TYPESETTER TEMPLATE

EXPLORERS

WHAT IS THIS TOOL?

The *Typesetter Template* is a plug-and-play tool for testing your game's primary font, size, and leading.

A PRIMER ON BODY TEXT

Body text or the "body paragraph" is your primary type treatment for the bulk of your content.

A typeface is a visual design for type (sometimes called a "font family"). A font—like bold, italic, oblique, and super—are variations of that typeface. A big misconception among new designers is that point size is consistant across typefaces. It isn't. Size, legibility, and readability change from one typeface to another.

One typeface in 11 pt sizing might look tiny next to one in 9 pt sizing. The difference can be extreme.

Line spacing or "leading" (rhymes with "sledding") is the vertical distance between lines of text. Ideal line spacing is often between 120% and 145% of the type's overall size.

HOW TO USE THIS TOOL

The only way to vet a typeface for your project is to see it in action. The *Typesetting Template* is a shortcut. It won't give you the exact size and leading you need, but it can quickly show you options to narrow your search.

This tool presents type in half increments between 12 pts (probably too big) and 8.5 pts (probably too small). Inside are line spacing or leading options in 5% increments between 120% and 145% of the type size.

All you have to do is replace the IBM Plex Sans Light typeface with yours, and you'll get 48 combinations in a dozen clicks.

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTIONS

1 OPEN ADOBE INDESIGN OR AFFINITY PUBLISHER

You may get a prompt to replace typefaces upon opening the file. *IBM Plex Condensed Bold* is the typeface for noting what typeface you're using. *IBM Plex Condensed Regular* is used to label each entry with sizing. *IBM Plex Sans Light* is the typeface you will be replacing.

2 FIND AND REPLACE YOUR TYPEFACE

InDesign Users: go to *Type > Find/Replace Font...* then click on *IBM Plex Sans Light* and go to *Replace With...* Choose your prospective font in the drop down-menu and press *Change All*.

Publisher Users: go to *Text > Find...* then press the gear icon next to *Find* in the *Find & Replace* window.

From there, select *Format*. A new pop-up window will appear. Inside that window, select *Character > Font Family* and choose *IBM Plex Sans Light*. Click *Ok*.

Go back to the *Find & Replace* window and press the gear icon next to *Replace*. Choose format and repeat all the steps from before; only this time, choose the typeface you'll be replacing *IBM Plex Sans Light* with.

Finally, return to the *Find & Replace* window and press *Replace All* to swap the typefaces.

3 LABEL YOUR TYPESETTING SAMPLES

Once you've inserted your typeface, you'll want to make sure every entry is labeled for future use.

InDesign Users: go to *Edit > Find/Change...* then type "Sample Typeface" and replace it with the name of the typeface and font you inserted. Click change all.

Publisher Users: go to *Text > Find...* then type "Sample Typeface" and replace it with the name of your typeface and font in the *Find & Replace* window. Click change all.

4 TRANSFER, PRINT, REPEAT

Now that you have samples, it's time to start dialing in your type. I recommend you copy and paste your favorite options from the template into a separate printable document.

Print those options out, see how they look in real life, and start tweaking. Your ideal combination likely falls between the options of this template. I've made this template produce options with set percentage ratios for consistency across type sizes. In practice, I'd want to use a combination with whole number point sizing in leading.

Feel free to modify this template for fine-tuning. Until next time!