

Small Caps

Small caps are available for a select number of typefaces and allow you to bring distinction and sophistication to your work. When designed for a text face, these shortened capital letterforms usually match the height of the shortest lowercase characters (commonly referred to as the x-height).

Some display typefaces are all-cap designs (no lowercase at all) and have small caps in the lowercase positions.

Used frequently for setting title pages and page headings, small caps are often suitable for headlines, subheads and column headings. You'll also find small caps used as lead-ins for opening paragraphs, often following an initial cap.

Small caps are a great alternative to all caps for abbreviations such as states (MA and OR), times (A.M. and P.M.), educational degrees (BA and BS) and acronyms (PC, UNIX). Unlike all-cap settings, small caps stand out nicely without disturbing the balance and color of lowercase

copy, as well as requiring less space than all caps.

It's important to work with "true-drawn" small caps, which are available in actual small-cap fonts or as characters in their respective typeface families. True-drawn small caps are designed to blend with the weight, color and proportion of capital letters.

In contrast, computer-generated versions or reduced caps are simply scaled-down caps which are usually too light and often too narrow. They lack essential design features such as adjustments to proportions, stroke weights, length of serifs and other details that contribute to the legibility and aesthetics of your work. ■

SMALL caps	SMALL caps
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True drawn small caps are superior to computer-generated small caps or reduced caps as they are drawn to match the weight, color and proportion of the caps. Computer generated small caps are just reduced caps and therefore look too light and often too narrow.

The olympic ski team left
JFK airport at 7:30 P.M. and
didn't arrive until 6 A.M
the next day.

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Small caps are usually drawn to blend with the weight, color and proportion of full capitals.

ITC Mendoza

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxy
ABCDEFGHIJKLMN OPQRSTUVWXYZ
ABCDEFGHIJKLMN OPQRSTUVWXYZ

TRUE DRAWN SMALL CAPS are an excellent choice when all caps are desired but with more subtlety. Small caps designed for a text face are usually the height of the lowercase characters.

Small caps designed for a text face usually match the x-height of the lowercase.

ITC Braganza

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxy
ABCDEFGHIJKLMN OPQRSTUVWXYZ
ABCDEFGHIJKLMN OPQRSTUVWXYZ

Small caps for display designs vary in size and are often taller than the x-height of the lowercase letterforms.