

This is  
**Lalibela**



A TYPEFACE  
DESIGNED BY JAN ERASMUS  
CIRCA 2009

INFORMATION GUIDE

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# Lalibela **TYPE SPECIMEN**

A FAMILY OF FONTS DESIGNED BY JAN ERASMUS

This motivation was set  
in Lalibela Regular, **Bold** & **bold Alternate**



**CYBERGRAPICS FONTS**

SPECIMEN SHEET BY JAN ERASMUS

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**THE** MOTIVATION for designing the Lalibela family (which is based on Bodoni) was to pay homage to Ethiopicscript. The script has been around for about 3000 years, but I took artistic licence to deviate from the original model and add personal touches. I chose the Bodoni family as a historical model because of its display value and not its text size use because the extreme contrast made it difficult to read at small sizes.

**A MODERN TYPEFACE** characterized by consistently horizontal stress, flat and un-bracketed serifs, and a high contrast between thin and thick strokes, were the final step in typography's two-hundred year journey away from calligraphy. The simplicity, austerity and greater contrast style was perfected, and became forever associated with two typographic giants: in Parma, Giambattista Bodoni (1740-1813), and in Paris, Firmin Didot (1764-1836).





Ethiopic washra = ጨዳጽ ጮገጭ ደደደግጉፊ።

Ethiopic washra punctuation marks = ፣፤፡፡፣፥፦፧፨፩፪፫፬፭፮፯፰፿

Contrary to all the refinements in Bodoni, I have revisited calligraphy with the font Lalibela that mimics Ethiopic Script. It was drawn with a much larger x height and: less geometric than Bodoni for its primary use as a display font. For example, a lot of italic serifs were added to the roman face as well as 16 additional ligatures to obtain more a feel of calligraphy. I made the serifs thicker and bracket one side with straight steps obtaining a reduced contrast to withstand breaking up at smaller sizes.

An additional variant, 'Lalibela Alternate' was designed to provide an interesting mixing integration with the Bold family member for more expressive headlines. All the characters in the 'Alternate' were changed besides the o, 1 and 2. I changed the caps into small caps so that they don't stand out too much but

is more reminiscent of the fact that there are no upper case distinctions in Ethiopic Script. I also incorporated their scant punctuation symbols like the ፣፤፡፡፣፥፦፧፨፩፪፫፬፭፮፯፰፿. The Small circled that are attached to many of their letters, were depicted by adding white dots to the balls of my letters. A + was used for the Alt. period to depict the shape of Lalibela church that was carved out of solid rock that came from a proud heritage of Christianity as well as Judaism which dates back to the fourth century in Ethiopia.

The ornaments, dagger and daggerdouble were based on their processional crosses. The result is a unique combination of homage, alchemy and fanciful reinterpretation of a Bodoni with a lots of personality.

LALIBELA REGULAR & ADDITIONAL LIGATURES

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 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  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2 3 / 4 1 / 4 1 / 2 ¡ — ! ?  
№ & ' ( ) \* + - . , / : ; < = > { | } ~ [ \ ]  
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ú û ü ý ÿ š ž † ‡ € £ ¥ € \$ % ‰  
¬ f « æ Æ œ Œ fi fl ffi fr fffi ft fffl  
Œ ch ck ct sh sl sp st » Á À Â Ã Ä  
Å Æ É È Ê Ë Ì Í Î Ï Ñ Ç Ó Ò Ô Ö Õ  
Ú Û Ü Ý Þ ß à á â ã ä å ç è é ê ë  
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— — — — — — — — — — — —  
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„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „

OPEN TYPE FEATURES

- DISCRETIONARY LIGATURES display distinctions -> display distinctions
- FRACTIONS 1/4, 1/2, 3/4 -> ¼ ½ ¾

SOFTWARE FORMATS

Mac PS1, Win PS1, Mac OT (PS1 flavored)  
& Win/Mac OT (TTF flavored)

LALIBELA BOLD  
& ADDITIONAL  
LIGATURES

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQ  
 RSTUVWXYZabcdefghi  
 jklmnopqrstuvwxyz  
 0123456789 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub><sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> ! - ! ?  
 N° & ' ( ) \* + - , . / : ; < = > { | } ~ [ \ ]  
 á à â ã ä å ç è é ê ë ì í î ï ñ ò ó ô õ ö  
 ú û ü ý ÿ š ž † ‡ € ¥ £ \$ % ‰  
 ¨ ª « æ Æ œ Œ fi fl ffi fr ffi ft ffl  
 Ꞥ ꞥ Ꞧ ꞧ Ꞩ ꞩ Ɦ Ɜ Ɡ Ɬ Ɪ ꞯ Ʞ Ʇ Ʝ Ꭓ Ꞵ ꞵ Ꞷ ꞷ Ꞹ ꞹ Ꞻ ꞻ Ꞽ ꞽ Ꞿ ꞿ  
 ˆ ˜ ˘ ˙ ˚ ˛ ˇ ˝  
 ¨ ª « æ Æ œ Œ fi fl ffi fr ffi ft ffl  
 Ꞥ ꞥ Ꞧ ꞧ Ꞩ ꞩ Ɦ Ɜ Ɡ Ɬ Ɪ ꞯ Ʞ Ʇ Ʝ Ꭓ Ꞵ ꞵ Ꞷ ꞷ Ꞹ ꞹ Ꞻ ꞻ Ꞽ ꞽ Ꞿ ꞿ  
 ˆ ˜ ˘ ˙ ˚ ˛ ˇ ˝

## OPEN TYPE FEATURES

## DISCRETIONARY

LIGATURES display distinctions -> diſplay diſtinctiõns

FRACTIONS <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> -> <sup>¼</sup> <sup>½</sup> <sup>¾</sup>

## SOFTWARE FORMATS

Mac PS1, Win PS1, Mac OT (PS1 flavored)  
 & Win/Mac OT (TTF flavored)

LALIBELA BOLD  
ALTERNATE  
& ADDITIONAL  
LIGATURES

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQ  
 RSTUVWXYZabcdefghi  
 jklmnopqrstuvwxyz  
 0123456789 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub><sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> ! - ! ?  
 N° & ' ( ) \* + - , . / : ; < = > { | } ~ [ \ ]  
 á à â ã ä å ç è é ê ë ì í î ï ñ ò ó ô õ ö  
 ú û ü ý ÿ š ž † ‡ € ¥ £ \$ % ‰  
 ¨ ª « æ Æ œ Œ fi fl ffi fr ffi ft ffl  
 Ꞥ ꞥ Ꞧ ꞧ Ꞩ ꞩ Ɦ Ɜ Ɡ Ɬ Ɪ ꞯ Ʞ Ʇ Ʝ Ꭓ Ꞵ ꞵ Ꞷ ꞷ Ꞹ ꞹ Ꞻ ꞻ Ꞽ ꞽ Ꞿ ꞿ  
 ˆ ˜ ˘ ˙ ˚ ˛ ˇ ˝  
 ¨ ª « æ Æ œ Œ fi fl ffi fr ffi ft ffl  
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 ˆ ˜ ˘ ˙ ˚ ˛ ˇ ˝

## OPEN TYPE FEATURES

## DISCRETIONARY

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## SOFTWARE FORMATS

MAC PS1, WIN PS1, MAC OT (PS1 flavored)  
 & WIN/MAC OT (TTF flavored)

LALIBELA FAMILY WAS CONCEIVED AS A DISPLAY FAMILY THAT CAN INTERCHANGE FACES. HERE IS AN ILLUSTRATION WHERE BOLD WAS USED WITH BOLD ALTERNATE CAPS AND VISE VERSA. YOU CAN ALSO USE THE BOLD CAPS WITH THE BOLD ALTERNATE SMALL CAPS TO MAKE UP AN SMALL CAPS FONT.

**ETHIOPIA** is 7 years behind the Gregorian calendar (it's 2000) because, as they say it took 7 years for the magi to return from giving mirth and frankincense to that little boy from bethlehem. This adds to the uniqueness of their calendar that

consists of 12 months of 30 days each and a 13th month before the new year of 5 days, Christmas is celebrated on JANUARY, 7th. Last year, on September 11, the Ethiopian new year, entered the new millennium 2000.