

Quickie Guide to Type 1, TrueType, & Open Type (fonts)

—What’s the difference anyway?

A. Type 1 (or PostScript Type 1) Postscript is a page description language developed so that machines can all talk to each other. There are PostScript devices and non-PostScript devices.

1. Firstborn of three font formats
2. Developed by Adobe in mid-1980s
3. Consists of two parts
 - outline and screen—vector information to enable printing & bitmap information to enable viewing on a monitor
 - both are required to view and print a font
 - both are required to load a Type 1 one font on your computer
4. Printer’s choice. Accounts for about 75% of all professional quality font purchases because imagesetters—a device printers and service bureaus use to output type & graphics at high resolution (to make plates)—use PostScript.
5. Favored single-platform (Mac)

B. TrueType

1. Middle child—developed several years after Type 1
2. Apple Computer & Microsoft joint project
3. Single file contains both screen and printer font data
4. Most commonly used by Windows users and non-design community (although “core” TrueType fonts come standard on many computer operating systems)
5. Built-in digital instructions to improve on-screen and printing appearance—“hints”
6. Some TrueType fonts have hints (like core fonts), some don’t
7. Favored single-platform (PC)

C. Open Type

1. Newest arrival—developed jointly by Microsoft & Adobe
2. Multi-platform support—works equally well on Mac and PC
3. Expanded character sets (up to 65,000)
4. Smart font-inserts ligatures, swashes, & special characters
5. Growing, but limited, software support for advanced features

D. Download font from the Internet and install it on Font Book, the default font management application that comes with OSX for Mac. <http://www.freemacfonts.com/>

1. Download font to your desktop
2. Double-click font and click ‘Install Font’ button
3. Or open Font Book from applications and drag & drop on ‘Users’ icon