

OpenType features of Handsome Pro

The Handsome Pro fonts have only one OpenType feature, but it is a significant one – a large selection of contextual alternates. Compare with Caflisch, Zapfino, Dear Sarah and Bickham Script.

For each Handsome Pro lower-case character, there are a variety of alternate glyphs. Which glyph will be set is determined by:

- **whether the character is at the beginning, interior, or end of a word**

By removing the redundant litter of “entry” strokes at the beginning of words, and “exit” strokes at the end, the set script assumes a more natural appearance, with greater legibility in longer settings due to the cleanliness of word-spaces. With this neatness, the setting is also more economical in character-count, in keeping with Handsome’s efficiency as a script with a relatively large x-height.

- **whether a “top” or “middle” join is required between characters**

This differentiation follows the practice of writing, providing a more subtle mimicry of written flow than a standard script font. In typography, the variety of letterforms improves legibility by lessening the matrix of repetitive angled upstroke joins from which the reader is required to extricate letterforms; not an easy task, as these upstrokes also appear within letters, most obviously m, n, and u. In Handsome Pro, when such characters are preceded by A, F, b, f, o, t, v, or w, the connection is horizontal, greatly improving recognition.

- **whether the character is doubled**

Alternate forms increase the natural appearance of scripts by lessening the mechanical repetition of identical glyphs. This is most obvious when a character is doubled, so for this circumstance Handsome Pro features alternate forms of the lower case, and figures.

scissors.

Plain: all the ‘s’s are identical, with entry and exit strokes.

scissors.

OpenType: each ‘s’ is different, and the ‘o’ and ‘r’ are top-connected.

First Prize!

Plain: unnecessary and rigid, entry and exit strokes appear at the beginning and end of the lower-case lettering.

First Prize!

OpenType: alternates create a smooth, natural appearance.

The mounting toll.

Plain: repetitive intrusion of joining strokes.

The mounting toll.

OpenType: alternates—closer to ‘reality’.