

32-PT SCALA

32-PT INTERSTATE REGULAR

32-PT BODONI

32-PT MRS EAVES

Do I look fat in this paragraph?

*These letters are all the same point size, but they have different x-heights, line weights, and proportions.*

When two typefaces are set in the same point size, one often looks bigger than the other. Differences in x-height, line weight, and character width affect the letters' apparent scale.

*Mrs Eaves, designed by Zuzana Licko in 1996, rejects the twentieth-century appetite for supersized x-heights. The font, inspired by the eighteenth-century designs of John Baskerville, is named after Sarah Eaves, Baskerville's mistress, housekeeper, and collaborator. The couple lived together for sixteen years before marrying in 1764.*

nice x-height

48-PT HELVETICA

48-PT MRS EAVES

*Bigger x-heights, introduced in the twentieth century, make fonts look larger by maximizing the area within the overall point size.*

Every typeface wants to know, "Do I look fat in this paragraph?" It's all a matter of context. A font could look perfectly sleek on screen, yet appear bulky and out of shape in print. Some typefaces are drawn with heavier lines than others, or they have taller x-heights. Helvetica isn't fat. She has big bones.

9/12 HELVETICA

Every typeface wants to know, "Do I look fat in this paragraph?" It's all a matter of context. A font could look perfectly sleek on screen, yet appear bulky and out of shape in print. Some typefaces are drawn with heavier lines than others or have taller x-heights. Mrs Eaves has a low waist and a small body.

9/12 MRS EAVES