

Stafford College of Further Education  
Design Department

**Word spacing / line spacing in the setting of text**

Supplementary to:  
Dimensional relationships in the composition of text  
Comparative settings of narrative text  
Comparative settings of text

In these specimens the variables explored are:  
type size and word spacing / line spacing

**Design:** Sandy Banks & Bert Aurell  
**Composition:** Les Insull NGA  
**Machine:** Syd B Fenton NGA

Printing Workshop  
Design Department  
Stafford College of Further Education

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This booklet is produced to show the visual effect of changing interline space and interword space in the setting of text in two different type sizes.

Other possible variables such as weight of type face and line phrasing are kept constant.

On the x-axis (horizontal axis) of each double page spread type face and interword spacing remain constant, while the interline spacing and type size vary.

On the y-axis (vertical axis) of each double page spread type face, type size and interline spacing remain constant, while the word spacing varies.

The interword space ranges from hair to en space inclusive. The interline space ranges from zero to three points in increments of one point. The type sizes used are 9 pt and 12 pt.

The arrangement of the elements on the page was dictated by the constraints imposed by the paper format and the available printing facilities.

In order to accommodate the five elements corresponding to increments in word spacing, the vertical dimension of A3b had to be used.

This has created the incongruous situation in which an increase in the horizontal dimension takes place on the vertical axis and an increase in the vertical dimension takes place on the horizontal axis.

10 pt base line to base line (1 pt leading)

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Half word space (0.10 of 10 pt size)

The letters of a word should be closely and evenly spaced, but not cramped together. Ideally, the space between words should be specified as 0.10 of the type size. With the distance between the base line one line - 12.5 pt - and that of the next line being not less than 1.25 of the specified type size.

Thin word space (0.20)

The letters of a word should be closely and evenly spaced, but not cramped together. Ideally, the space between words should be specified as 0.20 of the type size. With the distance between the base line one line - 12.5 pt - and that of the next line being not less than 1.25 of the specified type size.

Half word space (0.25)

The letters of a word should be closely and evenly spaced, but not cramped together. Ideally, the space between words should be specified as 0.25 of the type size. With the distance between the base line one line - 12.5 pt - and that of the next line being not less than 1.25 of the specified type size.

Thin word space (0.30)

The letters of a word should be closely and evenly spaced, but not cramped together. Ideally, the space between words should be specified as 0.30 of the type size. With the distance between the base line one line - 12.5 pt - and that of the next line being not less than 1.25 of the specified type size.

Full word space (0.40)

The letters of a word should be closely and evenly spaced, but not cramped together. Ideally, the space between words should be specified as 0.40 of the type size. With the distance between the base line one line - 12.5 pt - and that of the next line being not less than 1.25 of the specified type size.

10 pt base line to base line (1 pt leading)

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**Set solid**

**Hair word space** (0.16 of type size)

The letters of a word should be closely and evenly spaced, but not cramped together; ideally, the space between words should be specified as 0.25 of the type size, with the distance between the base line of one line and that of the next line being not less than 1.25 of the specified type size.

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**Mid word space** (0.25)

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**Thick word space** (0.33)

The letters of a word should be closely and evenly spaced, but not cramped together; ideally, the space between words should be specified as 0.25 of the type size, with the distance between the base line of one line and that of the next line being not less than 1.25 of the specified type size.

**En word space** (0.5)

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(1 pt leaded)**

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**11 pt base line to base line  
(2 pt leaded)**

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(3 pt leaded)**

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(3 pt leading)

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**En word space** (0.5)

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**13 pt base line to base line  
(1 pt leaded)**

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**14 pt base line to base line  
(2 pt leaded)**

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**15 pt base line to base line  
(3 pt leaded)**

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