BLOKFEST
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 type styles and a set of 24 symbols, as well as tips and tricks for using and maintaining the set.

At the top of each page you'll find a depiction of the full BlockFace kit with the relevant blocks highlighted to indicate what you'll need for that particular type style.

The Typebook displays two versions of each letterform – an outlined version showing the required blocks and highlighting where they overlap, and a solid version depicting how the completed print should look.

At the bottom of each page you'll find details on the type style's complexity, the standard type height and the number of blocks required for each letterform.

STANDARD

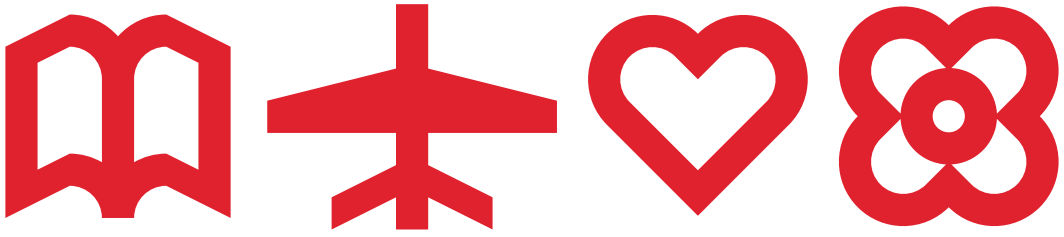
GROTESQUE

CURVED

SLAB

BAUHAUS

lowercase

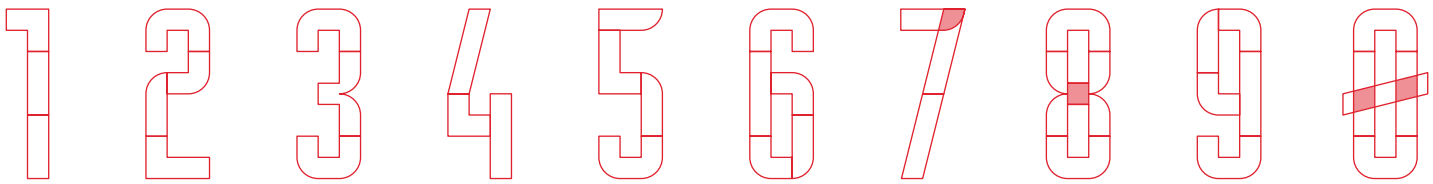


BLOCKFACE STANDARD

A B C D E F G H I J

K L M N O P Q R S

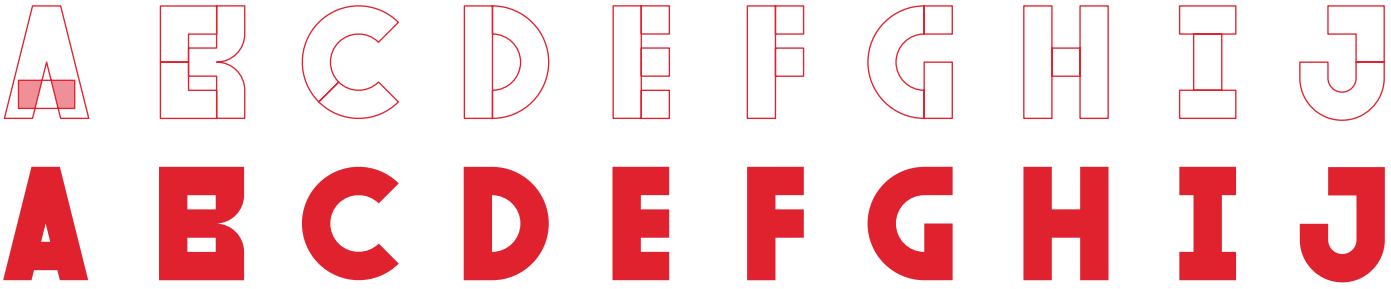
T U V W X Y Z

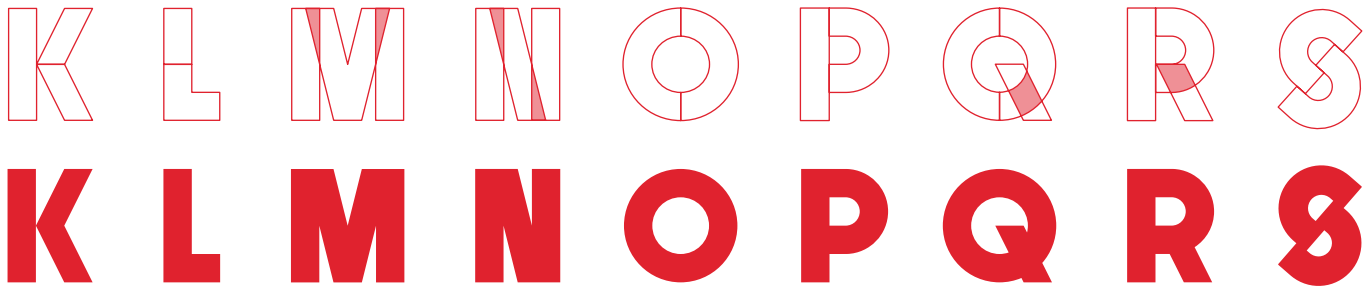


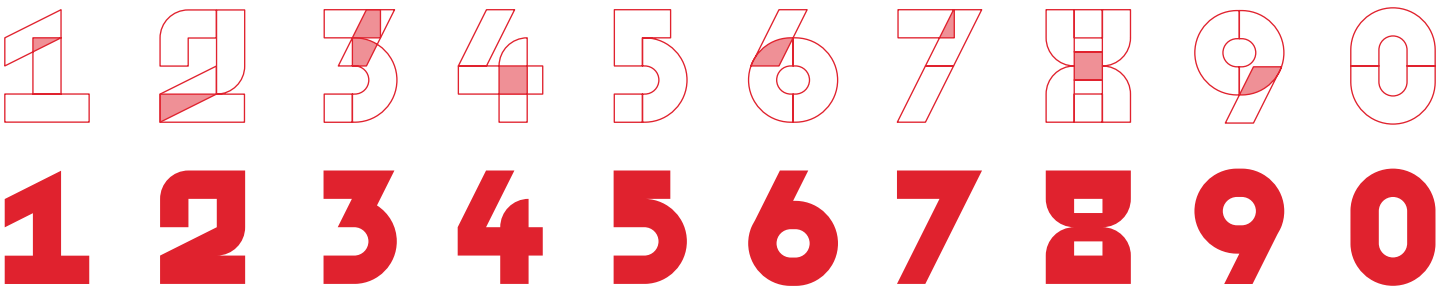
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

DIFFICULTY	TYPE HEIGHT 80mm	BLOCKS 3–5

BLOKFACE GROTESQUE





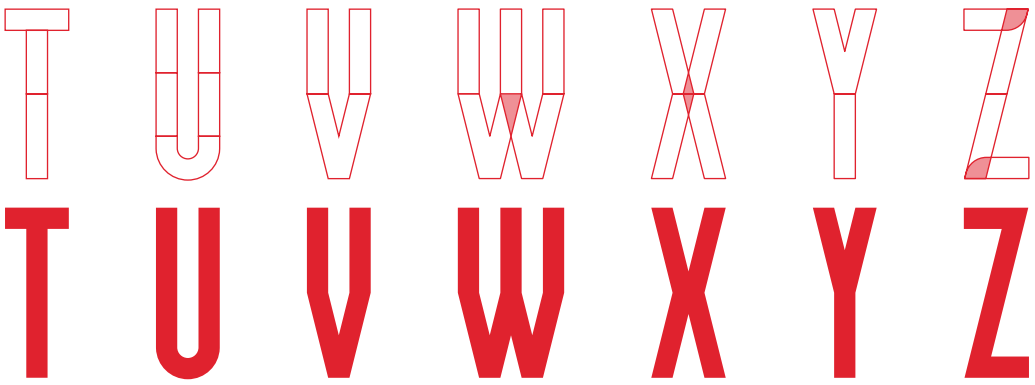


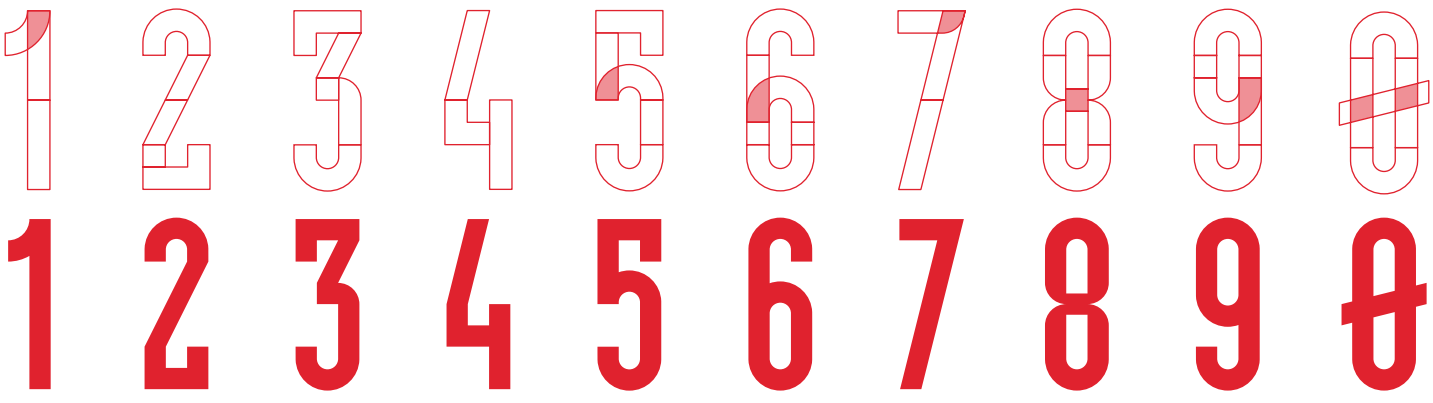
DIFFICULTY

TYPE HEIGHT **40mm**

BLOCKS **2–4**

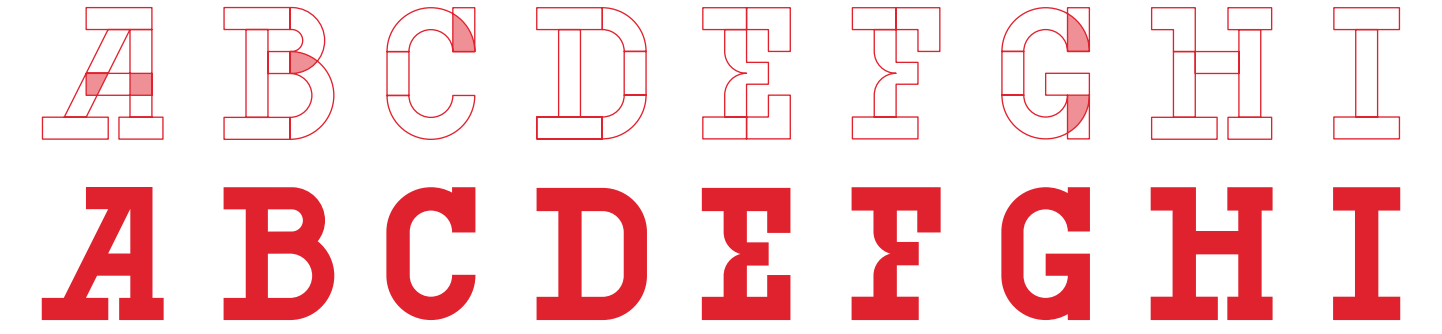
BLOCKFACE CURVED

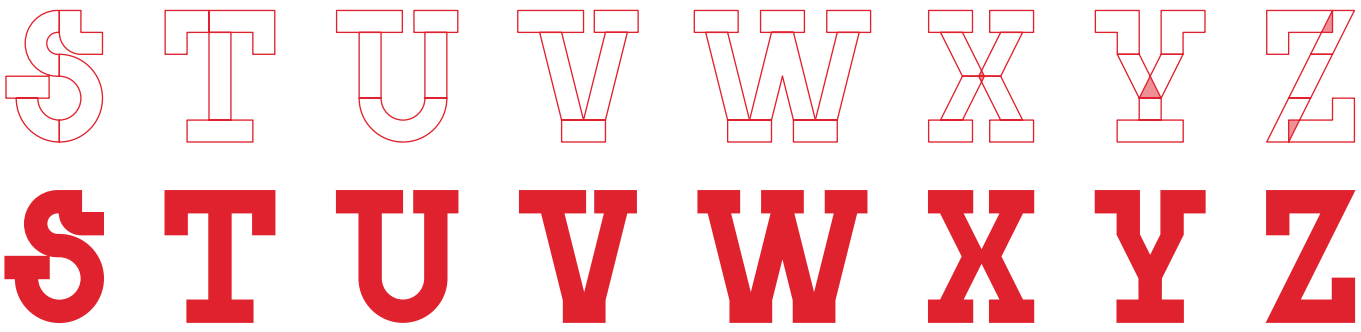


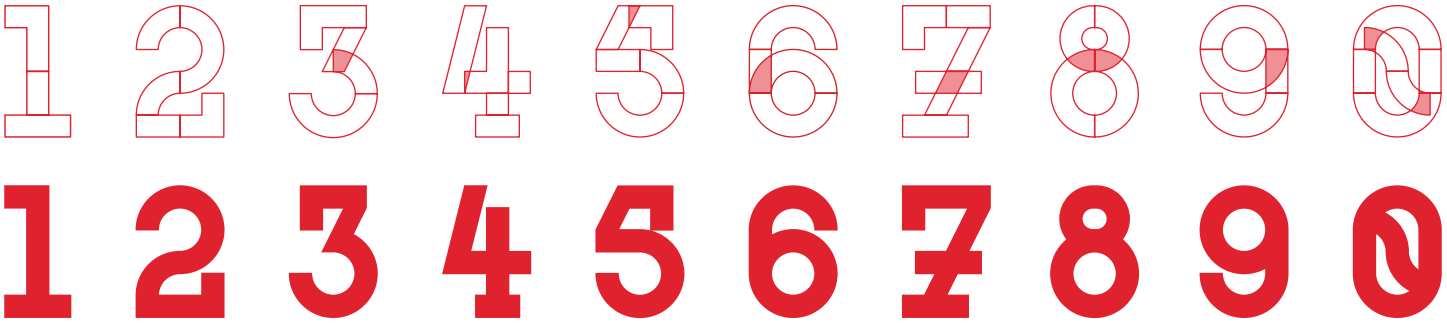


DIFFICULTY	TYPE HEIGHT 80mm	BLOCKS 2–5

BLOCKFACE SLAB





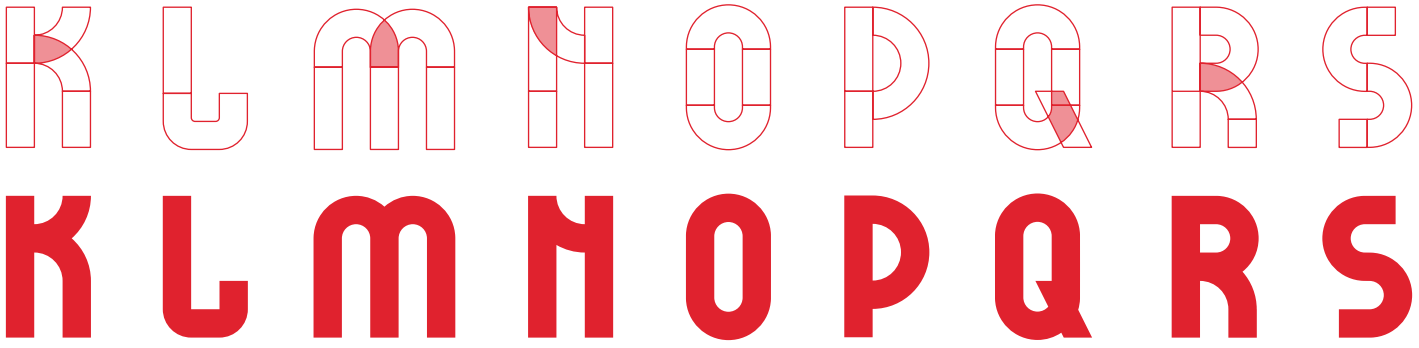


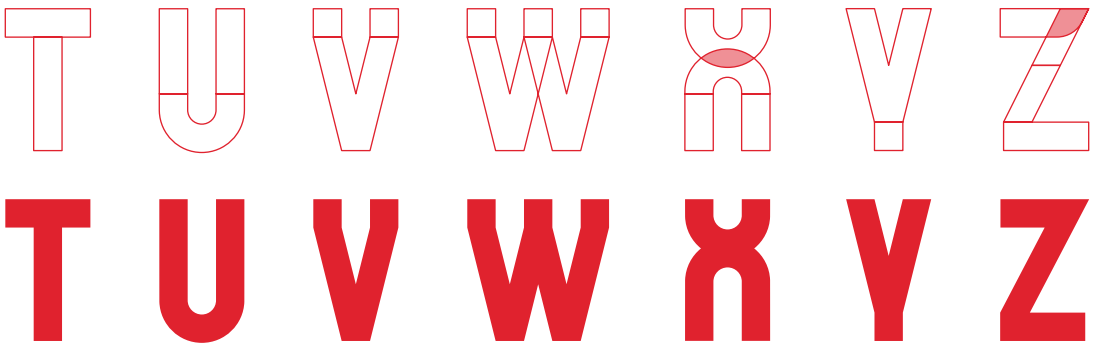
DIFFICULTY

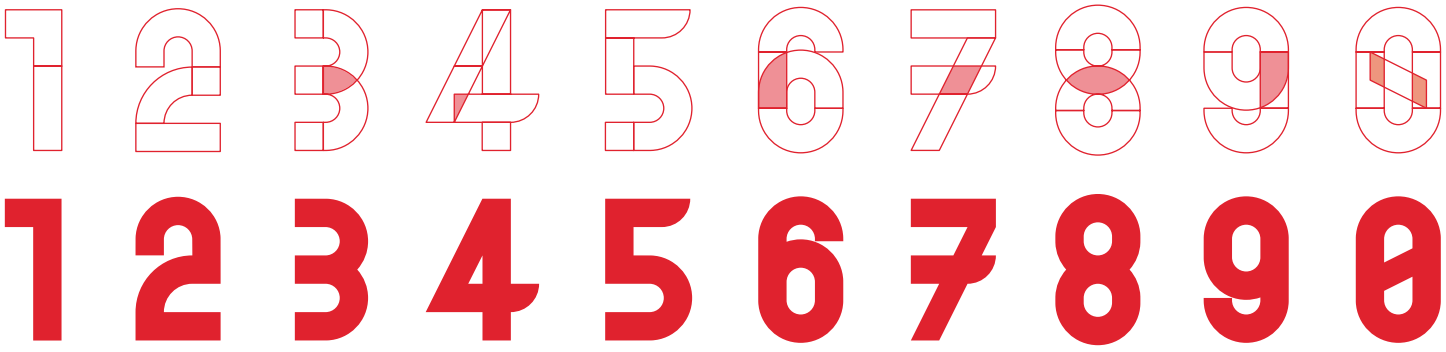
TYPE HEIGHT 60mm

BLOCKS 3–9

BLOCKFACE BAUHAUS

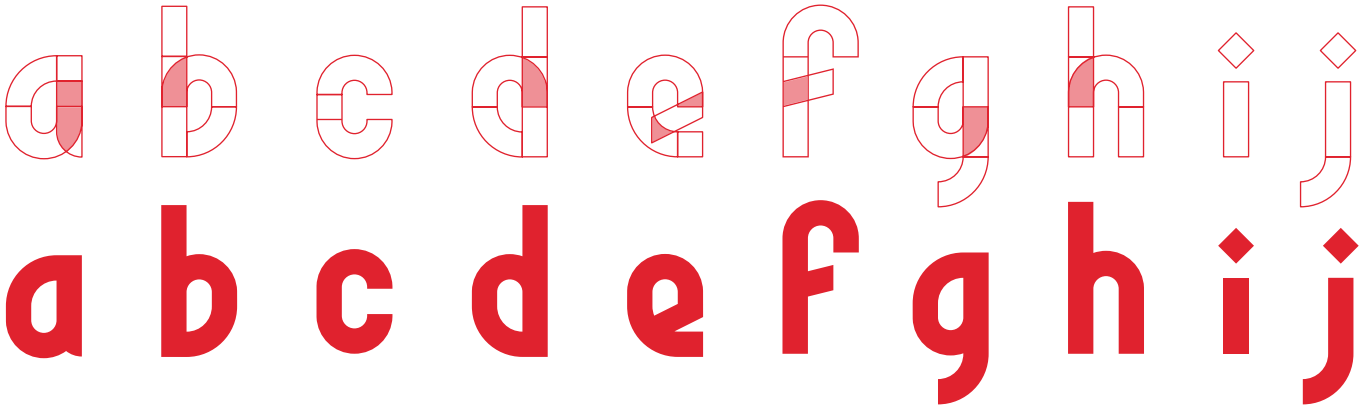


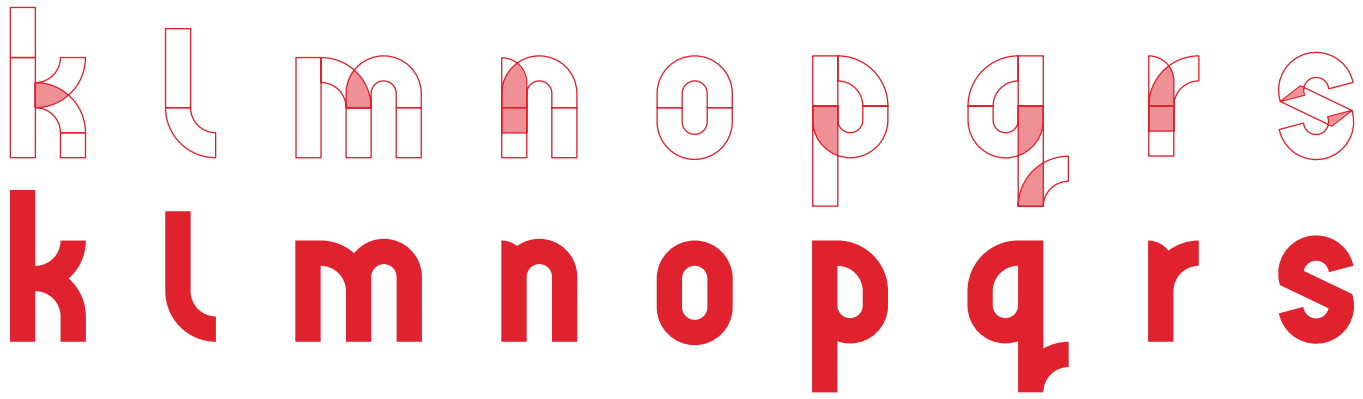


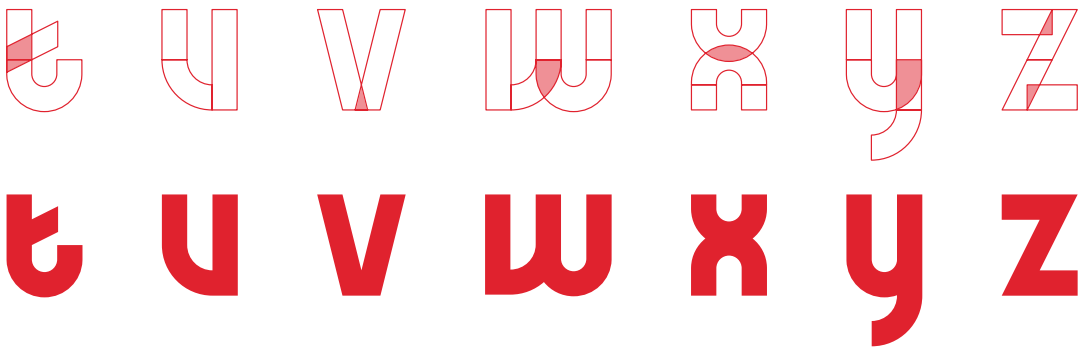


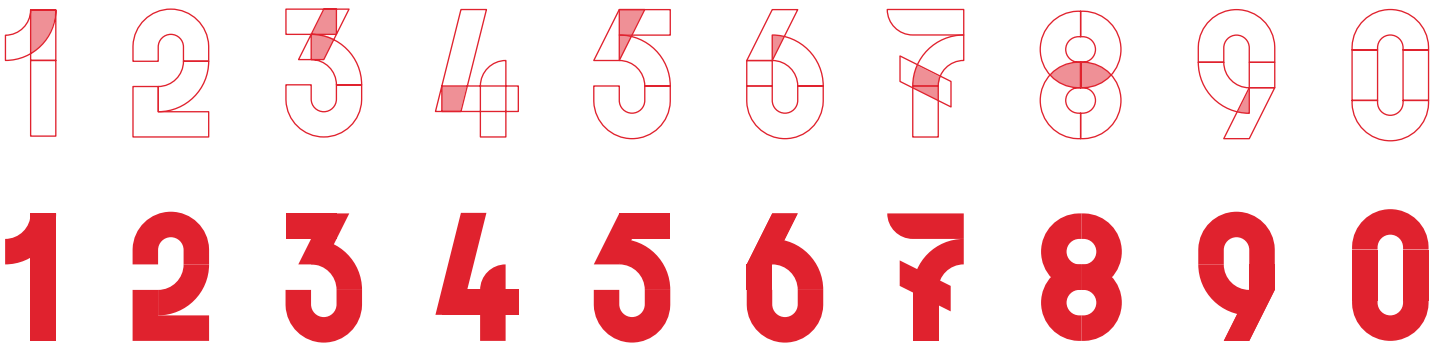
DIFFICULTY	TYPE HEIGHT 50mm	BLOCKS 2–5

BLOKFACE lowercase



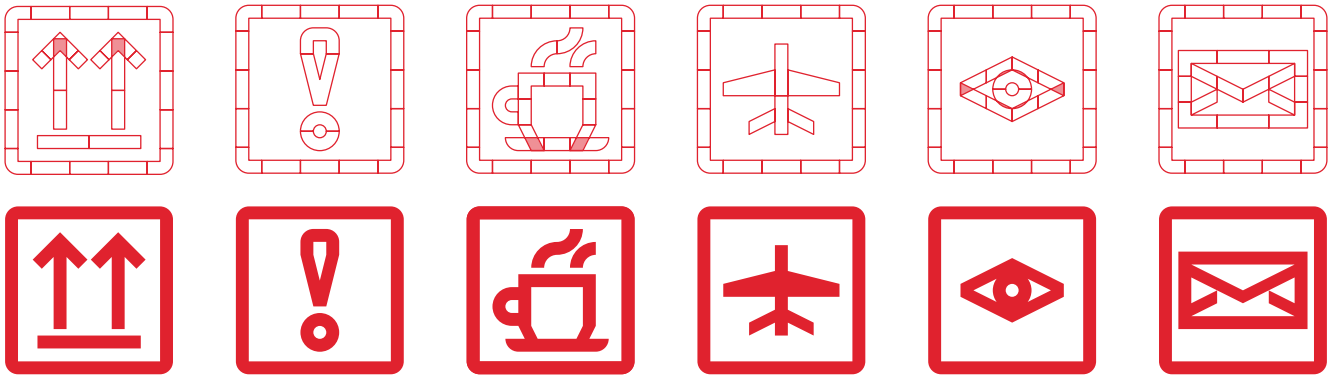


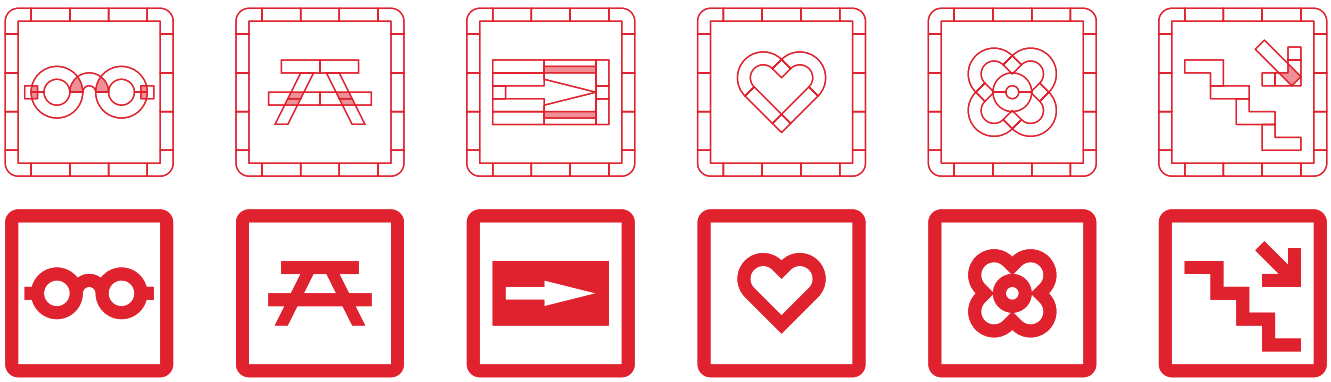


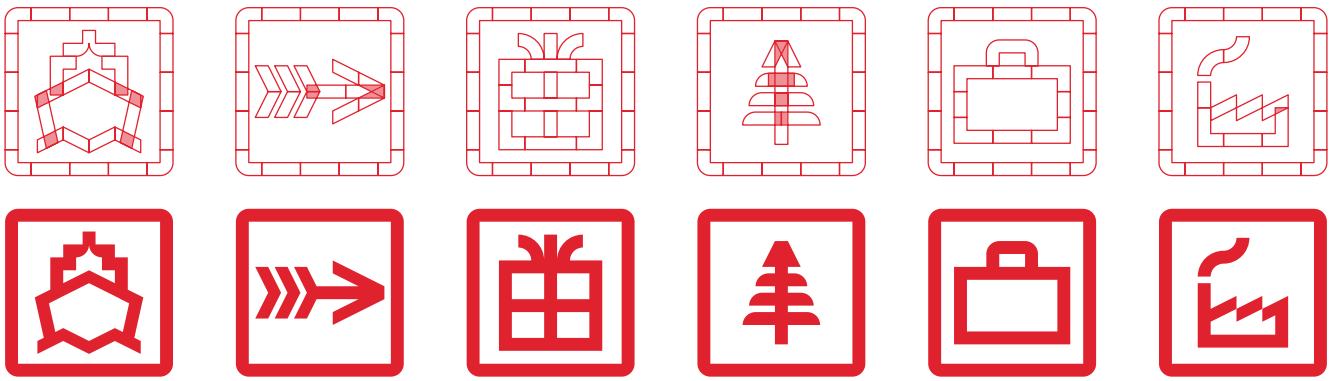


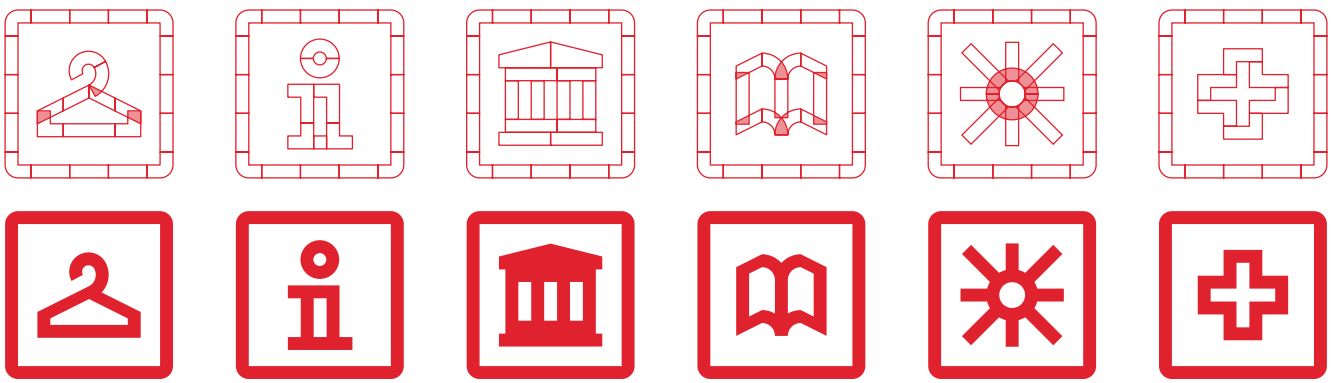
DIFFICULTY	TYPE HEIGHT **40–70mm**	BLOCKS **2–5**

BLOCKFACE







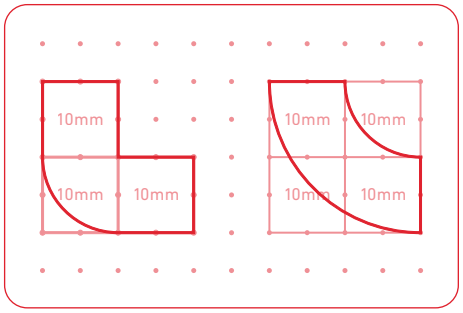


DIFFICULTY	TYPE HEIGHT 130mm	BLOCKS 4–14*

*Not including border (+ 16 blocks)

TIPS + TRICKS

THE STAMPS

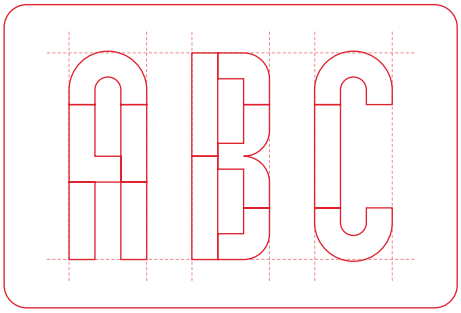


BlockFace is a modular stamp kit built on a system of **10mm blocks**.

Understanding this system can be useful when arranging and printing your designs.

Blockface has been designed so that the stamp body matches the rubber base. This approach has been developed to make it easier to align the stamps neatly when printing.

MARKING OUT



For the best printing results it is always recommended that you lay out your designs using a grid or ruler.

Printing on to gridded paper or measuring out your design 'block by block' will lead to neater alignment of the stamps and a better understand of how to space and arrange your design.

See the back of this Typebook to download a printable A4 grid

INK COVERAGE

Ink pads can vary in quality and ink coverage – to get the best print quality it's recommended you ink the stamp several times before printing.

Check the rubber base to make sure it is evenly covered and you can always neaten up an area or add definition to a design by over-printing.

OVERLAYS

This Typebook focuses on how to arrange the BlockFace stamps, however, by exploring multiple colours and overlaying different inks you can add additional depth and complexity to your designs.

The choice of colors and the order in which they are printed can significantly influence the overall design. Testing how different inks work together will help you fine-tune the layers for the best outcome.

PAPER TYPES

Papers vary in texture, and this can significantly affect the overall look of your print.

Experimenting with different paper types can help you achieve different results, but be mindful that papers with a glossy finish may cause the ink to smudge or not adhere properly.

Additionally, the color of the paper will influence how the ink appears. Lighter-colored papers tend to show ink more vividly, while darker or textured papers may produce a more muted or unique effect.

CLEANING + CARE

The BlockFace kit is designed to work with **relief ink pads**. Whilst the kit can also be used with **relief printing inks**, these may require more thorough cleaning and could potentially reduce the overall lifespan of the set.

For best results, clean the base and edge of the rubber stamp with a damp cloth or wet wipe after printing or when changing colors. This will prevent ink being transfered between ink pads.

To test a stamp after cleaning, try printing it on a spare sheet of paper to see if it still makes a mark.

ABOUT THE KIT

The BlockFace kit was designed by **Will Mower** and was released in 2023 as a collaboration with **Open Press Project**.

The first BlockFace kit (originally titled Alpha-Set) was released in 2018 and contained 16 wood-backed rubber stamps and a set of instructions for creating a single typeface. The set was then developed through a series of 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.

The project first launched on Kickstarter, attracting over 1,000 backers, and since then the community has continued to grow. In 2024, the kit received several awards from the Type Directors Club in New York, including Best in Lettering and a Judge's Choice award.

Will Mower is an artist, designer, and printmaker. He became interested in modular systems and printmaking in 2013 during a period of creative block. Inspired by play, he began designing toolkits to free up his creative process. As his work has developed, he has continued to explore how systems can be used to remove barriers to creativity.

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

The original 16-piece Alpha-Set kit, released in 2018

OPEN SOURCE

BlockFace is an open-source project, meaning the files and guides are freely available for you to download and create your own kit, as long as you have access to a 3D printer or laser-cutting machine. The project is licensed under a NonCommercial Creative Commons license, allowing you to reproduce the set for personal or educational use, but not for resale.

This open-source nature makes BlockFace an ideal resource for workshops and educational settings – where the kit can be shared, adapted, and explored by learners of all ages. Whether you're teaching printmaking, design, or modular systems, the flexibility of BlockFace encourages experimentation and hands-on learning.

Additionally, open access to the files creates the opportunity to experiment with re-sizing the kit for different uses or adding your own unique elements, offering new creative possibilities.

To learn more and download the files, visit **openpressproject.com/blockface**

BTW

Need help aligning the stamps? Download and print out a helpful grid!

openpressproject.com/grid

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