

ledbury italic

abcdefghijklm

nopqrstuvwxyz

a quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog

this is test of ledbury italic. there are no capitals yet, and only minimal punctuation. this sample is intended to test the suitability of the italic as a companion for the roman, looking at aspects such as relative colour and width, and whether the two styles harmonise.

The design is quite strongly influenced by hand-written forms, which is appropriate in conventional italics, I think. The forms and decorations in a number of letters are somewhat unconventional, where I thought that the conventional forms were unlikely or infeasible in handwriting. For example, the 'p' descender has no serif, and the 'q' descender has a hook serif, as a flat roman-style serif is pretty much impossible to form as continuation of the main stroke, I have found. On the other hand, the slanted ascender serifs are quite feasible in handwriting, so they are retained. I have tried to suggest broad nib effects in the unterminated thick strokes, though the stroke width behaviour is not calligraphic, but follows the same rules as the roman.

regarding the letter forms, the g and y reflect modern handwritten forms, so g has a single bowl, and y is modular with u instead of v. the corners of v and w are angular rather than rounded for the same reason.

In most italics, the colour is significantly lighter than the roman, and the width narrower. In Ledbury, these changes are very slight. Also, the bowls and arches are not as cursive as in many other designs, to provide a fuller and more rounded appearance. I think this complements the warmth of the roman better.

this sample does not show italics in line with roman, as the italic offset has not been tested or adjusted yet. perhaps there is some standard formula for working this out off the italic angle and vertical dimensions. my font design software does not appear to do this automatically.