

# How to preview your fonts

Type is a common design element of almost all printed page designs, so it stands to reason that you should choose typefaces for your projects carefully. Some fonts are very difficult to read at small sizes, but are very effective for large headlines. “Novelty” fonts often are designed for use in specific situations. Some fonts look terrible on the screen, but print beautifully. If you have dozens of fonts installed on your computer, how can you tell what each of them looks like? One option is to use a utility program that automatically prints sample pages of all of your installed typefaces.

There are numerous programs available that allow you to quickly and easily print font samples. Many of these give you several different printing options. For example, you may choose to print one typeface per page in several sizes, or

you may print several typefaces per page, each typeface in the same size. Here are two programs that work well:

- Printer’s Apprentice (*www.loseyourmind.com*) is for Windows 95, 98, NT, 2000, or XP.
- FontBook (*www.lemkesoft.de*) is for all versions of the Macintosh operating system, including Mac OS X. This utility also comes bundled with the popular Suitcase font management program (*www.extensis.com*) for the Macintosh.

Having a printed font catalog handy could be a huge help the next time you need to locate the right font for a design.

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