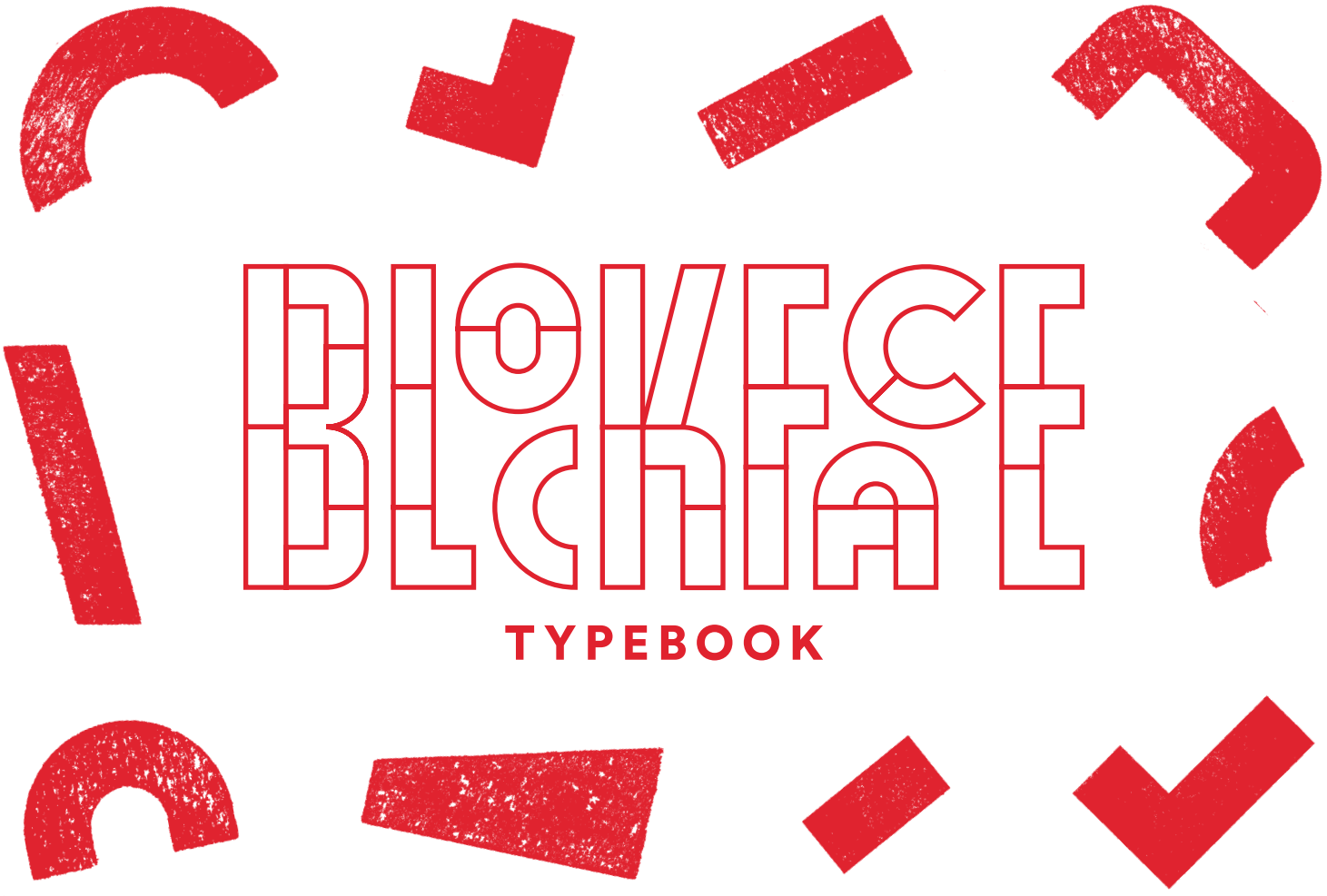
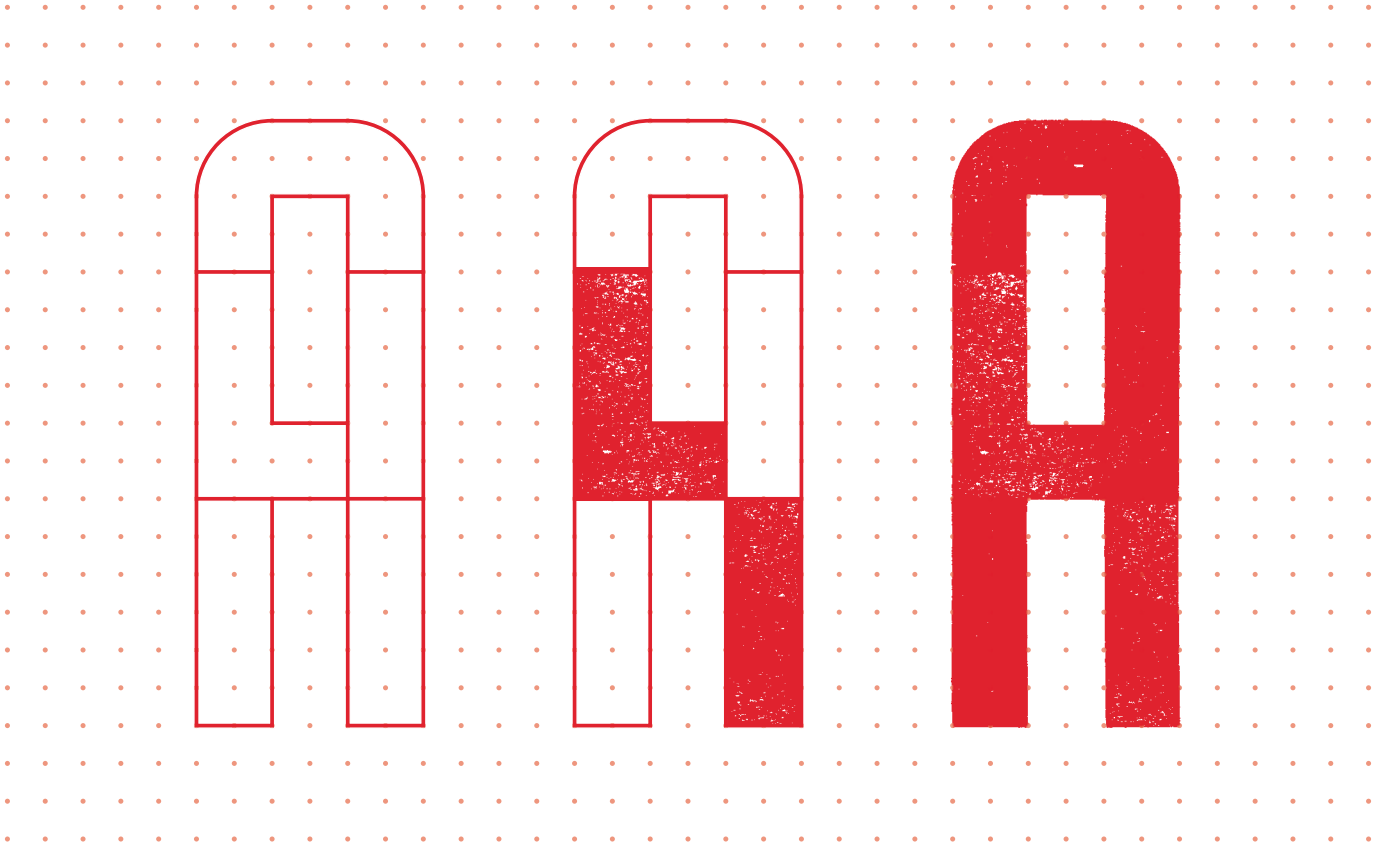

BLOKFCE
BLCHIA E
TYPEBOOK

INTRODUCTION



BlockFace is an easy-to-use modular typography printing kit. Combine the stamps to construct letterforms, design typographic posters and cards, and explore the joys of printmaking.

This TypeBook offers instructions on how to construct six BlockFace typeface styles, as well as some tips and tricks for using and maintaining the set. You can use it for guidance or ignore it entirely and create your own unique designs!

STANDARD

GROTESQUE

SLAB

CURVED

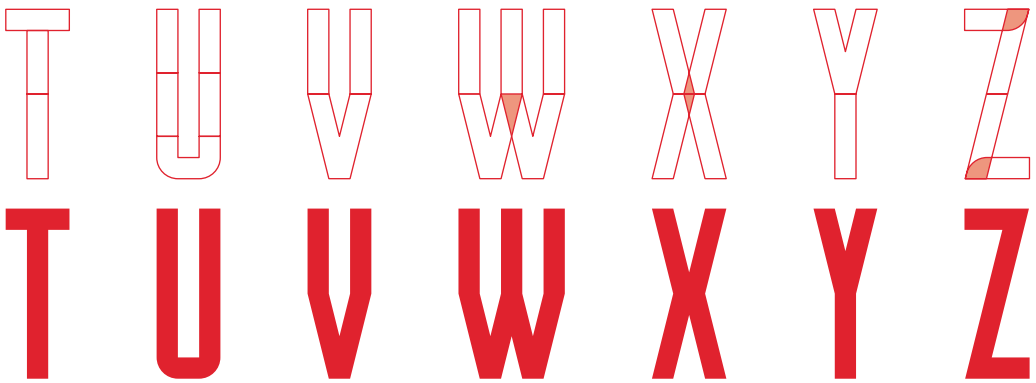
BAUHAUS

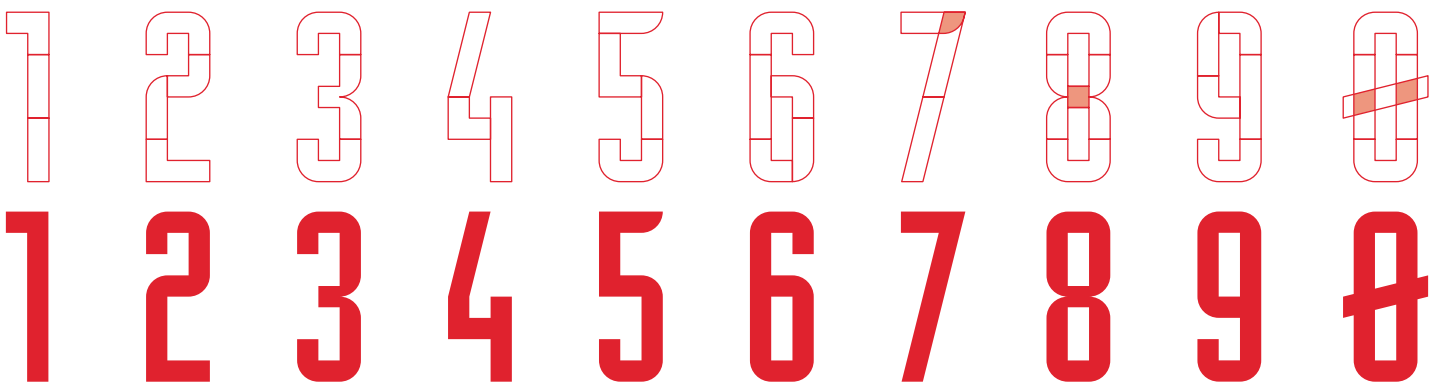
lowercase

(DISPLAYED AT 50% OF ACTUAL SIZE)

BLOCKFACE

STANDARD

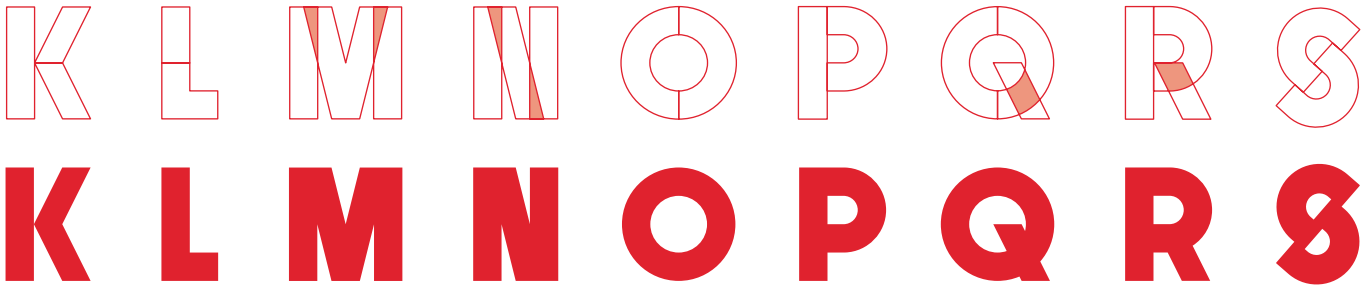


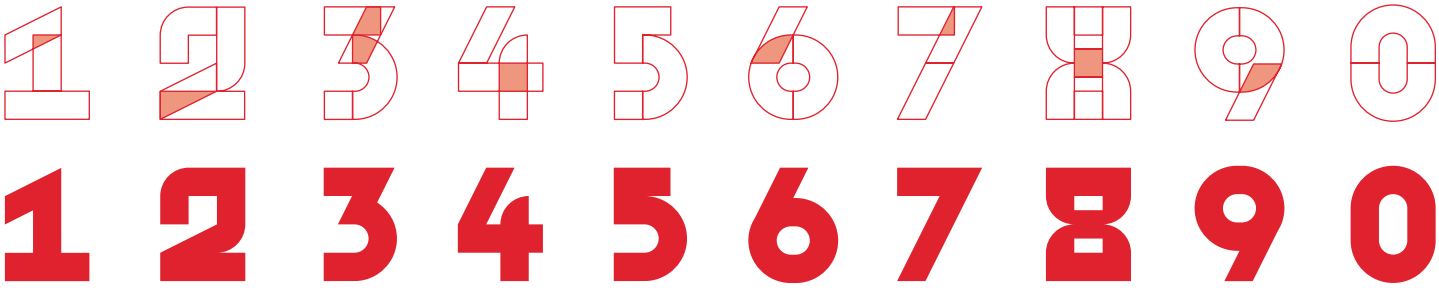


(ACTUAL TYPE HEIGHT: 80mm)

BLOCKFACE

GROTESQUE

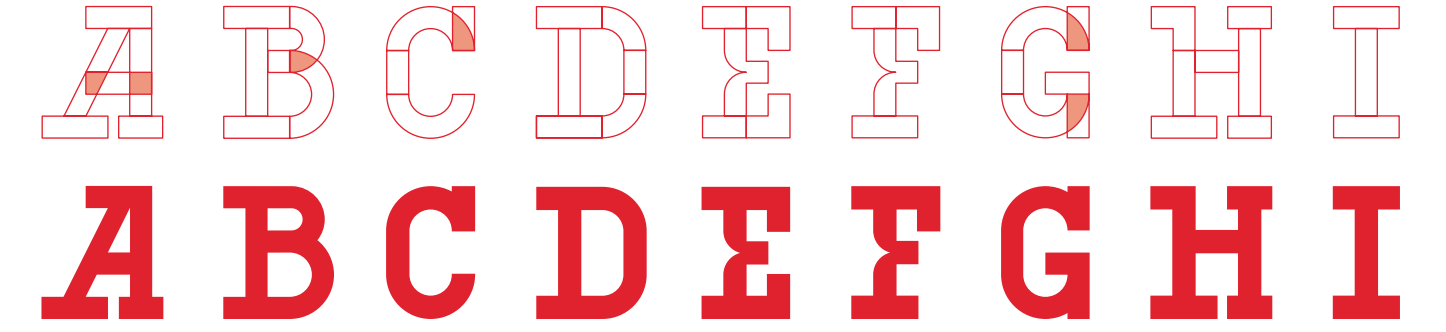


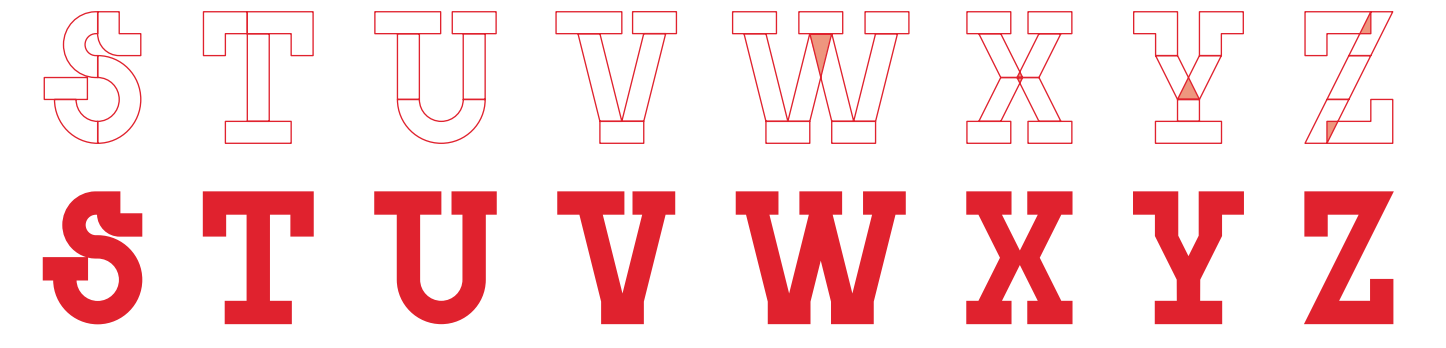


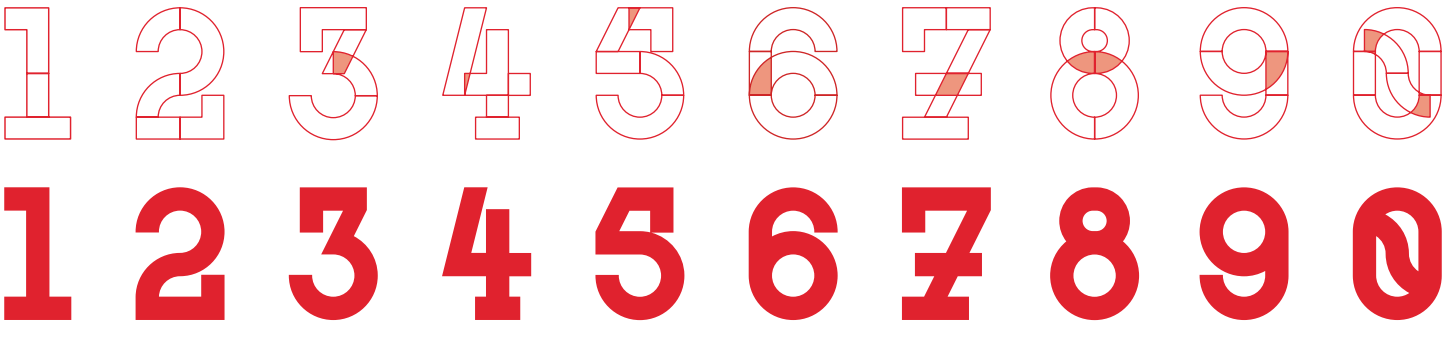
(ACTUAL TYPE HEIGHT: 40mm)

BLOCKFACE

SLAB



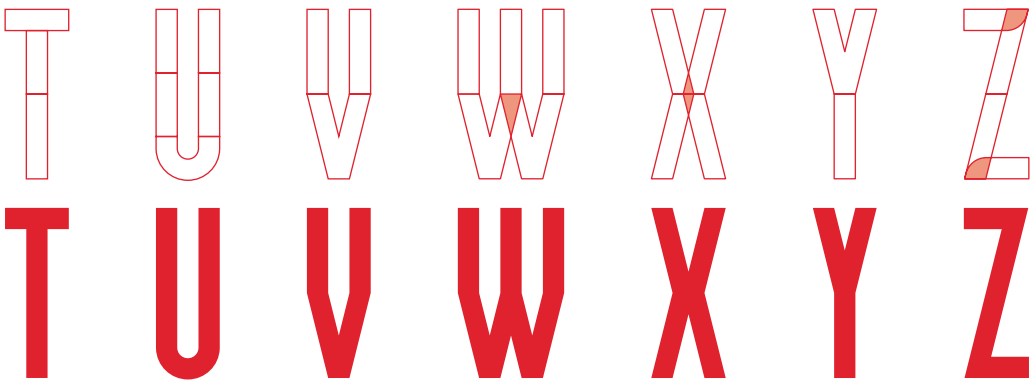


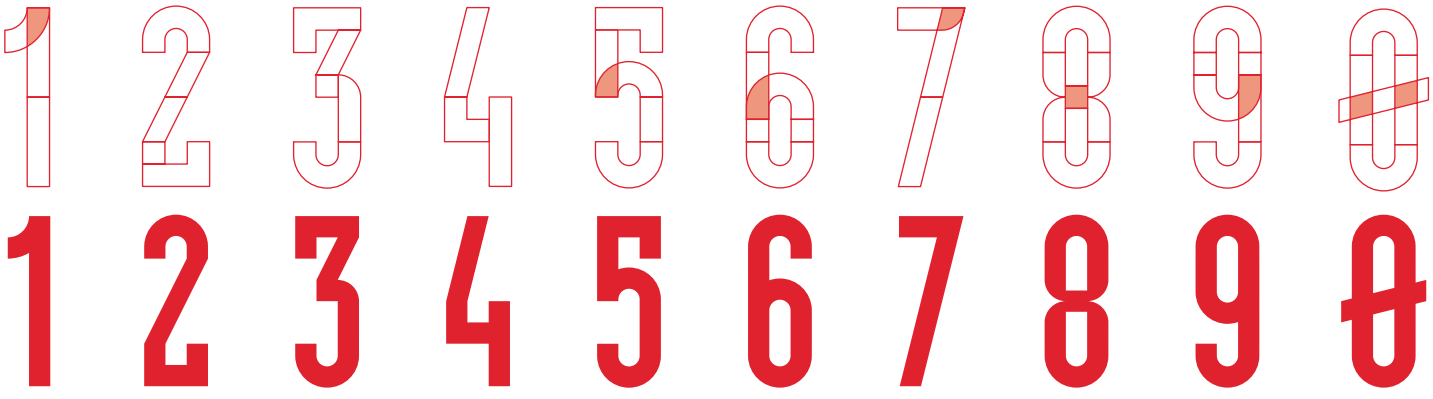


(ACTUAL TYPE HEIGHT: 60mm)

BLOCKFACE

CURVED

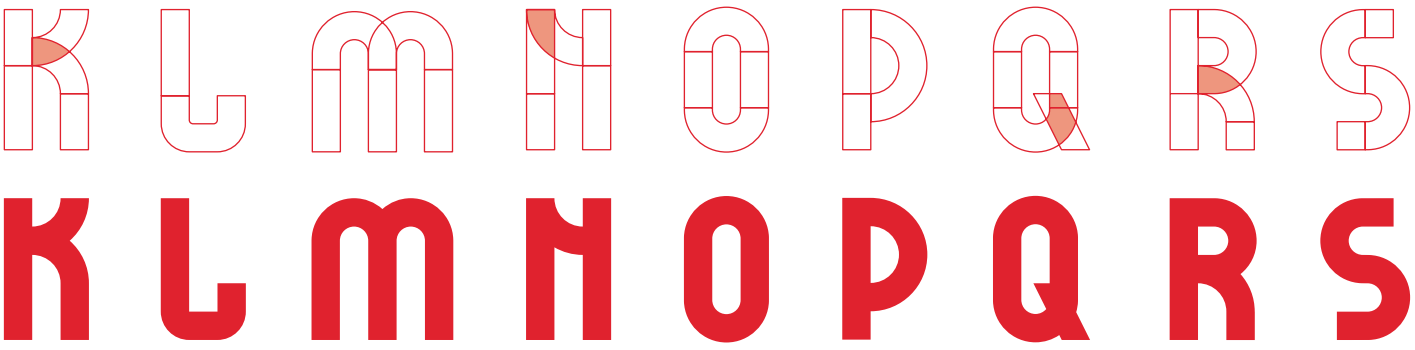


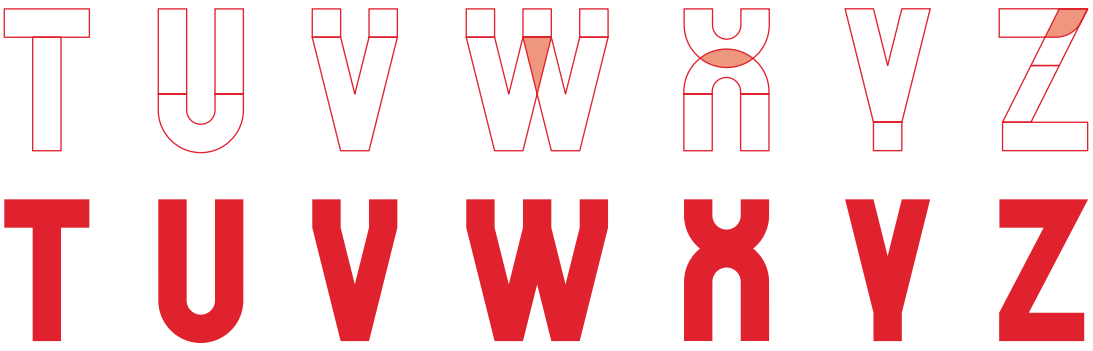


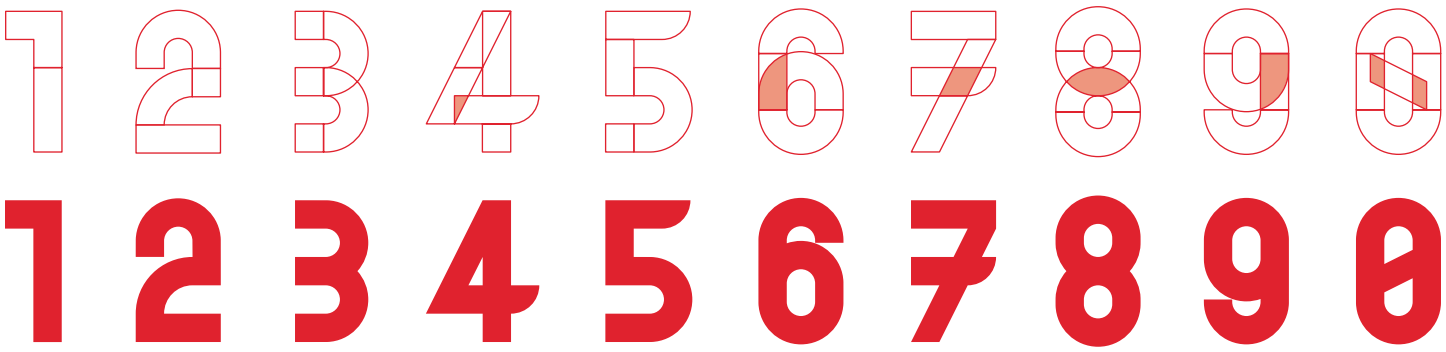
(ACTUAL TYPE HEIGHT: 80mm)

BLOCKFACE

BAUHAUS



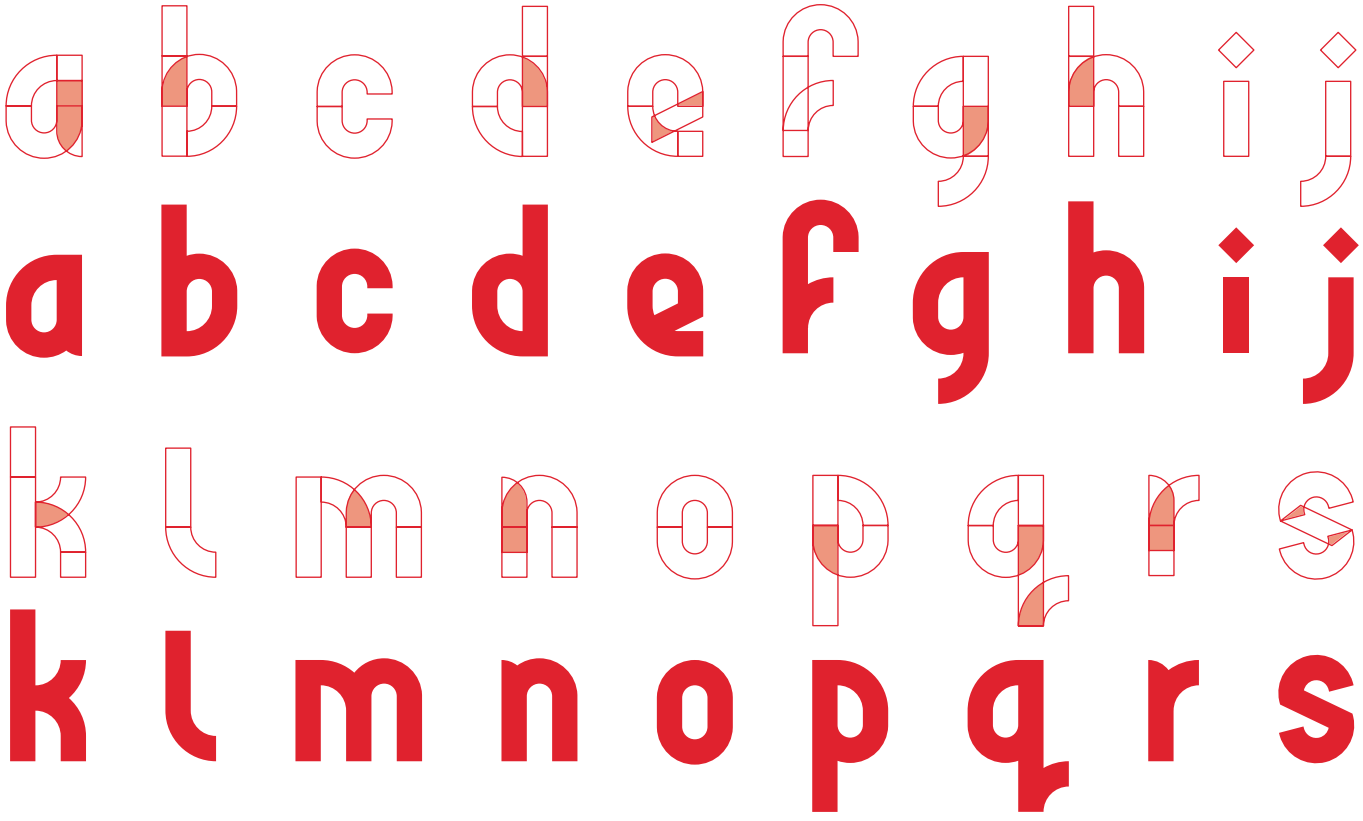


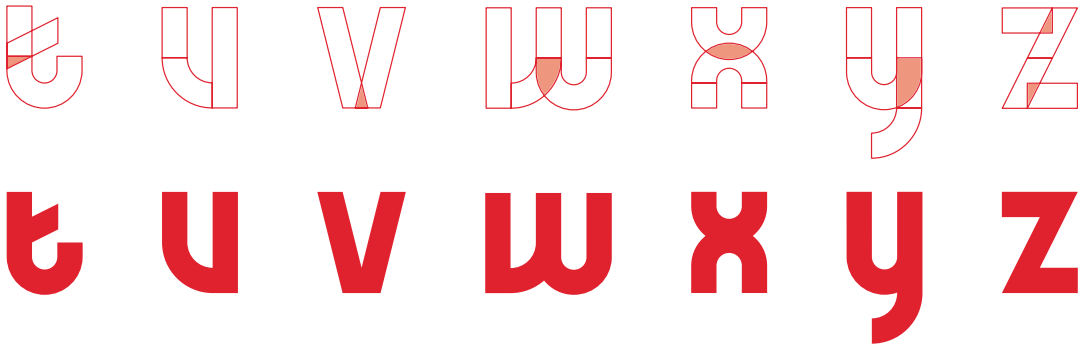


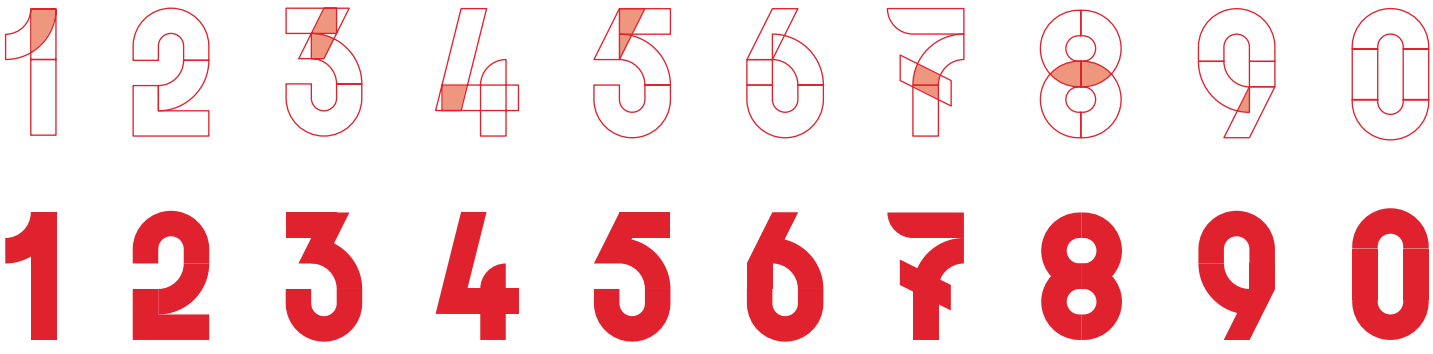
(ACTUAL TYPE HEIGHT: 50mm)

BLOCKFACE

LOWERCASE







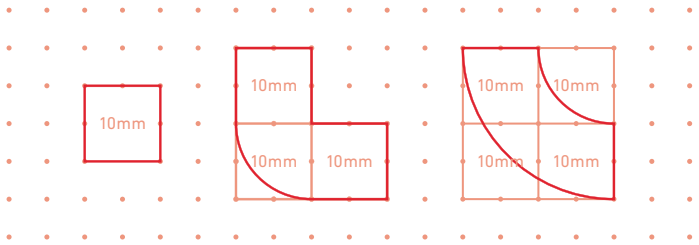
(ACTUAL TYPE HEIGHT: 40 – 70mm)

INFORMATION

PRINTING TIPS

BlockFace is a modular system built in **10mm blocks**.

Understanding this system can be useful when arranging and printing your designs. By measuring in increments of 10mm, you can mark out the width or height of each letterform, leading to more accurate printing results. When using this method, make sure to leave additional room for letter and line spacing.



Papers vary in texture, and this will alter the overall look of your print. Try experimenting with different paper types, but be aware that anything too glossy may cause the ink to smudge. Using different coloured papers and inks can add to your designs and lead to more interesting results.

CARE INSTRUCTIONS

To ensure your BlockFace kit is kept in good working condition, please take care when cleaning the stamps. The top face can be easily wiped clean with a damp cloth; however, care should be taken to avoid wetting the foam as this may damage the bond between the layers. To remove excess ink from the rubber, simply print the stamp several times on a spare piece of paper until it no longer makes a mark.

The stamps are designed to be used with relief ink pads. Whilst the set can also be used with relief printing inks, these often require more rigorous cleaning and may affect the overall lifespan of the set.

OPEN SOURCE

BlockFace is an open-source project, meaning you can freely download the files and guides and create your own kit as long as you have access to a 3D printer or laser-cutting machine. The project is protected under a NonCommercial Creative Commons licence, which means you can reproduce the set for personal or educational purposes but not with the intention of selling the set yourself. You can learn more and download the files at **openpressproject.com/blockface**.

WILL MOWER & BLOCKFACE

Will is an artist, designer, and printmaker. He became interested in modular systems and printmaking in 2013 during a period of creative block. Influenced by an interest in play, he began designing toolkits that could free up his approach to making. As his work has developed, he has continued to explore ways in which systems can be used to remove barriers to the creative process.

He is interested in typography, architecture, and signage and uses these as a reference point to explore how ideas can be presented through a graphic language. He creates prints, objects and books and enjoys running workshops to share his design approach with others.

The first BlockFace type kit (originally titled Alpha-Set) was released in 2018 and contained 16 laser-cut, wooden rubber stamps and a set of instructions for creating a single typeface. The set was then developed through workshops, and an updated version was released in 2021 that offered more flexibility and a wider set of typeface options. In 2023, Will teamed up with the Open Press Project to produce a more widely accessible, 3D printed version of the set, which then became known as BlockFace.

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