

# MD EIGHT PIXEL & DISPLAY

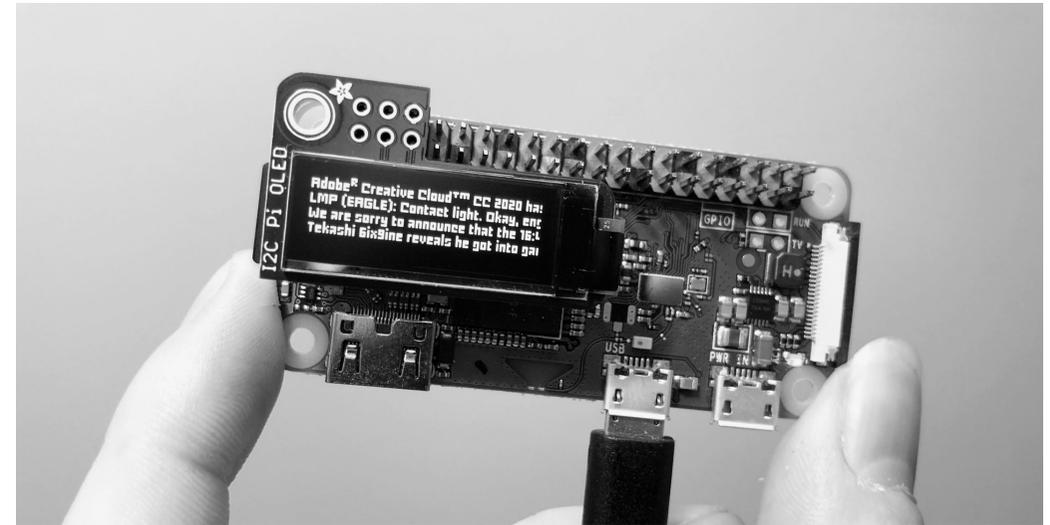
As an exploration  
of reduction and  
scale in type.

An exploration of reduction and scale in type design. MD Eight is an unconventional type family centred around an 8×8 pixel font. This germinal pixel style is supported by display cuts in three optical sizes, which transform its staid construction into an impactful, expressive set of typefaces.

MD Eight's original design arose not from expression, but from restriction. The pixel style was designed very specifically to fit a 32×128px OLED display attached to a Raspberry Pi. This display's pixels have a slight border between them, meaning conventional pixel fonts — which often rely on pixels placed diagonally adjacent to imply angled lines — were notably less readable than they would be on other displays.

The pixel style of MD Eight is designed to avoid these diagonal connections as much as feasible, leading to a cleaner reading experience on the original OLED display as well as a generally smooth texture across all types of screen.

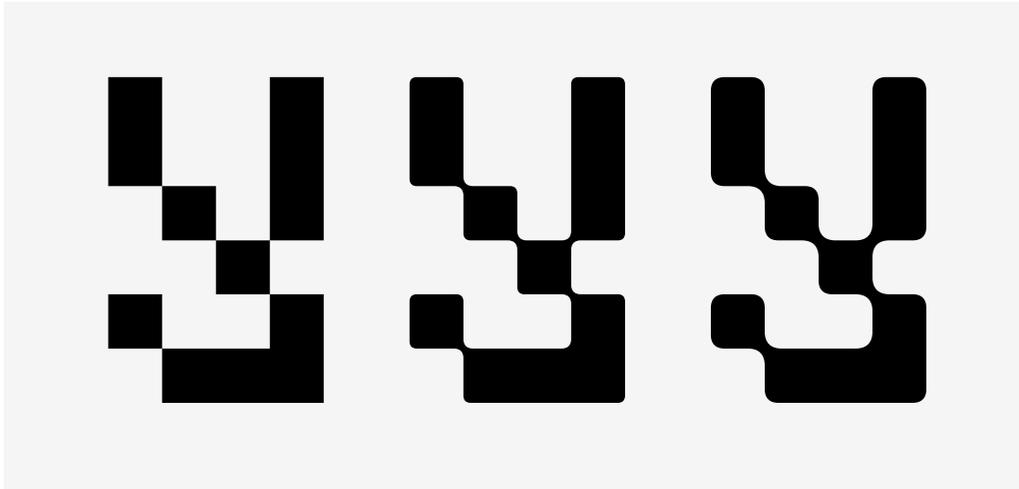
MD Eight's display styles are a radical departure from their pixel roots. They're tightly spaced, breaking the restrictions of the original pixel style and creating a fast, impactful rhythm, which is heightened even further in the obliques. Across the styles' three optical sizes, MD Eight features increasingly rounded corners and 'bridges' between diagonal connections — an unapologetic reference to the iconic poster and logo designs of Dutch graphic designer Wim Crouwel.



△ The original purpose of MD Eight, a tiny Raspberry Pi display



△ Lettering detail from a poster by Wim Crouwel (1968)



MD Eight's display styles take several cues from the work of Wim Crouwel, perhaps the most obvious of which is a signature rounding of corners and 'bridging' between diagonally adjacent pixels. This is applied in three levels for greater control.



The pixel style of MD Eight is a functional pixel font, and its vertical proportions exactly fit an 8×8 pixel grid. Since the display styles do not need to fit this grid, their proportions are adjusted to be closer to those of a typical display font.



To deal with the significant restrictions imposed by the pixel grid, MD Eight makes use of *implied forms* in many characters. The spine of the lowercase *s*, for instance, is not drawn — its presence is *implied* by the rest of the letter, so that in running text it can be read with minimal difficulty.

MD Eight Pixel Regular

MD Eight Display Hard

*Hard S*

MD Eight Display Medium

*Medium S*

MD Eight Display Soft

*Soft S*

MD Eight's pixel style is treated largely as distinct from the others. While the shapes of its characters are the same as those of the display styles, its spacing, vertical proportions, and intended use are significantly different.

The display styles share metrics and spacing across three levels of corner rounding. Each of these levels has an upright style, and a 10° slanted (S) counterpart.

SS01  
Alternate e

**Images****Images**

Swash Caps

**New York****New York**

Discretionary ligature IJ

**IJKS****IJKS**

Tabular numbers

**12345****12345**

Ordinals

**1<sup>o</sup> 1<sup>a</sup> 1<sup>o</sup>.****1<sup>o</sup> 1<sup>a</sup> 1<sup>o</sup>**

Automatic capital B  
(Language: DEU)

**STRASSE****STRASSE**





Arrows & Manicules

↖ ↗ ↘ ↙ ⚡ ⚡

Uppercase Extended

À Á Â Ã Ä Å Æ Ç È É Ê Ë Ì Í Î Ï Ñ Ò Ó  
Ô Õ Ö × Ø Ù Ú Û Ü Ý Þ ß à á â ã  
ä å æ ç è é ê ë ì í î ï ð ñ ò ó  
ô õ ö ÷ ø ù ú û ü ý þ ß

Swash Caps

À Á Â Ã Ä Å Æ Ç È É Ê Ë Ì Í Î Ï Ñ Ò Ó  
Ô Õ Ö × Ø Ù Ú Û Ü Ý Þ ß à á â ã  
ä å æ ç è é ê ë ì í î ï ð ñ ò ó  
ô õ ö ÷ ø ù ú û ü ý þ ß

Lowercase Extended

À Á Â Ã Ä Å Æ Ç È É Ê Ë Ì Í Î Ï Ñ Ò Ó  
Ô Õ Ö × Ø Ù Ú Û Ü Ý Þ ß à á â ã  
ä å æ ç è é ê ë ì í î ï ð ñ ò ó  
ô õ ö ÷ ø ù ú û ü ý þ ß

Diacritics

... ÿ ŷ Ÿ Ź ˆ ˜ ˘ ˙ ˚ ˛ ˜ ˝

130 pt

LIGHTS

96 pt

Low Res!

75 pt

ARMOUR  
Start Quest

56 pt

Narrow Hallway  
Összegyűjtését

STRAßENBAHN

48 pt

Ⓜ Mass-Driver™  
203-400 † UP 2031  
Begin [PRESS OK]  
‡ £23.54 \* £27.96

125 pt

**Moirés**

48 pt

**CONGLOMERATED  
Substantial Works**

32 pt

**The walls are hung with velvet that is black and soft as sin — and little**

12 pt

**3 MAY. BISTRITZ. — LEFT MUNICH AT 8:35 P.M., on 1st May, arriving at Vienna early next morning; should have arrived at 6:46, but train was an hour late. Buda-Pesth seems a wonderful place, from the glimpse which I got of it from the train and the little I could walk through the streets. I feared to go very far from the station, as we had arrived late and would start as near the correct time as possible. The impression I had was that we were leaving the West and entering the East; the most western of splendid bridges over the Danube, which is here of noble width and depth, took us among the traditions of Turkish rule. We left in pretty good time, and came after nightfall to Klausenburgh. Here I stopped for the night at the Hotel Royale. I had for dinner, or rather supper, a chicken done up some way with red pepper, which was very good but thirsty. (Mem., get recipe for Mina.) I asked the waiter, and he said it was called "paprika hendl," and that, as it was a national dish, I should be able to get it anywhere along the Carpathians. I found my smattering of German**

10 pt

**IT WAS A BRIGHT COLD DAY IN APRIL, and the cloaks were striking thirteen. Winston Smith, his chin nuzzled into his breast in an effort to escape the vile wind, slipped quickly through the glass doors of Victory Mansions, though not quickly enough to prevent a swirl of gritty dust from entering along with him. The hallway smelt of boiled cabbage and old rag mats. At one end of it a coloured poster, too large for indoor display, had been tacked to the wall. It depicted simply an enormous face, more than a metre wide: the face of a man of about forty-five, with a heavy black moustache and ruggedly handsome features. Winston made for the stairs. It was no use trying the lift. Even at the best of times it was seldom working, and at present the electric current was cut off during daylight hours. It was part of the economy drive in preparation for Hate Week. The flat was seven flights up, and Winston, who was thirty-nine and had a varicose ulcer above his right ankle, went slowly, resting several times on the way. On each landing, opposite the lift-shaft, the poster with the enormous face gazed from the wall. It was one of those pictures which are**

8 pt

**YOU WILL REJOICE TO HEAR THAT no disaster has accompanied the commencement of an enterprise which you have regarded with such evil forebodings. I arrived here yesterday, and my first task is to assure my dear sister of my welfare and increasing confidence in the success of my undertaking. I am already far north of London, and as I walk in the streets of Petersburg, I feel a cold northern breeze play upon my cheeks, which braces my nerves and fills me with delight. Do you understand this feeling? This breeze, which has travelled from the regions towards which I am advancing, gives me a foretaste of those icy climes. Inspired by this wind of promise, my daydreams became more fervent and vivid. I try in vain to be persuaded that the pole is the seat of frost and desolation; it ever presents itself to my imagination as the region of beauty and delight. There, Margaret, the sun is for ever visible, its broad disk just skirting the horizon and diffusing a perpetual splendour. There—for with your leave, my sister, I will put some trust in preceding navigators—there snow and frost are banished; and, sailing over a calm sea, we may be wafted to a land surpassing in wonders and in beauty every region hitherto discovered on the habitable globe. Its productions and features may be without example, as the phenomena of the heavenly bodies undoubtedly are in those**

130 pt

**FUTURE**

96 pt

***Lightyears***

75 pt

**New America  
*Exhibition Set***

56 pt

***RACE-CONDITION***  
***edlisfræði svigrúm***  
***Összegyűjtését 32***

48 pt

***GIVEN THE CONTEXT,***  
***Astronomical Scales!***  
***New York: Subway ?***  
***EMERGENCY EXIT !5***

125 pt

**SOL-76**

48 pt

**Atmospheric Shields:  
OPTION C: ABELATIVE**

32 pt

**When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go? (2019) Darkroom / Interscope Records**

12 pt

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340 pt

**mm**

130 pt

**Real Life**

96 pt

**Mechanics**

75 pt

**omega edition**  
**ZERO—GRAV**

56 pt

**214JRÖPHIECTBA**

**Graphic Designers**

**second level curve**

48 pt

**CORNER RADIUS 47.1**

**§ 3. Desktop Licenses**

**depressurizing airlock**

**FIGHT-TECH USA, Inc**

125 pt

**climate**

48 pt

**MODERATION LIMITS**  
**Decorative Additions**

32 pt

**Set in 2052, where players compete in the *F3600 Anti-Gravity Racing League*, the**

12 pt

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340 pt

**FF**

130 pt

***Optically***

96 pt

**TATE MON**

75 pt

**digital effects*****Gaussian Blur***

56 pt

**ORKNEYSERNE →*****FUNCTIONALISTS*****QVO/R Rewritable**

48 pt

**↳↳ Racing ↳↳↳ Line ↳↳*****Uninterrupted Relays*****MOVE TO RED ALERT*****(and change the bulb)***

125 pt

**ORBITS**

48 pt

**42% abv High Quality  
THE NINEFOLD STAR**

32 pt

***LMP (EAGLE): Contact light. Okay, engine stop. ACA out of detent. (ARMSTRONG)***

12 pt

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340 pt

**W**

## Supported Languages

Afrikaans	Icelandic	Maori	Somali
Albanian	Ido	Morisyen	South Ndebele
Asu	Inari Sami	North Ndebele	Southern Sotho
Basque	Indonesian	Northern Sami	Spanish
Bemba	Interlingua	Northern Sotho	Swahili
Bena	Irish	Norwegian Bokmål	Swati
Bosnian	Italian	Norwegian Nynorsk	Swedish
Catalan	Javanese	Nyanja	Swiss German
Cebuano	Jju	Nyankole	Taita
Chiga	Jola-Fonyi	Occitan	Taroko
Colognian	Kabuverdianu	Oromo	Teso
Cornish	Kalenjin	Polish	Tsonga
Corsican	Kinyarwanda	Portuguese	Tswana
Croatian	Kurdish	Romanian	Turkish
Czech	Latvian	Romansh	Turkmen
Danish	Lithuanian	Rombo	Upper Sorbian
Dutch	Lojban	Rundi	Vunjo
English	Low German	Rwa	Walloon
Estonian	Lower Sorbian	Samburu	Welsh
Faroese	Luo	Sango	Western Frisian
Filipino	Luxembourgish	Sangu	Wolof
Finnish	Luyia	Sardinian	Xhosa
French	Machame	Scottish Gaelic	Zulu
Friulian	Makhuwa-Meetto	Sena	
Galician	Makonde	Shambala	
Ganda	Malagasy	Shona	
German	Malay	Slovak	
Gusii	Maltese	Slovenian	
Hungarian	Manx	Soga	

## Details

Designed By	Rutherford Craze
Released	February 2020
Styles	7
Glyphs	432
Formats	OTF, WOFF, WOFF2
Licensing	Desktop & Web (other applications on request)
Copyright	This specimen is intended for informational purposes only. No part of it may be reproduced without the prior written permission of Mass-Driver, except as necessary to evaluate the typeface.  MD Eight may be used only as permitted by the terms of the Mass-Driver End User License Agreement (EULA). <a href="https://mass-driver.com/licensing">https://mass-driver.com/licensing</a>