
the story of

changeling neo

UNICASE DESIGN

Aabb
eegg

ALTERNATE CHARACTERS

YYyy
FFGgll
PPRR
QQrr
KKxx

SLANTED ALTERNATES

VaWayM
VaWayM
VaWayM

ARBITRARY FRACTIONS

33/100
BECOMES
33/100

In 1991, I was commissioned to digitize a face called "China" for a client. It was a wide, geometric sans serif with a futuristic, high-tech feel, originally designed for VGC by M. Mitchell and released in 1975. Probably the most famous use of China (with a modified "A" and "R") is for the title logo of the Terminator movie series. It was an interesting typeface, but had a limited character set (caps and a few alternates) and only one weight. I also felt that it had some design problems in the proportions of certain letters.

I included my digitization of VGC China in my online portfolio in 2000 and was surprised by the interest it generated. At the time, there was only one commercially available digitization. But, it was poorly done and even included some "ringer" characters, which indicated the source was a pirated film font, not the original VGC version.

In 2003, I released my own interpretation, which I called Changeling. I redesigned many of the characters for more even type color. I also added lowercase-style variants to nearly all the uppercase forms, for endless "unicase" combinations, alternate forward- and back-slanting characters for A, M, V, and W, and a more complete character set. I spaced it to emulate the "tight, but not touching" style of spacing popular in the '70s. Finally, I created four new styles—Light, Regular, Stencil, and Inline.

Changeling Neo (2008) builds on this with even more alternate characters (including a few from VGC China I had previously left out), extensive language support, and lots of improvements in fit and finish. Changeling Neo is available exclusively in the OpenType format. Alternate characters are accessed using OpenType Stylistic Alternates and Stylistic Sets features. Standard characters that were "hijacked" in Changeling (to make room for alternate characters) have been reinstated. Changeling Neo also includes support for fractions, superscript and subscript, as well as tabular figures. —MARK SIMONSON

TABULAR FIGURES

12345
67890

VS.

12345
67890

FIVE STYLES

light
regular
bold
stencil
inline

.

Changeling Neo
was designed by
Mark Simonson
in 2008.

Changeling
was designed by
Mark Simonson
in 2003.
VGC China
was designed by
M. Mitchell
in 1975.

changeling neo light

mix ><
EON
VISA
trek
valium
237614
earth•2
SPANDEX
TERMINATOR
energy drink
“do androids dream
of electric sheep?”
STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND

CHARACTER SET

LATIN CAPITALS

LATIN LOWERCASE

FLOATING ACCENTS

ANNUAL REPORTS

PROPORTIONAL & TABULAR FIGURES

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

SUPERSCRIPT & INFERIOR FIGURES

1234567890

FRACTIONS

$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ / 1234567890A1234567890

CURRENCY & FIGURE-RELATED CHARACTERS

5广FFF￥只%%

DASHES, DELIMITERS, QUOTES & PUNCTUATION

—○○○○△ សាស្តរ...ខ្លួន :: ពិភ័

MATHEMATICAL OPERATORS & MISCELLANEOUS

+ - × ÷ = ≈ ≠ ± < > ≤ ≥ ¬ || √ ∫ ∑ ∏ ∏ ∑ ∆ ⊗ ⊕ ™ • ⊗ × † ‡ √ ∙

LANGUAGES SUPPORTED

English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Basque, German, Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Czech, Polish, Hungarian, Croatian, Esperanto, Maltese, Turkish, Romanian, and Albanian.

OPENTYPE FEATURES SUPPORTED

Standard Ligatures, Stylistic Alternates, Stylistic Sets (14), Class-Based Kerning, Proportional Lining Figures, Tabular Lining Figures, Fractions, Superscript, Subscript and Scientific Inferior.

changeling neo regular

MIX
EON
VISA
TREK
VALIUM
2376.14
EARTH.2
SPANDEX
TERMINATOR
energy drink
“do androids dream
of electric sheep?”
STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND

CHARACTER SET

LATIN CAPITALS

LATIN LOWERCASE

FLOATING ACCENTS

ANSWER : 0--

PROPORTIONAL & TABULAR FIGURES

1334567890 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

SUPERSCRIPT & INFERIOR FIGURES

1234567890

FRACTIONS

FRACTIONS / 123456789067891563200

CURRENCY & FIGURE RELATED CHARACTERS

CURRENT & FUTURE REE

DASHES, DELIMITERS, QUOTES & PUNCTUATION

BASTIES, DEERHUNTERS, QUOTES & FONCT.

MATHEMATICAL OPERATORS & MISCELLANEOUS

+ - × ÷ = ≠ ± < > ≤ ≥ √ ∛ ∑ ∏ ∫ ∂ ∙ ∘ ° ∙ ™ ∙ ∙ ∙

LANGUAGES SUPPORTED

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changeling neo bold

MIX
EON
VISA
TREK
VALIUM
2376.14
EARTH•2
SPANDEX
TERMINATOR
ENERGY DRINK
“do androids dream
of electric sheep?”
STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND

CHARACTER SET

LATIN CAPITALS

LATIN LOWERCASE

FLOATING ACCENTS

ANSWER = 0 //

PROPORTIONAL & TABULAR FIGURES

PROPORTIONAL & TABULAR FIGURES

SUPERSCRIPT & INFERIOR FIGURES

1234567890

FRACTIONS

FRACTIONS / 12345678901234567890

CURRENCY & FIGURE-RELATED CHARACTERS

SCREEN #%

DASHES, DELIMITERS, QUOTES & PUNCTUATION

—००४ —

MATHEMATICAL OPERATORS & MISCELLANEOUS

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OPENTYPE FEATURES SUPPORTED

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changeling neo stencil

MIX
CON
VISA
TREK
VALIUM
2376.14
EARTH•2
SPANDEX
TERMINATOR
ENERGY DRINK
“do androids dream
of electric sheep?”
STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND

CHARACTER SET

LATIN CAPITALS

LATIN LOWERCASE

FLOATING ACCENTS

ANSWER IS 0--

PROPORTIONAL & TABULAR FIGURES

1334662890 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

1234567890

1/2 1/2 3/4 / 12345678901234567890

CURRENCY & FIGURE-RELATED CHARACTERS

DASHES, DELIMITERS, QUOTES & PUNCTUATION

[BASICS](#), [DELMETERS](#), [QUOTES](#) & [FUNCTIONS](#)

MATHEMATICAL OPERATORS & MISCELLANEOUS

LANGUAGES SUPPORTED

English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Basque, German, Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Czech, Polish, Hungarian, Croatian, Esperanto, Maltese, Turkish, Romanian, and Albanian.

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changeling neo inline

A vertical strip of 1980s-style graphic design featuring stylized typography for various brands and movie titles. The text includes:
mixx
EON
VISA
trek
valium
237614
earth 02
SPANDEX
TERMINATOR
energy drink
"do androids dream
of electric sheep?"
STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND

CHARACTER SET

LATIN CAPITALS

LATIN LOWERCASE

FLOATING ACCENTS

www.mechanicsmodel.com

PROPORTIONAL & TABULAR FIGURES

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

SUPERSCRIPT & INFERIOR FIGURES

1234567890

FRACTIONS

1/2 **1/4** **3/4** / **1234567890**/**1234567890**

CURRENCY & FIGURE-RELATED CHARACTERS

SCHEVY 8% 8%

DASHES, DELIMITERS, QUOTES & PUNCTUATION

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MATHEMATICAL OPERATORS & MISCELLANEOUS

✚-×=≈±<>≥≤¶~<>√∫µøΞ¶
¶ø△ø¶™ ◎ø*†ø¶ ◎

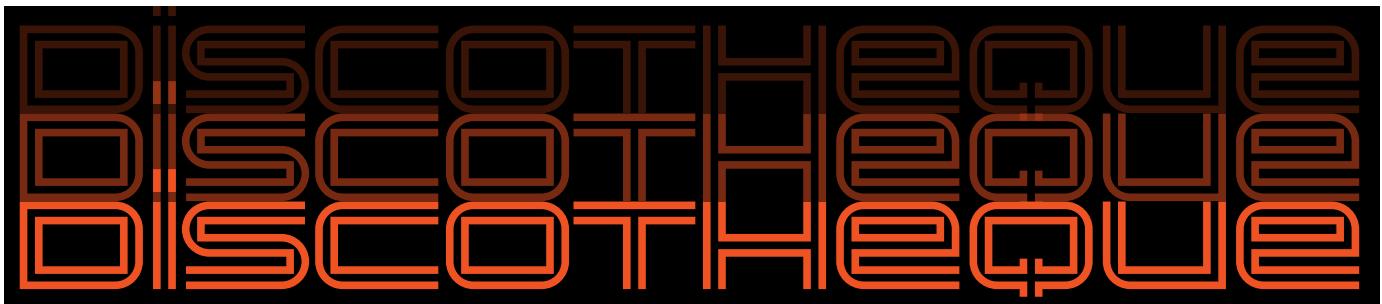
LANGUAGES SUPPORTED

English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Basque, German, Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Czech, Polish, Hungarian, Croatian, Esperanto, Maltese, Turkish, Romanian, and Albanian.

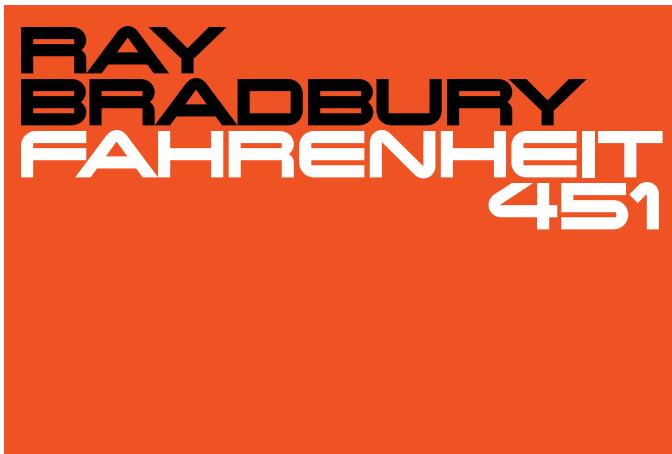
OPENTYPE FEATURES SUPPORTED

Standard Ligatures, Stylistic Alternates, Stylistic Sets (14), Class-Based Kerning, Proportional Lining Figures, Tabular Lining Figures, Fractions, Superscript, Subscript and Scientific Inferior.

changeling neo usage examples



the lathe of heaven



TECHNOSYNTH

