

# Web Typography you should do now

**Richard Rutter**, [Fontdeck.com](http://Fontdeck.com)

SxSW 2013 #webtype

Thanks for choosing typography as a way to end your first day.  
Has it stopped raining? I didn't come all the way back to Austin for British weather.  
So in the guide it says something about awe-inspiring typography which is a bit hyperbolic for my liking, so we're going with this.  
I'm going to show how you can make your web typography better with the tools we have today, and in particular discuss typography in the context of responsive design, which is all the rage.  
It's going to be a bit technical here and there, but you can just ignore that stuff if you want.

# Billboards

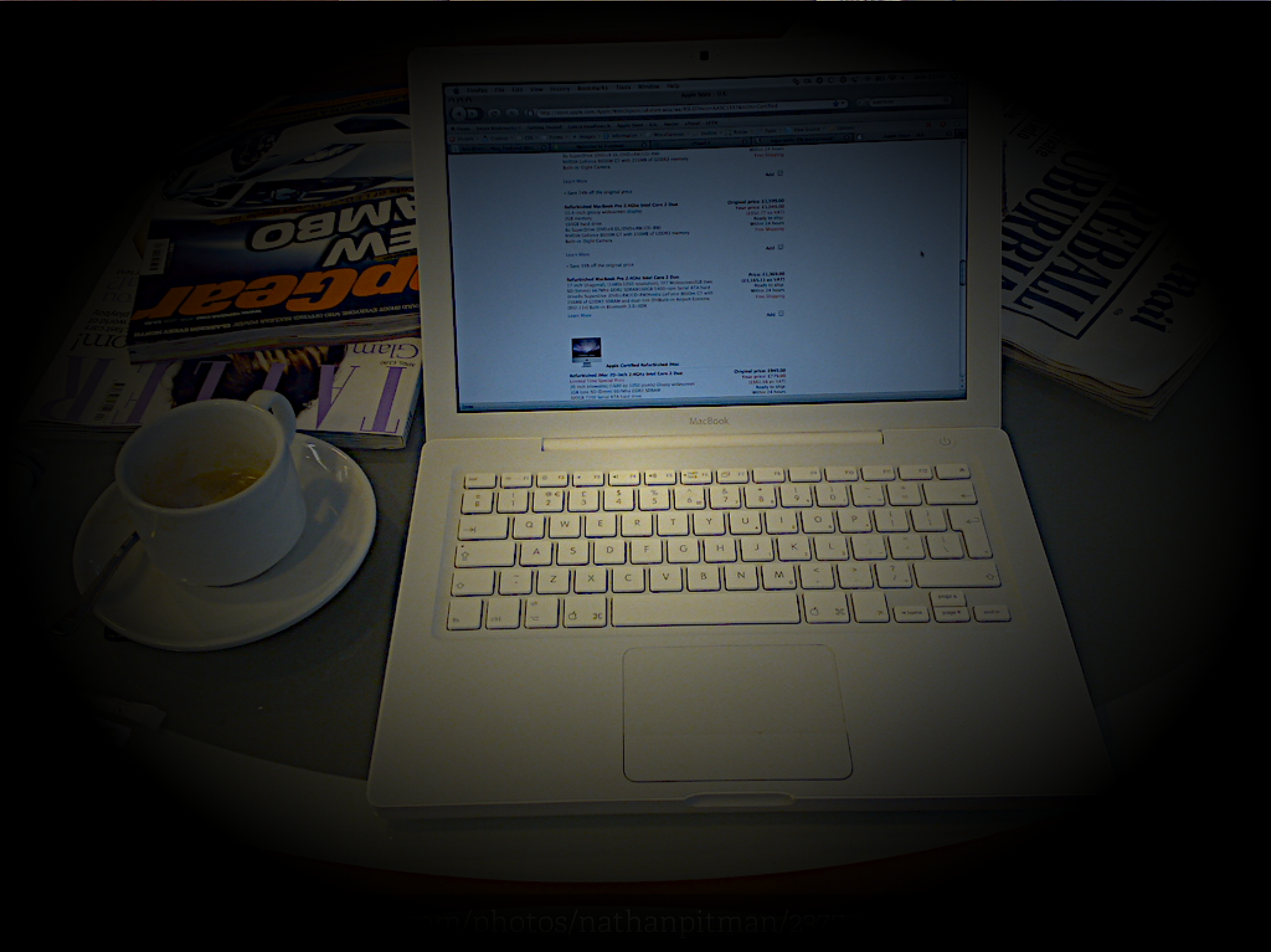
# Novels

Typography can be split into two. Billboards & Novels, to borrow from friend and designer Jon Tan.

# Impact

# Immersion

By immersion we mean reading.



Much of the web is about reading. Customer reviews, industry reports, social network updates, blog posts, newspapers, magazines, email.

So why would we not strive to make those reading experiences as good as possible?  
Achieve a flow state



## **The Aesthetics of Reading**

Kevin Larson (Microsoft) & Rosalind Picard (MIT)

Dr. Kevin Larson  
Microsoft Advanced Reading Technologies  
1 Microsoft Way  
Redmond, WA  
Phone: (425) 703-5204  
Fax: (425) 936-7329

**“There are important differences between good or poor typography that appear to have little effect on reading speed and comprehension.”**

Dr. Kevin Larson (Microsoft)  
and Dr. Rosalind W. Picard (MIT)

Science backs this up. Good typography doesn't improve speed or understanding.  
Disappointing.

BUT....!

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**“Good typography induces a good mood.”**

Dr. Kevin Larson (Microsoft)  
and Dr. Rosalind W. Picard (MIT)

# **Good typography**

*induces a*

# **good mood!**

Now we're talking. Science has shown that good typography can improve the user experience.

So let's talk about what good typography is. Here's some tips.



# THE BIG FOUR

---

AGATHA  
CHRISTIE

We'll start with novels. Text set for immersive reading.



# Responsive typography

Typography in a responsive design context





## Clearleft Device Lab

Typography in a responsive design context.  
Build once using modern CSS techniques to enable the design to adapt or 'respond' to its environment whether a smart phone, a 27" desktop or anywhere in between.



```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
<meta charset="utf-8" />
<title>Renegade Diving School</title>
<meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-
scale=1.0"/>
</head>

<body>
<div id="main">

<header>
<h1>Explore the oceans</h1>
<h2>Become a PADI diver</h2>
</header>

<section class="intro">
<p><strong>Learn to dive with our “Discover Scuba Diving” experiences
and PADI courses. For top quality tuition in warm crystal-clear seas,
come to us – Renegade Divers.</strong></p>
</section>

<section>
<p>Renegade Divers has been operating since 1998. We offer a range of
liveaboard PADI-registered diving holidays. Our main destination for
```

Let's start with some HTML. Standard stuff. Some headings, paragraphs, a table.  
Simple one page site for diving holidays which we'll be using as an example throughout.

I know in real life web sites are usually more complicated than this, but it doesn't really matter when it comes to typography.

clagnut.com/sandbox/sx 

Search

# Explore the oceans

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Renegade Divers has been operating since 1998. We offer a range of liveaboard PADI-registered diving holidays. Our main destination for PADI training is the Red Sea. We also offer the best Maldives

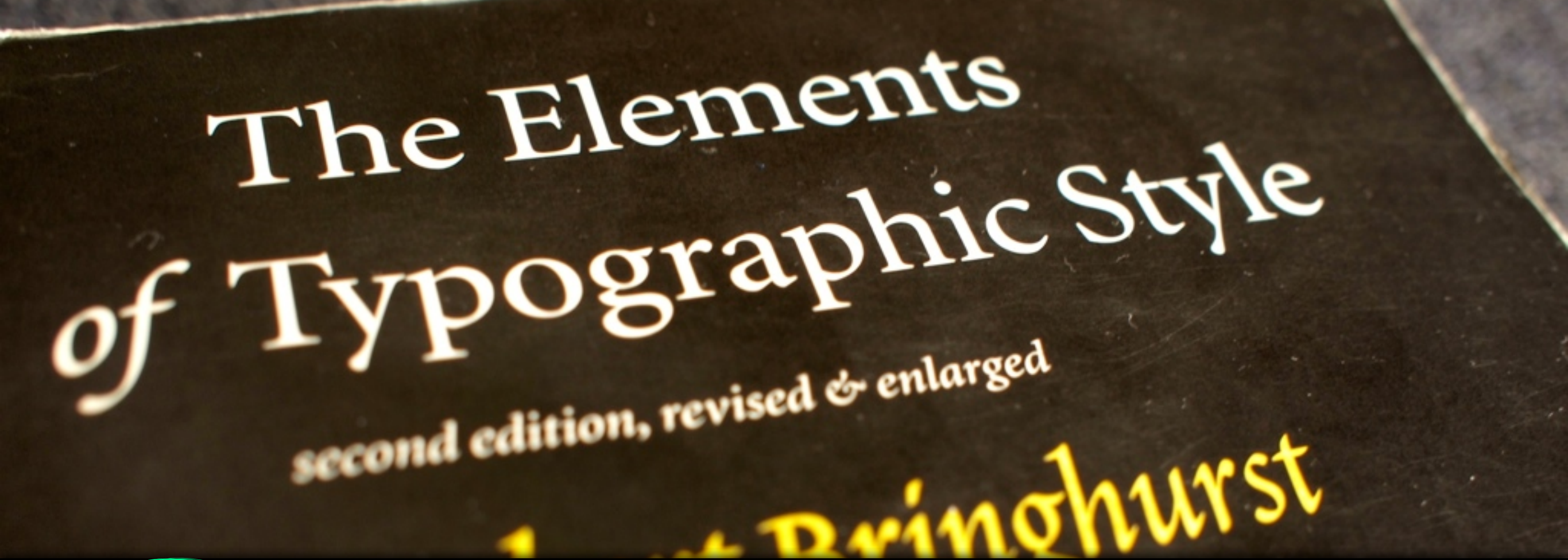


Without any styling added this is what the browser comes up with on an iPhone 4 in Mobile Safari.

Actually all perfectly reasonable and readable, if dull.







“45 to 75 characters is widely regarded as a satisfactory length of line for a single-column page.”

Robert Bringhurst in *The Elements of Typographic Style* (Hartley & Marks, 1999)

This quote from Bringhurst is a simple observation and holds true even when the page we're talking about is a web page.

The important thing about this quote is that it talks about a range.

This line has sixty six characters, counting both letters and spaces.  
It is about 32 ems long and suitable for long-form reading with text  
set in paragraphs. On average 1 em accounts for two characters, so a  
satisfactory line length (also known as the measure) is 22 to 38 ems.

|   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| M |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | M |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | M |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | M |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|

1 em equals 2 characters.

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Renegade Divers has been operating since 1998. We offer a range of liveaboard PADI-registered diving holidays. Our main destination for PADI training is the Red Sea. We also offer the best Maldives liveaboards and other leading dive vessels in the Indian Ocean, Indonesia and the Galapagos Islands.



With that in mind, let's concentrate on the paragraph. It's where most of the reading is done. Here it is on our phone using the browser defaults again. We can see the lines are about 42 characters long and for my 40 year old eyes, that's comfortable reading size.

So let's not touch the defaults line length or font size in our CSS. But...





[twitter.com/jontangerine/status/298722082957705216](https://twitter.com/jontangerine/status/298722082957705216)

Although as we can see here, some people need their text much bigger.



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Here we see the line length is 135 characters on the larger screen. So we need to shorten those lines... And this is where responsive design techniques come in.

# Typical media query

```
@media only screen and (min-width: 480px) {  
  <!-- styles for larger screens here -->  
}
```

In your CSS apply rules only when the media criteria is met, in this case the device must have a screen at least 480px wide for the style to be applied, otherwise they are ignored.

This bit is usually called a break point. It is where styles are added because otherwise the design breaks. Let's think about how and where the design of the paragraph is breaking.





Line length is fine until displayed on a screen wider than the equivalent of 38em, at which point it's too wide for comfortable reading – the design breaks. At that point we apply padding to reduce it back down to the minimum end of the range.

Then on larger screens the percentage padding allows the line length to be proportionally longer.



# Media queries

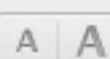
```
@media only screen and (min-width: 38em) {  
  
  #main {  
    padding-left: 21%;  
    padding-right: 21%;  
  }  
  
}
```

So for screens greater than 38ems wide, add padding. Note ems means layout is completely device independent – not saying on an iPad to this, on a Chromebook do that. Also takes into account when people adjust default font size.

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sxsw2013.dev



Reader

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# Hyphenation

```
p, table {  
  -moz-hyphens:auto;  
  -ms-hyphens:auto;  
  -o-hyphens:auto;  
  -webkit-hyphens:auto;  
  hyphens:auto;  
}
```

Another enhancement. Can add hyphenation.

# Hyphenation

```
p, table {  
  hyphens:auto;  
}
```

```
@media only screen and (min-width: 38em) {  
  p, table {  
    hyphens:none;  
  }  
}
```

You might want to remove hyphens from wider screens.



# Columns

```
@media only screen and (min-width: 66em) {  
    column-count: 2;  
    column-gap: 1.5em;  
}
```

For screens where the main paragraphs are wider than 38em, use columns.

# Explore the ocean

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### Liveaboard dive trips

| Depart   | Duration | Double Cabin | Twin cabin | Boat       |
|----------|----------|--------------|------------|------------|
| 28/10/13 | 5 nights | £852         | £550       | Reefmaster |
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Here’s a wide screen showing two columns.  
Be careful with columns – must be short due to scrolling effect.

# Type size

Type is sized initially for reading. I would argue nowadays you should stick to the default 16px. Certainly no smaller. You may wish to bump up depending on the font.

So why do you have type at different sizes? Really big type for impact, but otherwise to indicate heirarchy. For that you need a type size scale.

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Here are the defaults in Mobile Safari. Fair to say there's reasonable contrast between paragraphs and headings to indicate hierarchy.



32 24 19 16 13

iOS scale

36 24 18 16 14

Classical (diatonic) scale

68 42 26 16 10

Golden ratio scale

There are other scales. Here's just a few. Pick what works for you and stick to it. Note some scales have bigger steps than others. For small devices, use small gaps. For bigger screens, bigger gaps can work.

# Modular Scale

px *Ideal text size*

px *Important number*

2:3 – perfect fifth



Submit Query

Tim Brown · [@nicewebtype](#)

Introduced at [Build 2010](#) (video)

Read [More Meaningful Typography](#)

Read [Composing the New Canon](#)

“A modular scale is a sequence of numbers that relate to one another in a meaningful way.”

Tim Brown, *More Meaningful Typography*

<http://modularscale.com/>

Tim Brown's modular scales



# Line height

```
h1 {  
  font-size: 36px;  
  line-height: 1;  
}  
  
h2 {  
  font-size: 24px;  
  line-height: 1;  
}  
  
.intro p, h3 {  
  font-size: 18px;  
  line-height: 1.333;  
}  
  
p, table {  
  font-size: 16px;  
  line-height: 1.5;  
}
```

```
@media only screen and  
(min-width: 38em) {
```

```
h1 {  
  font-size: 68px;  
  line-height: 1;  
}  
  
h2 {  
  font-size: 42px;  
  line-height: 1;  
}  
  
.intro p, h3 {  
  font-size: 26px;  
  line-height: 1.231;  
}  
  
p, table {  
  font-size: 16px;  
  line-height: 1.5;  
}  
  
}
```

Tweak line heights. Bigger text needs less line-height.  
Also tweaked margins.

# Reset

```
h1, h2, h3, h4, h5, h6, p, ol, ul, li, dl,  
dt, dd, blockquote, address {  
    margin: 0;  
    padding: 0;  
}
```

Get rid of the browser defaults. For a start they are different.  
This way you know you're in control.



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### Liveaboard dive trips

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# PROTOTYPING RESPONSIVE TYPOGRAPHY

Posted on 25 Feb 2013

**“A typography prototype includes font choices, styles for the basic text content and a typographic scale, but nothing else.”**

Viljami Salminen, *Prototyping Responsive Typography*

<http://viljamis.com/blog/2013/prototyping-responsive-typography/>

What we're building is what Viljami Salminen recently described as a typography prototype.

# Microtypography



|     |                      |
|-----|----------------------|
| “   | opening double quote |
| ”   | closing double quote |
| ‘   | opening single quote |
| ’   | closing single quote |
| —   | en dash              |
| —   | em dash              |
| —   | minus                |
| ×   | multiplication       |
| ... | ellipsis             |

Characters to watch out for.

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### Liveaboard dive trips

We’re already doing some things right. Quotes and a proper en dash.  
But we’ve got some other bits to attend to. PADI acronyms and the 1998.

**Enric Jardí**  
**Twenty-two tips on typography**  
**(that some designers will never reveal)**

This is a recipe book, a book that will tell you what works in typography and what you should do with letters. You are familiar with the world of design, studied at a school, or collaborate with regular basis, you will know others you have had, and you will know the

**“Treat numbers as letters to make sure they do not stand out.”**

Enric Jardí, *Twenty-Two Tips on Typography* (Actar, 2007)

|              | Lining  | Old Style |
|--------------|---------|-----------|
| Proportional | 409,280 | 409,280   |
|              | 367,112 | 367,112   |
|              | 155,068 | 155,068   |
|              | 171,792 | 171,792   |
| Tabular      | 409,280 | 409,280   |
|              | 367,112 | 367,112   |
|              | 155,068 | 155,068   |
|              | 171,792 | 171,792   |

Numbers come in three forms. Lining (capitals) old style (lower case) tabular (monospaced).

So when Jordi is saying stop numbers standing out, he means use old style figures.

Designed in modern professional fonts and built right into the font file using OpenType.  
With CSS 3 we can access those OpenType features.



```
p {  
    font-variant-numeric: oldstyle-nums proportional-nums;  
}
```

Support for font-feature-settings is IE10, Firefox, Webkit/Win

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## Liveaboard dive trips

| Depart   | Duration | Double Cabin | Twin cabin | Boat     |
|----------|----------|--------------|------------|----------|
| 08/10/19 | 5 nights | €250         | €550       | Seaquest |

Had to change typeface. Helvetica doesn't have old-style numerals. Now using Source Sans Pro (free open source font) which is fully loaded with OpenType features, as we'll see.

Proportional old-style in paragraph.

```
table {  
    font-feature-settings: "lnum" 1, "tnum" 1;  
}
```

humpback whale. Feel the adrenaline rush as you glide through a throng of a thousand blackfin barracuda, or enjoy the tranquillity and peace whilst floating through secluded underwater coral gardens.

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Proportional old-style goes to lining tabular.



```
<acronym class="c2sc">PADI</acronym>
```

```
.c2sc {  
    font-feature-settings: "c2sc" 1;  
}
```

Let's deal with those pesky PADI acronyms.

c2sc = capitals to small caps.

Uses real small caps. No small caps are preferable to fake small caps.

**Become a PADI diver**

**Become a PADI diver**

Top is faked small caps. Bottom is real. Relatively subtle, but the characters are slightly squatter (wider) and the stroke is thicker to match the text around it.

## CHAPTER 22

WHEN WALLANDER GOT back to the hotel, there was a message for him from Robert Melander. He went up to his room and dialled the number. Melander's wife answered. Wallander introduced himself, careful to thank her for the nice lunch she had prepared the day before. Melander came to the phone.

"I couldn't help thinking about things some more last night," he said. "I called the old postman too

Every chapter opens with fake, spindly small caps.



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And here we are with our non-shouting acronyms. Don't have to do this. Matter of style. You might prefer to keep full caps in headings, particularly if you are using Title Case.



# Choosing fonts



**“Even if people are not consciously aware of the type they’re reading, they’ll certainly be effected by it.”**

Tobias Frere-Jones, *Helvetica* (dir. Gary Huswitt, 2007).

There are no rules, just good decisions.

1. Does the font have the character set your text requires?
2. Does it have enough useful weights and styles?
3. Does it have the features you need?
4. *Does it 'say' what the text is saying?*

Make a shortlist based on practical criteria.



PADI training is the Red Sea. We also offer the best Maldives liveaboards and other leading dive vessels in the Indian Ocean, Indonesia and the Galapagos Islands.

Siri Core Regular

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Runda Normal

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Classico Medium

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FS Me Web Regular

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training is the Red Sea. We also offer the best Maldives liveaboards and other leading dive vessels in the Indian Ocean, Indonesia and the Galapagos Islands.

Din Text Pro Regular

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LFT Etica Book

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Shaker Regular

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Akagi Medium

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Make a tester to compare side by side. Start with a paragraph.



**FONT  
DECK**

# blog



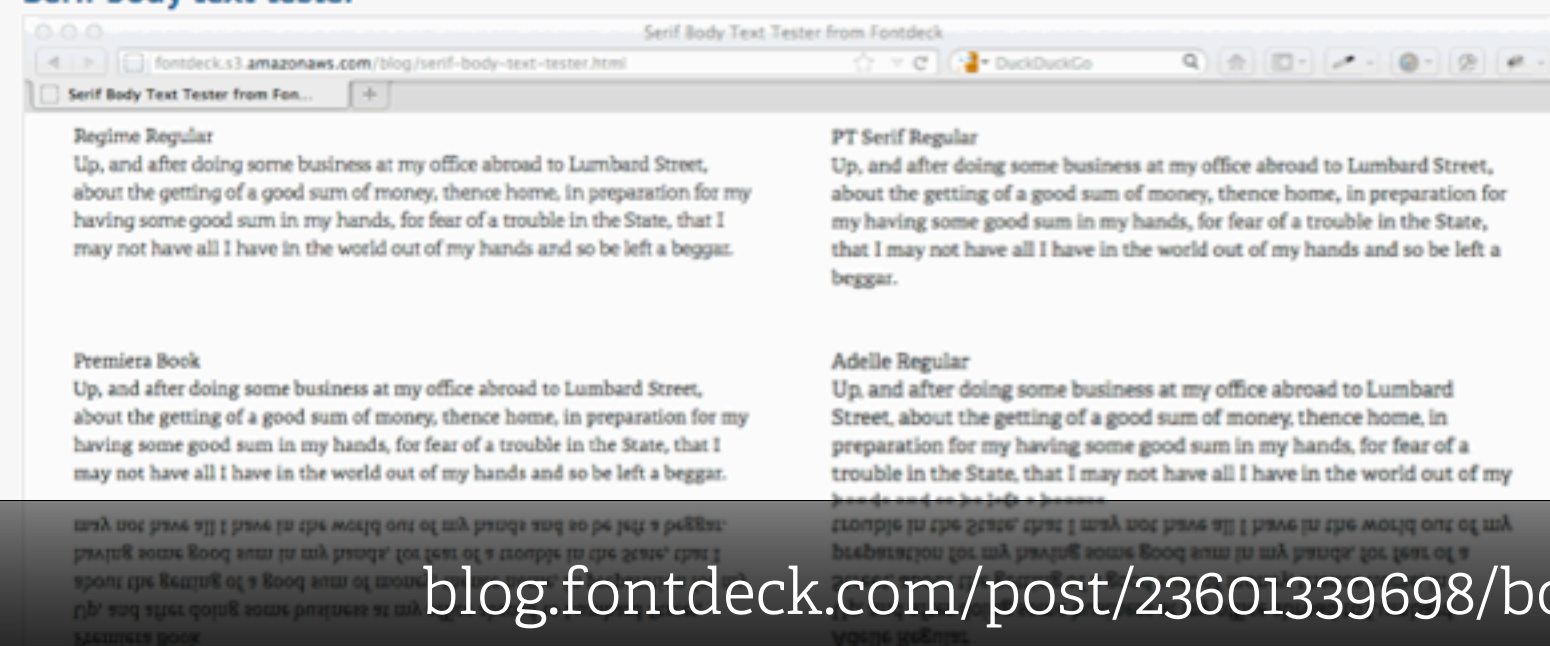
## Introducing a Body Text Tester

Inspired by [Jason Santa Maria's terrific talk](#) at last year's [Ampersand web typography conference](#), our own [Richard Rutter](#) created a simple body text tester.

In his presentation, Jason talked about the art and science of choosing a typeface for body text. Part of his methodology is to create a specimen containing an array of candidate fonts. The body text tester Richard created automates that process by dynamically creating a page based on any Fontdeck website.

Here's a couple of examples featuring some of our favourite fonts:

### Serif body text tester



**Fontdeck** is the professional webfonts solution. Preview fonts on your website for free and only pay for the fonts you need. This is our official blog.

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[blog.fontdeck.com/post/23601339698/body-text-tester](http://blog.fontdeck.com/post/23601339698/body-text-tester)

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Then plug into your prototype.  
LFT Etica



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**Liveaboard dive trips**

| Depart   | Duration | Double Cabin | Twin cabin | Boat       |
|----------|----------|--------------|------------|------------|
| 28/10/12 | 5 nights | £852         | £550       | Reefmaster |
| 05/11/12 | 2 nights | £735         | £450       | La Riviera |
| 08/11/12 | 5 nights | £852         | £550       | Reefmaster |
| 14/11/12 | 2 nights | £735         | £450       | La Riviera |

[Book a course online and save 20%](#)

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**Liveaboard dive trips**

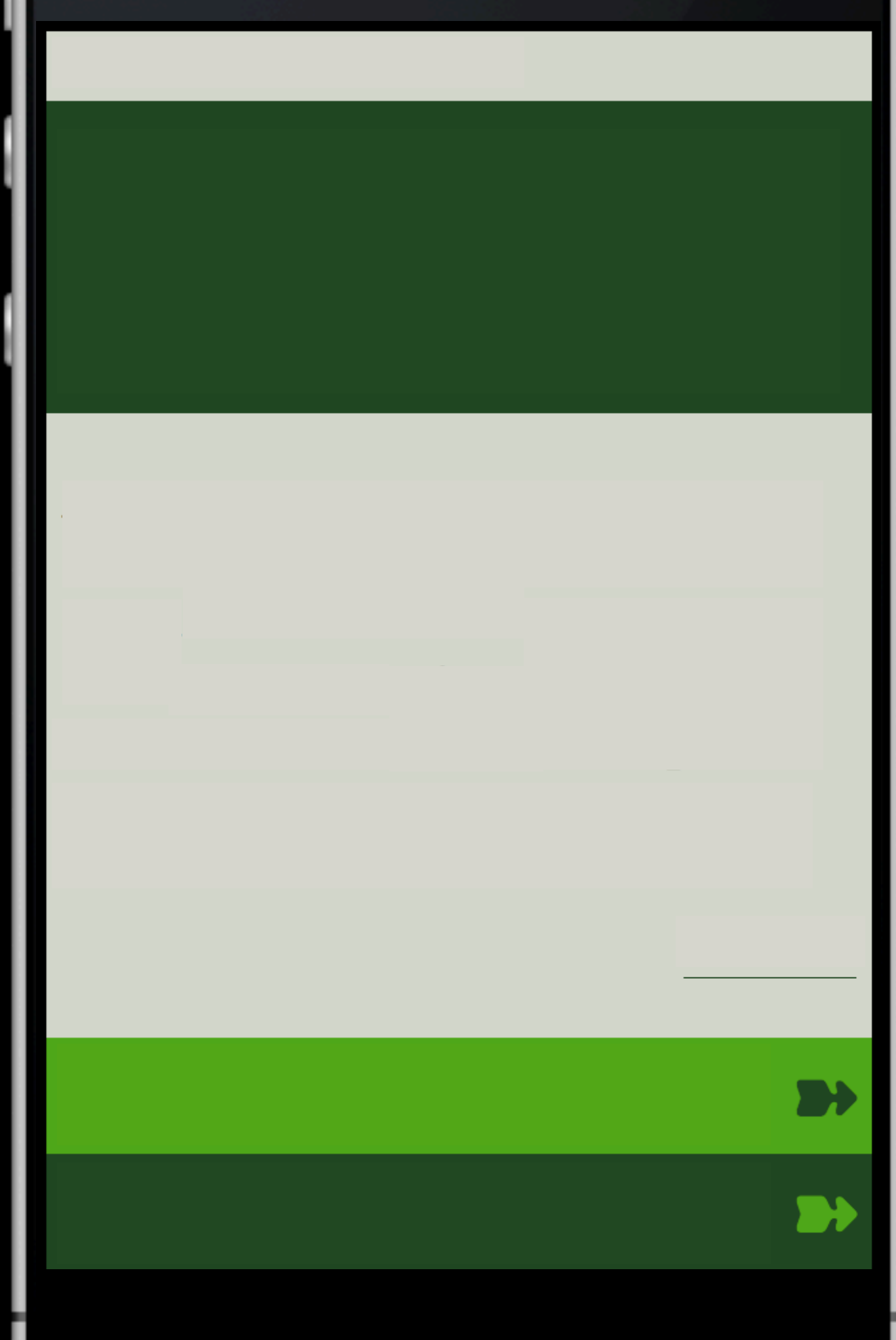
| Depart   | Duration | Double Cabin | Twin cabin | Boat       |
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| 14/11/12 | 2 nights | £735         | £450       | La Riviera |

[Book a course online and save 20%](#)

This is what I’m going with. Shaker by Jeremy Tankard. It’s got the OpenType features. The bold is quite light. There’s a simplicity but a friendly character to it.

# **On loading web fonts**

A rather technical interlude



Who has had this experience? Loading in several web fonts over a slow connection can be... slow. The browser lays out the page but doesn't display text until the web font loads.

1. *Default:* text appears as each web font loads
2. Don't send web fonts to small screens
3. Show text in the fallback fonts until all the web fonts load
4. Swap out the fallback font as each web font loads

You have some choices.



```
@font-face {  
    font-family: "Clarendon";  
    src: url("clarendon-nar-eb.woff");  
}
```

This is what it looks like. So-called @font-face rules.  
Give your font a name, and link to the font file on the server

# Stopping web fonts downloading to small screens

```
<link  
  href="webfonts.css"  
  rel="stylesheet"  
  media="all and (min-width: 569px)"  
>
```

There's lots of ways to do this. This way assumes that webfonts.css contains your @font-face rules, as if you were using Fontdeck or another webfont service.

# Show text in the fallback font until all the web fonts load

```
<script>  
// WebFont Loader  
// http://goo.gl/zT2YJ  
</script>
```

Javascript solution. Uses Webfont Loader. Loads all the fonts.  
Can use it with any web font service, including Google webfonts or Fontdeck and it comes built into Typekit. Also with self-hosted.

# WebFont Loader

```
<script type="text/javascript">  
WebFontConfig = { fontdeck: { id: '11761' } };  
  
(function() {  
  var wf = document.createElement('script');  
  wf.src = ('https:' == document.location.protocol ? 'https' :  
'http') +  
    '://ajax.googleapis.com/ajax/libs/webfont/1/webfont.js';  
  wf.type = 'text/javascript';  
  wf.async = 'true';  
  var s = document.getElementsByTagName('script')[0];  
  s.parentNode.insertBefore(wf, s);  
})();  
</script>
```

Looks like this. But that's not important right now – it's just a cut a paste and job.



# WebFont Loader

```
<html class="wf-loading">
```

```
.wf-loading // When the fonts start to load
```

```
.wf-active // All fonts have loaded (or some timed out)
```

```
.wf-inactive // If all the fonts failed to load
```

Sets classes according to status of fonts

# Swap out fallbacks when all web fonts have loaded

```
p {  
  font-family: serif;  
}  
  
.wf-active p {  
  font-family: 'Abril Text', serif;  
}
```

Swap out fallback fonts for webfonts once all webfonts have loaded.  
Have to do it everywhere you're specifying a webfont.

# Tablet Gothic Condensed Xbold

Abril Text Regular. Feuisi litora aute  
adiam aliquam vullam olenit ullan,  
etiam **Abril Text Bold** ullan. Olenit  
etiam am acilit quismod Senectus  
*Abril Text Italic* feugia. Met uptatem  
lobortio sapien coreet olenit. Eenis  
tatisit erciduis dolendi loboreet.

continue

Dolessed enis tatisit



Erciduis dolendi loboreet



# Swap out fallbacks as each webfont loads

```
<html class="wf-loading wf-abriltext-n4-active">
```

```
p {  
  font-family: serif;  
}  
  
.wf-abriltext-n4-active p {  
  font-family: 'Abril Text', serif;  
}
```

Webfont loader also tells you statuses of each individual font



# Tablet Gothic Condensed Xbold

Abril Text Regular. Feuisi litora aute  
adiam aliquam vullam olenit ullan,  
etiam **Abril Text Bold** ullan. Olenit  
etiam am acilit quismod Senectus  
*Abril Text Italic* feugia. Met uptatem  
lobortio sapien coreet olenit. Eenis  
tatisit erciduis dolendi loboreet.

continue

Dolessed enis tatisit



Erciduis dolendi loboreet



# Only use WebFont Loader on larger screens

```
<script>  
if (window.innerWidth>548) {  
  // WebFont Loader  
  // http://goo.gl/zT2YJ  
}  
</script>
```

Do a check for screen size.

**2013** Tablet Gothic Narrow

# Tablet Gothic Condensed Xbold

Abril Text Regular. Feuisi litora aute  
adiam aliquam vullam olenit ullan,  
etiam **Abril Text Bold** ullan. Olenit  
etiam am acilit quismod Senectus  
*Abril Text Italic* feugia. Met uptatem  
lobortio sapien coreet olenit. Eenis  
tatisit erciduis dolendi loboreet.

**continue**

Dolessed enis tatisit



Erciduis dolendi loboreet



Let's look at the fallbacks again.

**Fallback fonts**

**Main Heading Set in the Webfont**

**Main Heading Set in the Fallback**

**Tablet Gothic Condensed Extra Bold**  
**Helvetica Neue Condensed Black**

The changes weren't that big, even the main headline font.



# Tweak fallback metrics to match webfont

```
h1 {  
  font-family: 'HelveticaNeue-CondensedBlack', sans-serif;  
  font-weight: 800;  
  font-size: 86px;  
  line-height: 1.01;  
}  
  
.wf-tabletgothiccondensed-active h1 {  
  font-family: 'Tablet Gothic Condensed',  
               'HelveticaNeue-CondensedBlack', sans-serif;  
  font-size: 96px;  
  line-height: 0.9;  
}
```

Can use webloader classes not just to change fonts but to tweak sizes to match more closely.

# Fallback fonts – iOS 6.1

American Typewriter

Arial

Avenir

Avenir Next

Avenir Next Condensed

Baskerville

Bodoni 72

Bradley Hand

Chalkboard SE

Chalkduster

Cochin

Helvetica

Helvetica Neue

Hoefler Text

Marion

**Marker Felt**

Noteworthy

Optima

Palatino

Papyrus

*Party LET*

*Snell Roundhand*

*Times New Roman*

Lots of fonts come with iOS, even more with iOS 6. These are just the Latin ones.

But iPhones aren't the only smartphones.

2013 Tablet Gothic Narrow

# Tablet Gothic Condensed Xbold

Abril Text Regular. Feuisi litora aute  
adiam aliquam vullam olenit ullan,  
etiam **Abril Text Bold** ullan. Olenit  
etiam am acilit quismod Senectus  
*Abril Text Italic* feugia. Met uptatem  
lobortio sapien coreet olenit. Eenis  
tatisit erciduis dolendi loboreet.

continue

Dolessed enis tatisit



Windows.  
We have a problem with heading in particular.

**Fallback fonts**

**Main Heading Set in the Webfont**

**Main Heading Set in the Fallback**

**Tablet Gothic Condensed Extra Bold**

**Segoe UI Bold**

The best we could do is fall back to Segoe UI Bold.



# Fallback fonts – Win Phone 7

Arial

**Arial Black**

Calibri

Cambria

Comic Sans MS

Candara

Consolas

Constantia

Corbel

Courier New

Georgia

Lucida Grande

Lucida Sans Unicode

Segoe UI

Tahoma

Times New Roman

Trebuchet MS

Verdana

These are the fonts that ship with Windows Phone 7.

Decent selection but nothing narrow or condensed, not even Arial Narrow.

2013 Tablet Gothic Narrow

# Tablet Gothic Condensed Xbold

Abril Text Regular. Feuisi litora  
aute adiam aliquam vullam olenit  
ullan, etiam **Abril Text Bold** ullan.  
Olenit etiam am acilit quismod  
Senectus *Abril Text Italic* feugia.  
Met uptatem lobortio sapien coreet  
olenit. Eenis tatisit erciduis dolendi  
loboreet.

continue

Dolessed enis tatisit

The Android fallback.  
Of course on Android phones there's even less choice.

# Fallback fonts – Android 4

Droid Sans

Droid Sans Mono

Droid Serif

Roboto

Most just ship with the three flavours of Droid.  
Android 4 comes with Roboto (designed for high res screens).

# Font stack

```
.wf-active h1 {  
  font-family:  
    'Tablet Gothic Condensed',  
    'HelveticaNeue-CondensedBlack',  
    'Helvetica Neue',  
    'Segoe UI',  
    'Roboto',  
    sans-serif;  
  font-weight:800;  
  font-stretch:condensed;  
}
```

Here a potential font stack including fallbacks for iOS, WP7 and Android 4.  
No need to include Droid Sans (ever).

1. *Default:* text appears as each web font loads
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4. Swap out the fallback font as each web font loads

Here are your choices again.





We've done novels. Now to finish off with billboards.  
They're all about gut feeling. Being careful to not say the wrong thing with the typeface.



“Choose faces that can furnish whatever special effects you require.”

“Choose faces whose individual spirit and character is in keeping with the text.”

“Start with a single typographic family.”

“Choose your library of faces slowly and well.”

Robert Bringhurst in *The Elements of Typographic Style* (Hartley & Marks, 1999)

Our friend Mr Bringhurst has some useful advice on the matter, especially when it comes to pairing fonts.



# Shaker



BUY FONT

Please click [here](#) for information about buying fonts from this site.

These are the **Shaker 2** fonts. For more information please view the PDF at the bottom of this page.

## About Shaker

Beyond the infamous oval box, the Shakers' intelligent approach to the creation of useful objects was one of simplicity and practicality. Their culture resulted not only in a now famous furniture style, but many other things that we take for granted. The metal pen nib, the flat broom, the circular saw and a method for waterproofing cloth are a few of their innovations. The Shaker typeface pays homage to the fullness of their vision.

[Shaker sketchbook](#)  
[open/close]

The difficulty presented by a sans serif design is how to evenly distribute the detailing which will give the font its overall character or personality. No one letter should carry all the style, conversely too much style added throughout will result in a poor text type. Shaker began as a compliment to the **Enigma** typeface. As such it needed to carry enough visual reference to Enigma to convey a family likeness. Early stages of the design involved pursuing ideas tentatively explored in Enigma, such as the inclusion of definite cuts to the inside of several curved letterforms. However, some features of Enigma proved to be too exaggerated for Shaker such

Fonts

Try it out

Sample

Light Condensed



*Light Condensed Italic*



Condensed



*Condensed Italic*



**Bold Condensed**



***Bold Condensed Italic***



**ExtraBold Condensed**



***ExtraBold Condensed Italic***



**Heavy Condensed**



***Heavy Condensed Italic***



Considering a single typographic family.  
Shaker has three widths and five weights. So there could be possibilities there.

# **Karmina Sans**

Pairs nicely with Karmina Serif

# ***Abril Display***

Is designed to sit with Abril Text

# **Tablet Gothic Compressed**

Also works rather well with Abril Text

Choose a super family in the first place, eg. Karmina or Abril.

Choose fonts designed to go together, or choose fonts that are significantly different. The trick is for them to be different in a complimentary manner rather than jarringly so.

Gut feeling.

Look to help from the foundry.



by series or  
r font!).

options

↩

5 ▼ Black on white ▼ Reset

ox jumps over the lazy dog

PURCHASE OPTIONS ➔

ox jumps over the lazy dog


type-together.com

N2 /5 5/ EXT O

RELATED PRODUCTS

Abril

TYPE IN USE



TYPO-MATCHING

Abril is a great match for Tablet Gothic. Both fonts share the same vertical stress, large x-height and mechanic feel.

Faktura

igging, saucy, emporial a n



# Explore the oceans

## Become a PADI diver

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### Liveaboard dive trips

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|----------|----------|--------------|------------|------------|
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Where we left off.

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Want to set the headings in something more attention grabbing.  
Means pairing a different font with the one we're using.





# Jeremy Tankard

Sample Text: Sort by: **Bliss** (14 styles)

Why pangolins dream of quiche

**The Shire Types** (6 styles)

**WHY PANGOLINS DREAM OF QUICHE**

**Enigma** (4 styles)

Why pangolins dream of quiche

**Aspect** (5 styles)

Why pangolins dream of quiche

**Bliss Cyrillic** (14 styles)

## About Jeremy Tankard

Since graduating at the Royal College of Art Jeremy has gained a worldwide reputation for the high quality and unique designs of his typefaces. He initially worked with major consultancies, advising and creating typography for some of the best known international brand names.

When Jeremy Tankard Typography was created in 1998, the idea was to design new typefaces and offer a service for typographic design to suit clients own requirements.

From the outset the aim of the company was to create, manufacture and retail high quality digital type, whilst always keeping in touch with current standards and techniques.

The typeface collection from JTT includes many internationally recognised typefaces, which are being used around the world for a variety of editorial, publishing and corporate related work. In addition to the standard collection, some companies are benefiting from specially commissioned typefaces.

Jeremy is a member of the Wynkyn de Worde Society, iSTD and Letter Exchange and has lectured on typography and given workshops at a number of

You can also look to fonts from the same designer.



# Trilogy Fatface Regular

Sample Text: Why do pangolins dream of quiche ▼



72 ***Trilogy Fatface  
Regular***

48 ***Up, and after doing  
some busi***

36 ***Up, and after doing some  
business at my office abroad to  
Lumbard Street, about the  
getting of a good s...***

## Trilogy Fatface Regular web font

Fontdeck enables you to use Trilogy Fatface Regular as real text on your website, using CSS. Try it for free, pay only \$18.75 per year when you are ready to go live.

Try Trilogy Fatface Regular for FREE

## About this font

FONT FAMILY Trilogy Fatface

CLASSIFICATION ☒ Serif » Didone  
☒ Display » Serif  
☒ Display » Fat Face

FOUNDRY Jeremy Tankard Typography

DESIGNER Jeremy Tankard

OPENTYPE c2sc, frac, liga, lnum, onum, smcp, swsh

SUPERFAMILY Trilogy, Trilogy Fatface

TAGS decorative victorian

19th century script

Going to pick Trilogy Fatface for our purposes.  
It's a 20th century font but influence is from 19th century like Shaker.  
History not relative to our holidays, but it's energetic, somewhat languid. And has some really nice features as we'll see.



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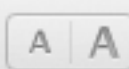
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```
Explor<span class="swsh">e</span>
```

```
.swsh {  
    font-feature-settings: "swsh" 1;  
}
```

Another OpenType feature. Swashes.



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### *Liveaboard dive trips*

There they are. Looking like little waves.



# Trilogy Fatface Expert Subset Regular

Sample Text: Why do pangolins dream of quiche ▼



96 *Trilogy  
Fatface  
Expert  
Subset  
Regular*

## Trilogy Fatface Expert Subset Regular web font

Fontdeck enables you to use Trilogy Fatface Expert Subset Regular as real text on your website, using CSS. Try it for free, pay only \$3.50 per year when you are ready to go live.

Try Trilogy Fatface Expert Subset Regular for  
FREE

### About this font

FONT FAMILY Trilogy Fatface Expert Subset

CLASSIFICATION ☒ Display » Fat Face

FOUNDRY Jeremy Tankard Typography

DESIGNER Jeremy Tankard

EXPERT SUBSET onum, swsh

SUPERFAMILY Trilogy, Trilogy Fatface

TAGS ☒ super family ☒ expert subset

Designed for use with Trilogy Fatface, this special subset includes only old-style numerals and swashes.

includes only old-style numerals and swashes.

Designed for use with Trilogy Fatface, this special subset

includes only old-style numerals and swashes.

fontdeck.com/font/trilogyfatfaceexpertsubset/regular

Swashes don't work in Safari, but there's a potential solution.  
Special expert subsets – tiny fonts which just contain the opentype features.



```
Explor<span class="swsh">e</span>
```

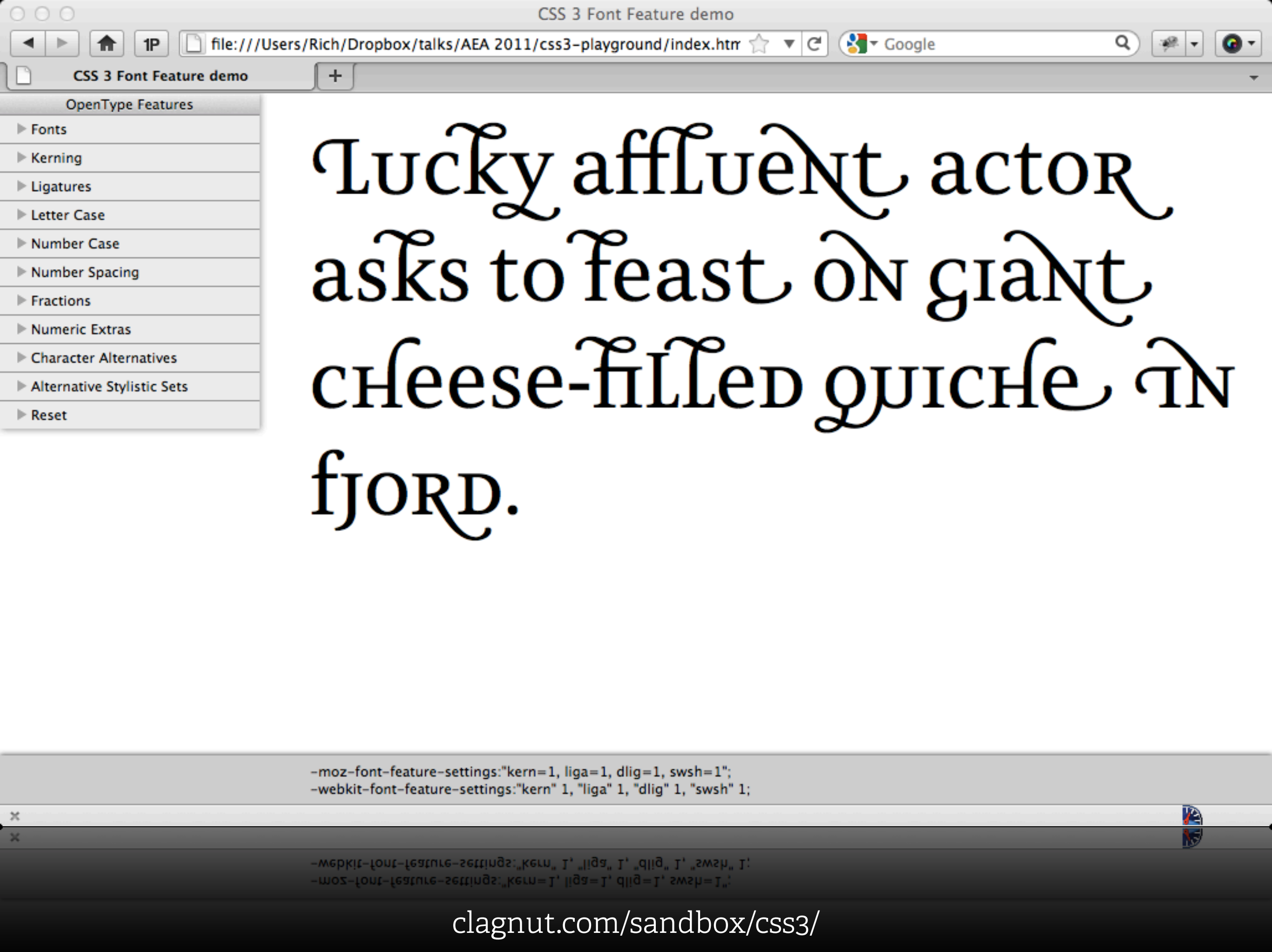
```
.swsh {  
    font-family: "TrilogFatfacExperSubseRegula",  
    "Trilogy Fatface Regular", Georgia, serif;  
    font-feature-settings: "swsh" 1;  
}
```

Add in the new font family to the rule, remembering to fall back to the regular font.

# Values for font-variant-alternates mapped to OpenType features

|                          |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| stylistic(n)             | <i>salt n</i>     |
| contextual               | <i>calt, clig</i> |
| no-contextual            | <i>calt, clig</i> |
| historical-forms         | <i>hist</i>       |
| styleset(01–20)          | <i>ss01–ss02</i>  |
| character-variant(01–99) | <i>cv01–cv99</i>  |
| swash(n)                 | <i>swsh n</i>     |
| contextual-swash(n)      | <i>cswh n</i>     |
| ornaments(n)             | <i>ornm n</i>     |
| annotation(n)            | <i>nalt n</i>     |

Lots of values paired with pre-defined OpenType features



OpenType features demo.

# *Explore the ocean*

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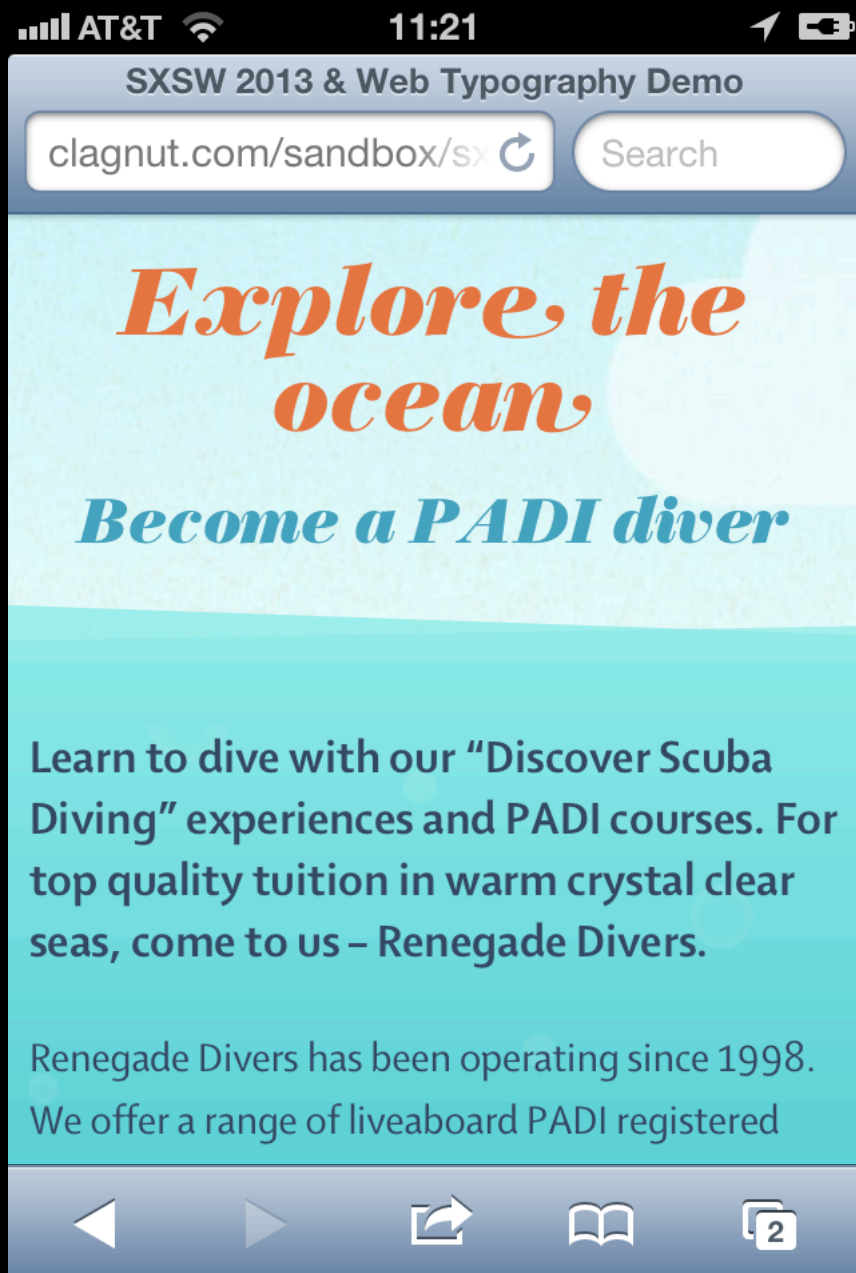
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### *Liveaboard dive trips*

So here's the final thing.  
We talked about starting with the paragraph and choosing a measure which adapts.  
Choosing a scale and sticking to it.  
Creating a prototype to test the typography with different fonts.  
Sweating the small details.  
Pairing fonts.





**Richard Rutter**, Fontdeck.com  
@clagnut

**Rate:** [sxsw.tv/cm9](http://sxsw.tv/cm9)

**Slides:** [webtypography.net/talks/sxsw13/](http://webtypography.net/talks/sxsw13/)

Richard Rutter is cofounder of Fontdeck.com, the professional webfont service.

I thank you.