

Sirba

A text typeface for use in complex text environments by *Nicolien van der Keur*.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M

N O P Q R S T U V W X Y

Z Æ Œ Þ Ø Th 

SIRBA REGULAR, 60/78pt

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p

q r s t u v w x y z ß fl'æąkł

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O

P Q R S T U V W X Y Z & § 3 0 €

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€ £ \$ ¥ 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 ³/₅

‰ 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 €^{0 2 6 9}

calligraphically based structure, low contrast, open counters, comfortable x-height, subtle curves



A STURDY TYPE FOR ACADEMIC USE

Sirba, a seriffed typeface family with a friendly personality, was conceived especially for the demands in complex text environments like dictionaries, academic texts annual reports, novels and magazines. It has many design features that were particularly designed with *Sirba's* purpose in mind. Because of its open counters, the large x-height, short ascenders and descenders, this typeface conveys a pleasant reading experience and high legibility even in small sizes.

Sirba is a low-contrast typeface, contemporary but with a classical touch, revealing its beauty in design details, such as the asymmetrical bottom serifs, curved bracketing and calligraphically reminiscent terminals. Furthermore the capitals appear integrated into the text, thanks to the low cap height and the constant width of all tabular numbers between the weights make this typeface very usable in annual reports and tables.

Sirba is available in the four classic styles plus a special heavy (**Black**) version, which is particular in that its proportions are designed so the counters remain big enough when set in very small text sizes. This means that *Sirba Black's* spacing and letter width are rather generous in comparison to other typefaces of that colour. This ensure excellent legibility.

During the design of the typeface family much attention was given to the italic and regular as counterparts of each other. The italic distinguishes itself just enough while reading without creating strange spots within the text when looking at the text as a whole.

Sirba's character set covers over 50 languages that use the latin script and includes many typographical niceties, including a set of arrows, ornaments, extended ligatures, small caps, 5 sets of numerals and more.

Sirba started as a serriffed typeface that could be used in dictionaries and academic books. Intensive

study of typefaces from the period of letterpress printing used in bibles and dictionaries, in particular for small type sizes, and the understanding of the typefaces' "secrets", influenced the design and concept of *Sirba* very much.

THE DESIGNER

Nicolien van der Keur is a Dutch graphic designer with more than 22 years of experience. Her starting point was to design several public- and sponsored magazines. She also supported designers to accomplish a smooth transition from manual page lay-out to computer based lay-out.

In 1990 she started her own studio, '**Van der Keur graphic design**'. *Nicolien's* personal way of working and versatile interests brought her a broad range of work, such as magazines, books, websites, corporate identities and packing material.

While working with books, magazines and corporate identities she experienced the pleasure of choosing a typeface that reads and functions well and is appropriate for its application. This and her experience with type in general, sparked her interest even further in how typefaces and typography can help to structure texts and make the navigation for the reader as clear as possible. This curiosity directed her to the UNIVERSITY OF READING (UK), where she received an MA degree, specializing in designing a typeface for dictionaries, encyclopedias and other high-density complex text-environments.

Nicolien is now dividing her work as a typedesigner and graphic designer, working with a deeper insight in typography. You can look at some of her design work at www.vanderkeur.net.

Sirba Opentype features

SMALL CAPS / ALL SMALL CAPS

1234 charming creatures » 1234 CHARMING CREATURES
RADIOLARIANS ? » RADIOLARIANS ?
(abc} n*/ d&e 567890€£ » (ABC} N*/ D&E 567890€£

ALL CAPS

¿para texto? » ¿PARA TEXTO?
1708 a-b [ende] » 1708 A-B [ENDE]

LIGATURES AND DISCRETIONARY LIGATURES

aufbau, fjord, häckeln, strong » aufbau, fjord, häckeln, strong

PROPORTIONAL AND TABULAR FIGURES, OLD-STYLE AND LINING

0123456789£\$¢€¥f » 00123456789£\$¢€¥f
0123456789£\$¢€¥f » 00123456789£\$¢€¥f

FRACTIONS

1/2 3/4 1/6 5/7 2/9 » ½ ¾ ⅙ ⅚ ⅔

SUPERIOR/INFERIOR

H₂O x_{b8} y₃₊₅ a^{Index} » H₂O x_{b8} y³⁺⁵ ^aIndex

ORDINALS

1st 2th 3rd M^{lle} 2^{ieme} » 1st 2th 3rd M^{lle} 2^{ieme}

STYLISTIC SET 1

àáâãäåäãäą gĝğĝğ Q » ààáâãäåäãäą ggĝğğğ Q

STYLISTIC SET 2

abcdefghijklmnopqr » ☞ ☜ ☐ ☑ ○ ● ▶ ▷ ◀ ▲ ▽ ◆ ◀ ◁ ◆ ✕ ✖ ✗

STYLISTIC SET 3

0123456789 » ①②③④⑤⑥⑦⑧⑨

STYLISTIC SET 4

-> <- ->-> <-<- ^ _^_ ^ _^_ » → ← ↑ ↓ ↘ ↙ ↗ ↖



typetogether

Type Design Nicolien van der Keur

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