

---

# THE STORY of Kandal

---

## Kandal Details

Wedge Serifs

HEG

“Modern” Proportions

NARROW  
CAPS

Jenson-like Structure

snarf

Weighting Scheme

rrrr

Cursive Italic

ping

THE IDEA FOR KANDAL goes back to one of Mark Simonson’s earliest typeface designs, *Excalibur*, which he began working on in 1977. This early version was inspired mainly by the typefaces of Hermann Zapf. He did a second version in 1979 which he submitted to International Typeface Corporation. This one was heavily influenced by Jim Parkinson’s Jenson-like *Rolling Stone* typeface. Although he put a lot of work into it, he still had much to learn about type design and, not surprisingly, it was not accepted by ITC.

Around 1987, Mark began developing fonts using a Macintosh and the font design program Fontographer and took another stab at *Excalibur*. The third time was the charm and *Excalibur* (redubbed *Kandal*—*Excalibur* was taken) was accepted by FontHaus and released in 1994 as one of Mark’s first commercial fonts.

The three versions of what was to become Kandal differed quite a bit, but one thing they all had in common was the *wedge serif* which gives it a crisp, angular character. The overall structure of the face is Jenson-like, but with proportions more like nineteenth-century “antiques” such as *Century Old Style*. The contrast between the thicks and thins is low, and there is a hint of angular stress.

The weighting scheme is unusual for a serif typeface. Both the thick and thin parts of letters gain weight equally as the face gets bolder, not unlike a sans serif or egyptian face. To keep the type color even, the serifs get shorter as the weight increases. This keeps the inter-character spacing proportional to the counters (the insides of the letters). The italic follows a modern, somewhat cursive model.

The name comes from Mark’s paternal grandmother’s maiden name, which in turn comes from the name of a town in Norway. It rhymes with “bundle.”

With four weights and matching italics, Kandal is versatile and highly legible face. Nevertheless, nothing is perfect. Mark is at it again, working on a new, improved, more full-featured version of Kandal which he plans to release some time in 2005. ■

## Kandal Features

Weights

Kandal Book

*Kandal Book Italic*

Kandal Medium

*Kandal Medium Italic*

Kandal Bold

*Kandal Bold Italic*

Kandal Black

*Kandal Black Italic*

Ligatures

ff fi ffi fl ffl

Dingbats

→←▶▶◀▲▼★◆●  
■□✓

•

*Kandal* was designed by  
Mark Simonson  
in 1994.

Please  
 KNIGHT  
 Frightened  
 GEOGRAPHY  
 Wine & Roses  
 PLANETARIUM  
 Viva Wedge Serifs  
 UNRAVELLING YARN  
 Damn the Torpedoes!  
 THE KNIGHTS WHO SAY  
 Ancestral Norwegian Town

12-pt. THE FIRST WORD OF EVERY sentence and the first word of every line of poetry should begin with a capital letter. All proper names should begin with capital letters. Words derived from proper names

10-pt. THE FIRST WORD OF EVERY SENTENCE and the first word of every line of poetry should begin with a capital letter. All proper names should begin with capital letters. Words derive from proper names begin with a capital. Every word that denotes the Diety should begin with a capital. The

9-pt. THE FIRST WORD OF EVERY SENTENCE AND the first word of every line of poetry should begin with a capital letter. All proper names should begin with capital letters. Words derived from proper names begin with a capital. Every word that denotes the Diety should begin with a capital. The months of the year and the days of the week begin with capitals. The words North,

8-pt. THE FIRST WORD OF EVERY SENTENCE AND THE first word of every line of poetry should begin with a capital letter. All proper names should begin with capital letters. Words derived from proper names begin with a capital. Every word that denotes the Diety should begin with a capital. The months of the year and the days of the week begin with capitals. The words North, South, East, West, and their compounds

SELECTED CHARACTERS FROM THE COMPLETE FONT

Kandal Book  
 ABCDEFGHIJKLM  
 NOPQRSTUVWXYZ  
 ÅÆÇÉÈËÌÑÒŒŠÛŸ  
 abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz  
 åæçéèëìñœšûÿ ffflflflfl  
 (©®™™™ ao #\$\$¥€)  
 1234567890  
 %‰°¹²¼¾¹³²/ <>=+×÷  
 →←★◆●■◀▶▼▲□✓  
 [&@\*'"'""' ,,,<<<><]  
 {\*+!\$%&'( )\_~`\_ \_ . . . . . ; ; ! ? ; } }



Please  
KNIGHT  
Frightened  
GEOGRAPHY  
Wine & Roses  
PLANETARIUM  
Viva Wedge Serifs  
UNRAVELLING YARN  
Damn the Torpedoes!  
THE KNIGHTS WHO SAY  
Ancestral Norwegian Town

12-pt. THE FIRST WORD OF EVERY sentence and the first word of every line of poetry should begin with a capital letter. All proper names should begin with capital letters. Words derived from proper

10-pt. THE FIRST WORD OF EVERY SENTENCE and the first word of every line of poetry should begin with a capital letter. All proper names should begin with capital letters. Words derived from proper names begin with a capital. Every word that denotes the Diety should begin with a capital.

9-pt. THE FIRST WORD OF EVERY SENTENCE and the first word of every line of poetry should begin with a capital letter. All proper names should begin with capital letters. Words derived from proper names begin with a capital. Every word that denotes the Diety should begin with a capital. The months of the year and the days of the week begin with capitals. The

8-pt. THE FIRST WORD OF EVERY SENTENCE AND the first word of every line of poetry should begin with a capital letter. All proper names should begin with capital letters. Words derived from proper names begin with a capital. Every word that denotes the Diety should begin with a capital. The months of the year and the days of the week begin with capitals. The words North, South, East, West, and their com

SELECTED CHARACTERS FROM THE COMPLETE FONT

Kandal Medium  
ABCDEFGHIJKLM  
NOPQRSTUVWXYZ  
ÅÆÇÈÉÌËÑŒŒŠÛÛ  
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz  
âæçèéíîñœššþûÿ fffiffllll  
(©®™ º # \$ £ ¥ €)  
1234567890  
%‰°¹²¼³⁄¹³²/ <> = + × ÷  
→←★◆●◀▶◻◻  
[&@\*'"'""' , , , <<>>]  
{\*+!\$%&'( ) \_ \_ \_ . . . . , , ; ; ! ? ; ; }

*Please*  
*KNIGHT*  
*Frightened*  
*GEOGRAPHY*  
*Wine & Roses*  
*PLANETARIUM*  
*Viva Wedge Serifs*  
*UNRAVELLING YARN*  
*Damn the Torpedoes!*  
*THE KNIGHTS WHO SAY*  
*Ancestral Norwegian Town*

12-pt. *THE FIRST WORD OF EVERY sentence and the first word of every line of poetry should begin with a capital letter. All proper names should begin with capital letters. Words derived from proper*

10-pt. *THE FIRST WORD OF EVERY SENTENCE and the first word of every line of poetry should begin with a capital letter. All proper names should begin with capital letters. Words derived from proper names begin with a capital. Every word that denotes the Diety should begin with a capi*

9-pt. *THE FIRST WORD OF EVERY SENTENCE and the first word of every line of poetry should begin with a capital letter. All proper names should begin with capital letters. Words derived from proper names begin with a capital. Every word that denotes the Diety should begin with a capital. The months of the year and the days of the week begin with capitals. The words*

8-pt. *THE FIRST WORD OF EVERY SENTENCE AND the first word of every line of poetry should begin with a capital letter. All proper names should begin with capital letters. Words derived from proper names begin with a capital. Every word that denotes the Diety should begin with a capital. The months of the year and the days of the week begin with capitals. The words North, South, East, West, and their com*

SELECTED CHARACTERS FROM THE COMPLETE FONT

*Kandal Medium Italic*

ABCDEFGHIJKLM

NOPQRSTUVWXYZ

ÀÆÇÈÉÌËÑÒËŠÛŸ

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

åæçèéìëñòëšûÿ fffiffllffl

(©®™™™ ºº #\$\$¥€)

1234567890

%‰<sup>º</sup>½¼³¼<sup>132</sup>/ <>=+×÷

↔★◆●◀▶▼▲□✓

[&@\*'"'""' ,,, <<>>]

{\*+?S\$|/|\_|\_ \_ . . . . , ; ! ? ; }







