer the key questions of life such as identity, philosophy, responsibility, objectivity, etc. His image language arouses associations and provokes discussion on the elementary things which affect the world. Behind the typographer, the philosopher hints that there are more truths to be found behind each of the symbols.

During the **typo**[media] **98** congress, Lionni presented his symbol language to an appreciative audience who were captivated by his enthusiasm and spirit.

The type book

The book "Facts of Life" by Pippo Lionni uses humor to show just some of the possibilities which his symbols open up. The book has been published by Verlag Hermann Schmidt Mainz GmbH, Robert-Koch-Straße 8, D-55129 Mainz, Germany.

The three fonts

Macintosh and Windows

The family consists of three fonts which have been designed to work together seamlessly on the Macintosh and Windows platforms.

2 fonts true-to-scale

The "Linotype Facts of Life One" and "Linotype Facts of Life Two" fonts contain a collection of symbols which can be used in conjunction with each other in true-to-scale proportions.

1 alternative font with larger symbols

The third font "Linotype Facts Of Life Alternate" repeats a number of symbols which appear very small in the two other fonts due to the latter being depicted true-to-scale and shows them enlarged by a factor of 2.5. The symbols in this font occupy the same keys as in the original font, thereby enabling the user to access the larger symbol by simply changing fonts.

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Typesetting notes

The symbols appear very small due to their complexity. You should never set them smaller than 36 points.
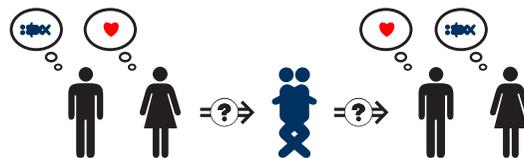
Each font contains two basic symbols (⚡ and △) for creating warning signs. These are positioned on an en space so that the right-hand half of the symbol overhangs. All other symbols **overlap on both sides by almost half of the symbol width**. This means that any chosen symbols can be positioned centrally relative to each other by simply typing them in one after the other. In order to display two symbols next to each other, you will need to enter a spacing of at least one standard space. In addition to the standard space with the width of a quarter-em space, each weight also contains a mini space instead of the "%" which is around one thirtieth of the width of an em space. This means that the distance between two symbols can be controlled with almost perfect register accuracy without any need for a DTP program.

Placing symbols centrally relative to each other

Blanks for spaces

Combine at will

The diversity of symbols means that a whole range of different statements can be combined.

Have fun "writing" your "facts of life".

Your Linotype Library Team

Linotype Facts of Life

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Document ID code: How to use