

WELCOME  
Παρεσ γι' πα  
ຍືນດີຕ້ອນຮູບ  
Добредојдовте  
Benvenuto  
ΚΑΛΩΣ  
ΟΡΙΣΑΤΕ



**Tcho**

A new multilingual typeface  
for universal designs

*Designed by Michael Parson*

# Tcho

*Display typography  
for a global world*



Aa

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# Information

## Tcho typeface family

Work on the Tcho typeface design was initiated by a commercial project to create a typographic logo that would be used to promote the city of Geneva. This logotype would be used in a tourism development project to welcome new arrivals and tourists to a city some see as austere.

A series of designs where proposed that ranged from Script style lettering to more formal letterforms but a decision was made to stay away from what would be perceived as swiss, so Helvetica, Univers and Frutigers, or any designs that where too heavily influenced by the Swiss style of the 1960's. The reason being that we felt that these designs have become so wide spread that their use has become generic and no longer an indentifying factor, or national style. You will have as much chance coming

across Helvetica in the New York metro as in Geneva, so why play on these codes? We also felt that it would be a more original approach to attempt to create a Geneva style as opposed to a swiss style since Switzerland has a very strong cantonal value, leaving many citizens more attached to their communes or cantons than country.

After a series of trials and proposals, a final selection was made and approved by the client. A proposal was submitted to expand the design to a typeface but unfortunately, the client did not follow our ideas.. The main argument we put forward was to say that we had created a system, more than a logo, where the typeface was being used as the main styling factor, so if we extended these options to cover a wide range of languages, we could be prepared for a consistent branding on wayfinding

boards, for example. Geneva is known the world over as being firstly the home of the United Nations, but equally as one of the main international cities of Switzerland, thanks largely to it's airport. The ambition was not to create a typeface to represent the city, but rather a design that could be used in most forms of communication and essentially, could cover a wide array of potential languages in a multicultural city that is full of diversity with a foreign population of over 40% of the city.

So despite a lack of follow up from the client, I thought the project had it's own merits and was a great way for me to explore one of my great passions, letterforms. Symbolic or pictographic languages like chinese and Japanese where quickly excluded as being far too complex technically to deal with in this context. But a selection

of ISO standard character sets was chosen that would cover what seemed to be the common languages heard and used in Geneva. So along with the Latin set and accent extentions for other latin based languages like turkish, icelandic or swedish; Hebrew, Arabic, Cyrillic, Greek and Thai where chosen to complete the family.

Dealing with such a large selection of scripts presented both a challenge but also an added freshness to the letterforms. On certain occassions, work a certain glyph from the hebrew alphabet presented a new solution for the latin glyphs. The main concern was to create a series of forms that despite very different origins and sometimes settings, could be used with each other in complete harmony. This attribute was particulary challenging on languages such as hebrew, arabic

Geneva is known,  
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of Switzerland

and thai that do not share any common forms with the latin script that was the base. While this issue has been addressed in certain languages like greek by designers since the early days of printing throughout europe, other forms like Thai in particular, have suffered from either a lack of interest or commercial appeal. Particular care was taken to create authentic letterforms that respected

Information FRENCH  
Information GERMAN  
Informazioni ITALIAN  
Información SPANISH  
Информация RUSSIAN  
πληροφορία GREEK  
ข้อมูลข่าวสาร THAI  
עִבְרִית HEBREW  
عربى ARABIC

the roots of each language, the main focus was to have a consistent form, stroke and feel over all the different glyphs. This was a challenge for a series of forms, that like the greek language, are more closely associated to script or cursive forms than the more rigid and structured forms found in the latin based languages.

The base letterforms of the

Tcho typeface was created with a series of rounded letterforms expressing a gentle and soft form that was coherent with the initial request of creating a warm and welcoming design.

A final, yet important addition to the typeface was the creation of a true italic companion to the design. This was firstly born out of necessity due to the glyph changes in scripts like Cyrillic but we decided to pursue that avenue by reworking all the letterforms, adding a very slight curve, reminiscent of the handwritten script, into the design. The overall layout sits nicely with the regular font and with a slight slant of only 9 degrees, does not distract the eye from the regular form. The italic weight has a more humanist, rounded form and is therefore well set for slogan or emotive messages.

### Features

With the very large selection of languages yet limited weight range, I decided to pack the single weight design with a very diverse set of OpenType features, from the more standard or discretionary ligatures to titling alternates or standard alternates, this single weight font offers a whole range of possibilities to any designer working on a layout.

Unfortunately, the main language support for these features remains the basic latin 1 set but future plans

could see an expansion of certain features to other scripts. Despite this, the OpenType features provide a handy set of solutions when setting the typeface, allowing the designer to mix some flair like a swash capital with a ligatured set of glyphs. These features also provide enough variety in the forms to avoid the lack of weights becoming an issue when setting your text.

### Numerals

While developing the typeface, I also noticed that the ideal numeral solution would be to create the three standard sets, so oldstyle, tabular and x height lining. The reasoning behind this was to offer the best solution for each setting, so in text I would recommend the oldstyle figures. For display or titles the tabular or x height numerals would be best, simply due to their

consistent aligning, the setting is easier to manage. As with many contemporary designs, Tcho features a full set of subscript and superscript numerals that can be used separately but also form the base for the Fraction feature that covers all the possible combinations. An extra option was also added as a set of titling numerals, these numerals are lining numerals but set inside a series of

circles. These numerals where conceived as a final complimentary solution, imagined more for title settings but could equally be used if setting tables or other charts. To remain true to the language support, Tcho equally features 2 extra numeral sets, for Thai and for Arab languages. However these numerals are not set as the default system due to the fact that in these regions, a lot of the

contemporary designs use latin numerals, they can however be accessed by the designer if required in the project.

① German

② French

③ Italian

④ Albanian

⑤ Serbo-Croatian

⑥ Portuguese

### PER THOUSAND

4.640.35

1.485.05

470.961

103.350

94.937

89.527

# Character set

Tcho typeface family

- Set de caractères FRENCH
- Charakter geht unter GERMAN
- Set di caratteri ITALIAN
- Juego de caracteres SPANISH
- Набор символов RUSSIAN
- Σύνολο χαρακτήρων GREEK
- ຜົນສະ ຫຼື ຫຼື ຫຼື THAI
- מערכת תווים HEBREW
- مجموعة الأحرف ARABIC

BASE GLYPHS **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**

ACCENTS **Å Ä Å Æ Ç Ć Ć Ć Ć Đ Ď È  
É Ê Ë Ě Ę Ğ Ğ Ğ Ğ ħ Ì Í Î Ï Ï Ï Ï Ĵ  
Ł Ł Ľ Ń Ń Ń Ń Ń Ń Ò Ó Ô Õ Ö Ø Ò Û  
Ú Û Ü Ü Ü Ü Ü Ü Ÿ Ÿ Š š Š š Š  
Ş Ţ Ț Ț Ÿ Ÿ Ÿ Ž ž ž á â ã ä å à ã ä å  
ç ć ċ đ đ è é ê ë ě ě ě ě ē ğ ğ ğ ğ ħ ħ ï  
í î ï ï ï ï ï ĵ ĵ ñ ñ ñ ñ ñ ñ ò ó ô õ ö ø ò ò  
ù ú û ü ü ü ü ü ü Ÿ Ÿ Ÿ Ÿ Ÿ Ÿ Ÿ Ÿ Ÿ Ÿ Ÿ  
ę ý ŷ ž Đ Þ þ ð ‘ ’ “ ” ^ ˇ ` ”**

PUNCTUATION **@ \$ + # ? ¿ ! ; / | \ + - — — = % % ∞ “  
” „ ‘ ’ ‚ ° . , ; : … · [ ] ( ) { } / - \_**

DEFAULT NUMERALS **0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9**  
 TABULAR NUMERALS **0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9**  
 OLD STYLE NUMERALS **0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9**  
 SUPERSCRIPT SUBSCRIPT **0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9     0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9**  
 TITLING NUMERALS **0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9**  
 FRACTIONS **½ ¼ ⅓ ⅔ ⅖ ⅙ ⅛ ⅞ ⅑**

GUILLETS & ALTERNATES **<< >> >> •     ← ← ⇨ ⇨ → → ▪**  
 SYMBOLS & ALTERNATES **\* © ® \* © ®**

AMPERSAND & ALTERNATES **& & e**

MONETARY SYMBOLS **£ ¢ \$ ¥ € £**

LIGATURES **fi fl fa fb ff ffi ffj ffi ffy fj fk fn fm  
fp fr ft fu fy fv fw fx fz it if rt rf  
tt tf tty tv tw ty Ti Tj Fi Fj TT ET  
FT Ex**

DISCRETIONARY LIGATURES **AI AF HE HU OO HI TE TV TW TX TY  
TZ Th Tk ct ch ck ft fl fb fh fk fi fj  
ff ffi ffi ffj ffy gg gh gt gy rt st sh  
sk th MR MRS HI ST RD**

ALTERNATES **ß α ε f g k u y œ œ**

SWASH **€ ʒ A A A B D E F H I J K K K L M  
N P Q R R R T T U V W X Y Z f f  
h k m n t**

**Kooon  
Ride**

International

TCHO REGULAR

مهم ووری ه و کان تون

ARABIC LANGUAGE SUPPORT

« BASSIN FRANCO-VALDO-GENEVOI

STANDARD CAPITALS

Type Design

SWASH FEATURE

สวัสดีชาวโลก

THAI LANGUAGE SUPPORT





# Languages

Tcho typeface family

**Languages** ENGLISH  
**Sprachen** GERMAN  
**Lingua** ITALIAN  
**Lenguas** SPANISH  
**Языки** RUSSIAN  
**Γλώσσα** GREEK  
**ภาษาไทย** THAI  
**שפה** HEBREW  
**لغة** ARABIC

*The following languages are supported in the Tcho typeface*

#### ISO LATIN 8851-1

Afrikaans  
Albanian  
Breton  
Catalan  
Danish  
English (UK and US)  
Faroese  
Galician  
German  
Icelandic  
Irish (new orthography)  
Italian  
Kurdish  
(The Kurdish Unified Alphabet)  
Latin (basic classical orthography)  
Leonese  
Luxembourgish (basic classical orthography)  
Norwegian (Bokmål and Nynorsk)  
Occitan  
Portuguese (Portuguese and Brazilian)  
Rhaeto-Romanic  
Scottish Gaelic  
Spanish  
Swahili  
Swedish  
Walloon  
Basque

#### ISO LATIN 8851-2

Bosnian  
Croatian  
Czech  
German  
Hungarian  
Polish  
Romanian  
Serbian  
(when in the Latin script)  
Slovak  
Slovene  
Upper Sorbian  
Lower Sorbian

#### ISO LATIN 8851-3

Turkish  
Maltese  
Esperanto

#### ISO LATIN 8851-4

Estonian  
Latvian  
Lithuanian  
Greenlandic  
Sami

#### ISO LATIN 8851-5

Bulgarian  
Belarusian  
Russian  
Serbian  
Macedonian

#### ISO LATIN 8851-6

Arabic language

#### ISO LATIN 8851-7

Greek language

#### ISO LATIN 8851-8

Hebrew language

#### ISO LATIN 8851-10

Nordic languages

#### ISO LATIN 8851-11

Thai language

# Aşağıdaki lesteklener diller, Tcho vazıyüzü

**Tcho** ISO LATIN 8851-1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 10  
ACCENTS

À Á Â Ã Ä Å Æ Ā  
Ç Ć Ĉ Ċ Đ Ď È É Ê  
Ë Ę Ğ Ġ Ģ Ħ Ì  
Í Î Ï Ĵ Ķ Ĺ Ļ Ń  
Ň Ñ Ñ Ñ Ò Ó Ô Õ Ö  
Ő Ő Ò Ó Ò Ó Ò Ó Ò Ó  
Ū ū Ū ū Ū ū Ū ū  
Ş Ş Ş Ş Ţ Ţ Ţ Ţ Ÿ Ý Ž  
Ž Ž á â ã ä å à á â ã  
ç ć ċ đ ď è é ê ë ě ě  
è é ğ ğ ğ ğ ħ ħ ì í î  
ı ĵ ĵ ĵ ĵ ĵ ĵ ĵ ĵ ĵ  
ó ô õ ö ø ő ō ù ú û ü  
ű ű ű ű ű ű ű ű ű ű  
ş ş ş ŧ ŧ ŧ ŧ ŧ ŧ ŧ ŧ  
þ ð ' ` " ^ ˇ ˘ ˙

Следующи  
языки  
поддержан  
в шрифте  
Tcho

**Tcho** ISO LATIN 8851-5  
CYRILLIC CHARACTER SET

А Б В Г Д Е Ж З И  
Й К Л М Н О П Р С  
Т У Ф Х Ц Ч Ш Щ  
Ъ Ы Ь Э Ю Я Ё Ѓ Ѓ  
Є Ѕ І І І Ј Љ Њ Ћ Ќ Ў  
Ц а б в г д е ж з и  
й к л м н о п р с т  
у ф х ц ч ш щ ъ ы  
ь э ю я ё ё ё ё ё ё ё  
љ њ ћ ќ ў ц

Οι ακόλουθες  
αλλάσεις  
προστηρίζον  
στο  
Tcho

**Tcho** ISO LATIN 8851-7  
GREEK CHARACTER SET

Α Β Ε Ζ Η Ι Κ Μ Ν Ο  
Ρ Τ Χ Ϊ Γ Δ Θ Λ Ξ Π  
Σ Υ Ψ Ω α β γ δ ε ζ  
η θ ι κ λ μ ν ξ ο π ρ  
σ τ υ φ χ ψ ω ς Φ  
Ύ ά ό έ ί ή ύ ώ ü ï  
ÿ ÿ Ω Υ Ο Ι Η Α Ε

נתמכות ב

הבאות

השפות

גופן סח'ד

**Tcho** ISO LATIN 8851-8  
HEBREW CHARACTER SET

ל כ ך ט ח ז ה ד ב א  
צ ץ פ ף ע ס נ ן מ י ן ם  
ת ש ר ק

هده الالاع ان  
 دع ما مر  
 أن سلقى  
 Tcho ببع  
 بالاحد

Tcho ISO LATIN 8851-6  
 ARABIC CHARACTER SET

ا آ ا  
 خ ح ج ث ت ب أ  
 ض ص ش س ز ر ذ  
 ك ق ف غ ع ظ ط  
 ئ ي و ؤ ه ن م ل  
 گ گ ک پ پ ژ چ پ  
 ل ل ه ه گ گ گ  
 ت ت ي ا ا ا ا ا  
 چ ذ ج ح ح ح ح ح  
 ش س ز ر ذ چ ذ ج  
 ض ط ص ش س ش س  
 غ ع ظ ط ط ط ط ط  
 ه ه ه ه ه ه ه ه ه  
 ه ه ن م ل ل ل ل ق ق ف  
 ل ل ل ل ل ل ل ل ل ل ل ل  
 ل ل ل ل ل ل ل ل ل ل ل ل

ภาษา ทั่วไป  
 สนับสนุนใน  
 Tcho  
 ปรำงหน้าตา  
 ของตัวพิมพ์

**Tcho** ISO LATIN 8851-11  
 THAI CHARACTER SET

๑ ๒ ๓ ๔ ๕ ๖ ๗ ๘ ๙ ๐ ๑ ๒ ๓ ๔ ๕ ๖ ๗ ๘ ๙ ๐  
 ก ข ค ง จ ฉ ช ซ ฮ ฅ ฌ ญ  
 ฎ ฏ ฐ ฑ ฒ ณ ด ต ถ ท  
 ธ น บ ป ผ ฝ พ ฟ ภ  
 ม ย ร ฤ ล ฦ ว ศ ษ ส ห  
 ฬ อ ฮ ๑ ๒ ๓ ๔ ๕ ๖ ๗ ๘ ๙ ๐  
 ๑ ๒ \* ๓ ๔ ๕ ๖ ๗ ๘ ๙ ๐  
 ๑ ๒ ๓ ๔ ๕ ๖ ๗ ๘  
 ๙ ๑ ๒

# Ligatures

Tcho typeface family

Ligatures FRENCH  
Binden GERMAN  
Legatura ITALIAN  
Ligaduras SPANISH  
Связи RUSSIAN  
δεσμός GREEK  
ໂຮງ THAI  
מה HEBREW  
رباط ARABIC

Office

STANDARD LIGATURES

fi fl fa fb ff ffi ffj  
ffl ffy fj fk fn fm fp  
fr ft fu fy fv fw fx  
fz it if rt rf tt tf  
tty tv tw ty Ti Tj Fi  
Fj TT ET FT Ex

ATTACK

*fluffy*

fatty & fit

AI AF HE HU OO TH TE  
TV TW TX TY TZ Th  
Tk ct ch ck ft fl fb



# Shaft

fh fk fi fj ff fj ffi ffj  
ffj gg gh gt gy rt st  
sh sk th MR MRS HI ST RD

@

# Numerals

Tcho typeface family

- Chiffres FRENCH
- Zahlen GERMAN
- Numeri ITALIAN
- Números SPANISH
- Числа RUSSIAN
- Αριθμὼν GREEK
- טעאָנעאָן THAI
- ספר במדבר HEBREW
- أرقام ARABIC

16th avenue

LINING NUMERALS

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

16th avenue

OLDSTYLE NUMERALS

16th avenue

DEFAULT NUMERALS

2

3/4

# Swash

Tcho typeface family

Decoratif FRENCH  
Platschen GERMAN  
Sciabordare ITALIAN  
Chapotear SPANISH  
Плескайтесь RUSSIAN  
πλαταγώ GREEK  
いあく THAI  
גשש HEBREW  
أخال ARABIC

Right  
OR  
Worn

DISCRETIONARY  
LIGATURE

SWASH FEATURE

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 à á â  
ã

ארז טרנטורסוואר

A NEW CHARACTER

יובל לקלאומ

דנה צ

# Alternate

Tcho typeface family

**Alternative** FRENCH  
**Stellvertreter** GERMAN  
**Alternarsi** ITALIAN  
**Suplente** SPANISH  
**Замена** RUSSIAN  
**Εναλλάσσω** GREEK  
**สลับกัน** THAI  
**הגהות** HEBREW  
**البدل** ARABIC

**fight**

ALTERNATE

**fight**

STANDARD GLYPH

**h a e f g k u y œ æ**  
**ß ß à á â ã ä å è é ê**  
**ë ì í î ï ù ú û ü ý ÿ**

**Contact** FRENCH  
**Kontakt** GERMAN  
**Contattare** ITALIAN  
**Contacto** SPANISH  
**Контакт** RUSSIAN  
**Συναντώ** GREEK  
**ພິຕິດຕໍ່** THAI  
**להתקשר** HEBREW  
**اتصل** ARABIC

Typogama

Tcho  
 Dienve

**Tcho Typeface**  
 by Michael Parson  
 2 weights  
 Display / Text

For more information,  
 please contact us at:  
[mparson@parsonresearch.ch](mailto:mparson@parsonresearch.ch)

Specimen Layout: Michael Parson  
 Text & visuals: Michael Parson  
 Font used: Tcho  
 Longer text & notes set in  
 Helvetica Neue.

