CONSCRIPT CREATIVITY WITH COMPUTER-BASED FONTS

Britton Watkins
5th Language Creation Conference
Austin, TX, USA
Why go to the trouble?

- 何でそこまで頑張る？
- なぜそれをする？
- なぜ学校に通うの？
- なぜこれをする？
Why go to the trouble?

- 何でそこまで頑張る？
- なぜそれをI
- なぜそこまでASOCIAL
- なぜ那を
- "language"
From: Jim Hopkins
Subject: Re: Talferdrinda
Date: December 20, 2011 1:48:52 PM PST
To: Brih'tuhn
Cc: Tony Harris

In a message dated 12/20/2011 3:02:06 P.M. Eastern Standard Time, skladan@korsaya.org writes:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IreCHT02qNQ
Why go to the trouble?

TAN

“gift”
Why go to the trouble?

KATRA

“soul”
Why go to the trouble?

SOCHYA

“serenity”
Why go to the trouble?

TANGU

“ideal”
http://vimeo.com/sennition/lcc5

Click the link above to view video on Vimeo.
How?
1. Design/Sketch
2. Draw
3. Normalize
4. Outline
5. Map
6. Port
7. Align & Space
8. Kern
9. Generate

10. Install/Test
11. Kern some more
12. Create punctuation, etc.
13. Regenerate
14. Uninstall/Reinstall/Test
15. Fix/Kern more/Regenerate
16. Finalize version
17. Revisit & return to step 15
18. Make other versions
Design/Sketch
Draw in a way that generates vector-based artwork.
Draw in a way that generates vector-based artwork.

traced over a scanned image
Normalize

Make sure every symbol looks ‘related’ to the others.
Normalize  Make sure every symbol looks ‘related’ to the others.
Normalize Make sure every symbol looks ‘related’ to the others.
Outline

Simply put, fonts are outlines filled with black.
Outline

Cleaner paths early lead to fewer tears later.

Avoid point congestion & hyper-sharp angles
Figure this out in your font-building software.
All typefaces in system should be mapped the same way.
Map

\[ \text{if}[\text{shth}]\text{or}[\text{SHTH}] \text{>>> } \text{W} \]

(Requires careful coding skills & immaculate planning and organization.)

\text{“shth” “W” “w”}

(Requires patience when typing with the font.)
All symbols rendered as outlined artwork become ‘glyphs’.

“artwork” >>> a matter of semantics >>> “glyph”
Align & Space

All glyphs live in a 2D “cage”.

[Image of a drawing tool interface with a box containing a curved line, indicating that all glyphs live inside a 2D cage]
Align & Space

caps height

left side-bearing

glyph origin

descender

right side-bearing

baseline
Align & Space  Almost anything can function as a guide.
Almost anything can function as a guide.
Kerning  Discrete spacing relationships between pairs of glyphs.
Kerning  Discrete spacing relationships between pairs of glyphs.
Kerning  Discrete spacing relationships between pairs of glyphs.
Kerning  Uh’ Oooh!
Kerning  Uh’ Oooh!
Kerning leads back to the drawing board — LITERALLY.
Kerning leads back to the drawing board — LITERALLY.
Generate actual fonts

Outline Font Settings

Platform: Cross-platform (Mac, Windows, Unix)
Font Format: OpenType TT / Windows TrueType (ttf)
Glyph Names: Keep glyph names as they are

Saving Options

Save To: /Users/brtonmatkins/Documents/Tony - Algwing Masters/Shoyoso Masters/Version 1/Neat 1
Overwrite existing files

Cancel  Generate
Install in the same way you’d install any regular font on your PC.
Test in a wide variety of applications and behavioral situations.
<table>
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<th>Step</th>
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Other weights & styles
For your consideration

NALA

“division of labor”
1. Design/Sketch
2. Draw
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Why not collaborate with each other more?

Each to the best of her or his abilities.