

Cyklop: A new font family

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Abstract

Cyklop, pl. Cyclops, (*gr. cyclos: round + ops: eye*) in Greek mythology, a giant with one round eye in the middle of its forehead. Cyclops were herdsmen and builders of giant (cyclopean) fortifications. They also worked for Hephaestus at his forge, where they forged Zeus' thunderbolts. It is fortunate that they were only mythical characters.

The **Cyklop** typeface was designed and cast in lead by the “J. Idźkowski i S-ka” Warsaw foundry. It is a very heavy sans-serif two-element typeface, produced only in the oblique form, in sizes from 8 to 48 pt. It was frequently used for newspaper titles and for one-off prints like posters, forms, labels or invitations.

The **Cyklop** typeface was designed in the 1920s by the Warsaw “Idźkowski i S-ka” foundry. This two-element, sans serif typeface is characterized by strong contrast. The vertical stems are far thicker than the horizontal stems. The internal letter openings are in most cases of the shape of an elongated rectangle. This gives the glyphs their unique shape.

Cyklop, in the form of lead type, was produced only in the oblique variant in sizes from 8 to 48 pt. Quite probably, the upright version was not designed and hence not produced. **Cyklop** was very often used for newspaper titles and jobbing prints. Typesetters often reached for it during the whole period between the wars, and continued to use it in the underground newspapers during the second world war. It continued to be used until the beginnings of offset printing

and computer typesetting. Nowadays it is difficult to find it in the form of metal type.

The present font was generated with MetaType1. I extended it to cover the complete set of accented Latin characters and those glyphs which were missing from the original set. I also set out to create the upright variant, which has proved to be a more complicated task than it initially seemed. I hope to be able to release the *beta* version of the **Cyklop** fonts at the end of this year.

The slides of the presentation, cyklop.pdf, are available from the “presentations” folder at <http://www.gust.org.pl/BachoTeX/EuroBachoTeX2007>. To get the current version of the font files, visit the GUST e-foundry site at <http://www.gust.org.pl/projects/e-foundry>.

ABCD
EFGHIJKLŁMNO
PQRSTU VWXYZ
aąbcćdeęfghijk
łłmnoópqrsštu
vwx yz źż
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
([, , € \$ % & ! ? \$ ”)