



IDENTITY

**PRINT** 

**PUBLISHING** 

WEB

# Graphic Design 101 for Marketing Professionals

Maine Marketing Association

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**Typography** 

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**Color Systems** 

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**Choosing a Designer** 

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**Impact and Visual Hierarchy** 

# Typography





#### **Serif / Sans Serif**

Serifs are the small endcaps on letters. Sans means without in French. Therefore, sans serif is without serifs. Serifs can aid in reading large areas of copy, especially in print. However, small serifs can look poor on low-resolution applications such as a web site, so a serif with thicker serifs like Georgia is better than Times.



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Here is some sample text. It is set with the serif type face called Adobe Garamond. It is set in twelve points in size on a leading of fifteen points. Garamond is a classic, well-proportioned, high-quality serif typeface ideal for a wide-range of applications. Here is some sample text. It is set with the serif type face called Adobe Garamond. It is set in twelve points in size on a leading of fifteen points. Garamond is a classic, well-proportioned, high-quality serif typeface ideal for a wide-range of applications.

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This sample text is set with the sans serif type face called Zurich. It is set in eleven points in size on a leading of fifteen points. Zurich is a classic, well-proportioned, high-quality sans serif typeface ideal for a wide-range of applications.

#### **Examples of Serif and Sans Serif**

This gives a sense of how different typefaces can look very different and have a different appeal. The serif face on the left would be great for a book where the type should be quiet. The sans serif type on the right might work better in a how-to document.

Times New Roman ABCDEFG abcdefg

Georgia ABCDEFG abcdefg

Adobe Garamond ABCDEFG abcdefg

Courier
ABCDEFG abcdefg

Minion ABCDEFG abcdefg

Mrs Eaves ABCDEFG abcdefg Arial ABCDEFG abcdefg

Helvetica ABCDEFG abcdefg

Verdana ABCDEFG abcdefg

Geneva ABCDEFG abcdefg

Zurich ABCDEFG abcdefg

Zurich Condensed ABCDEFG abcdefg

**72 points = 1**"





Points are a unit of measure, where 72 points is approximately 1 inch. But in reality, it is not always exact.

24 points

#### **Graphic Design for Marketing Professionals**

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Leading is the space between lines of type. It was given its name because of the metal lead that used to be put between the horizontal lines of type to spread it out. Therefore, it is pronounced to rhyme with bedding, rather than reading. This type is set in 18 point Mrs. Eaves with a leading of 24 point. Leading measurement is from the bottom of one line to the bottom of the next, so is therefore always larger than the point size of the type.

Leading

Leading is the space between lines of type, it is also called linespacing in some software programs.

**Kerning:** The space between individual letters.

# Tearjerker



#### Kerning.

Kerning is the space between individual letters. Back in the days of metal type, a square of metal held each letterform which means they could not overlap like they do in digital typesetting. High-quality fonts come with built in kerning pairs such as "Te" that will automatically tighten the space whenever that type combination is used. Careful typesetting may involve manually kerning between letters. High-quality kerning can only be accomplished using the right software.

## TRACKING

### NO TRACKING

#### **Tracking**

Tracking is the adding of space between a larger group of type. Not individually like kerning. When setting something in all caps it is best to track out the type so it doesn't look like the letters are crashing together.

# flower



flower

#### Ligatures

There are certain kerned paired of letters that look best just merged together. Otherwise, they are crashing. This is really for smaller type. At large scale it can look strange and should be separated.

Adobe Garamond Regular

Adobe Garamond Italic

ADOBE GARAMOND EXPERT

Adobe Garamond Semibold

Adobe Garamond Italic

ADOBE GARAMOND SEMIBOLD EXPERT

**Adobe Garamond Bold** 

Adobe Garamond Bold Italic

ADOBE GARAMOND TITLING CAPS

Numbers: 2/3 1/4 7/8 2/3 1/3 1/4 5/8

Swashes & alternates: ttaaeQerazctnaran

#### **Choose high quality fonts**

## Legibility

#### Readability.

Legible is one thing, but readability is quite another. Legibility refers to letter-by-letter recognizability. Readability refers to how quickly and easily a larger paragraph of type can be read. Does it hurt your eyes, or is it a pleasant experience? If you are struggling, the type-face (or the type styling) are not a good choice.

This typeface is awkwardly wide and is also very heavy. It would need a lot of manual kerning to look good. Highly readable fonts have a quiet balance to them, and no excess thick or thin areas.

Some typefaces can have their readability improved by increasing the leading, increasing the type size, or judicious use of kerning. But sometimes that is not an option, for example if you need to fit a certain amount of content in a given area, or need to run a lot of text.

#### Leading



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Flush left, rag right

This type is set flush left. Flush left, rag right means the type is lined up on the left edge, but the right edge moves in or out depending on the words in the text. Because flush left text does not have to be adjusted to fill a line solidly, it can have a better look and be more readable than justified type.

You can also set type as flush right, rag left but it's not that readable. The reason it's not readable is because the point on the page where you start to read jumps around. This can make it more tiring to use. The only place in this presentation where I use flush right type is on the copyright information regarding the images.

Justified, no hyphens

This type is justified. With justified type, small adjustments to the letter spacing and word spacing need to be made so that each line of type fills out the column. Because of that, you usually have more hyphenated words. If you choose to limit the number of hyphens it is likely you'll end up with what is called "rivers". Rivers are white spaces that flow through the words, and can be distracting. In this column, I have turned off the hyphenation, so that you can see how gaps can occur.

It is sometimes this style of type is called left justified because the very last line of type will sit on the left (rather than stretched across, or centered, or flush right). Justified, with hyphenation

This type is justified. With justified type, small adjustments to the letter spacing and word spacing need to be made so that each line of type fills out the column. Because of that, you usually have more hyphenated words. If you choose to limit the number of hyphens it is likely you'll end up with what is called "rivers". Rivers are white spaces that flow through the words, and can be distracting. In this column, I have turned off the hyphenation, so that you can see how gaps can occur.

It is sometimes this style of type is called left justified because the very last line of type will sit on the left (rather than stretched across, or centered, or flush right).

#### Leading

Leading is the space between lines of type, it is also called linespacing in some software programs.

## Tools

#### **Use Professional Design Software:**

YES

#### **InDesign**

Multi-page layouts, or one-page layouts. *Not for logos.* 

#### Ai Illustrator

Vector-based graphics such as logos, one-page layouts.

#### Ps Photoshop

Photocorrection, web graphics. *Not for type or logos.* ("light" versions are OK)

#### NO



#### **Word / Powerpoint**

Writing copy, making presentations.

Not for press-ready work. Not the
best way to prepare downloads for
web either

#### Leading

Leading is the space between lines of type, it is also called linespacing in some software programs.

#### Why Not Use Word?

#### Type setting.

The same font set with the exact same specs will not look as good because the software cannot read all the information that is embedded in the typeface.

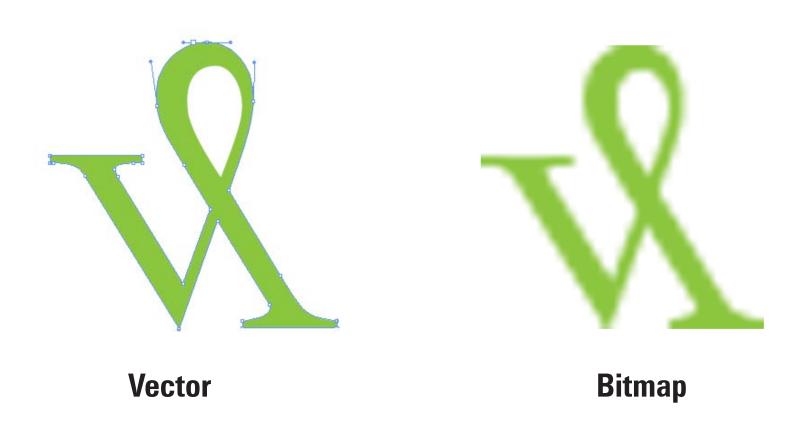
#### Control.

It is much more difficult to control the layout in these programs.

#### Not for offset printing.

They are not postscript compatible, so if you are creating printed piece you are much more likely to have problems with jaggy type, etc.

#### Leading



#### **Vector vs Bitmap image**

The image on the left shows a vector-based image (Illustrator) that uses points and mathematical formulas which can be resized both larger and smaller. The image on the right shows a bitmap (Photoshop) image enlarged too much.

# Color Systems

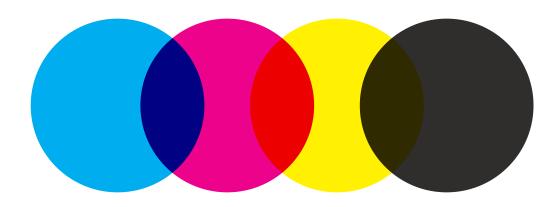
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Visible Logic's green is: pms 376

#### **PMS = Pantone Matching System**

For print jobs that only require a couple of colors, you can select specific colors using the PMS system. This is like picking a paint for your walls: you choose a swatch, the color is pre-mixed, and then the ink is applied.



 $\mathbf{C}$ =Cyan (blue),  $\mathbf{M}$  = Magenta,  $\mathbf{Y}$  = Yellow,  $\mathbf{K}$  = Black

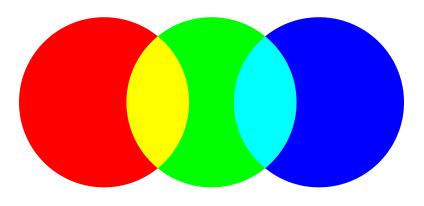
Visible Logic's green is: C50 / M0 / Y100 / K0 This means Cyan at 50% and Yellow at 100% and no Magenta or Black



#### CMYK, four-color process

CMYK is the standard full color process used in offset printing. Most digital printing (including your desktop inkjet printer) also use this system. These 4 colors when combined in different percentages can replicate nearly all the colors.

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$$\mathbf{R}$$
=Red,  $\mathbf{G}$  = Green,  $\mathbf{B}$  = Blue

Visible Logic's green is: r140 / g198 / b63 This is also given a hexadecimal number of: 8cc63f

#### RGB = Red, Green, Blue

RGB is the color system used on computer monitors or videos. Web sites are designed using rgb color notation.

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#### 1-3 color print jobs

Can be more economical

Thin lines and type can print better

Some applications like silkscreening, embroidering or dye sublimination follow this same system



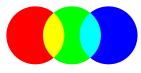
 $\mathbf{C}$ =Cyan (blue),  $\mathbf{M}$  = Magenta,  $\mathbf{Y}$  = Yellow,  $\mathbf{K}$  = Black

#### 4 color print jobs

Can be just as economical, with more options

Necessary for printing photography or other full color imagery

Most digital and online print sources print 4-color only



 $\mathbf{R} = \mathsf{Red}$ ,  $\mathbf{G} = \mathsf{Green}$ ,  $\mathbf{B} = \mathsf{Blue}$ 

#### rgb web projects

All monitors are rgb, so web files should be setup with rgb specs

You don't pay for more color

#### Choose the color system for your project and budget

As you build files, keep in mind the end production. While most files can easily convert from 4-color to rgb, there are some instances where the color suffers. It's harder to plan for a change from full color (cmyk or rgb) to the limited color palette of pantone colors.

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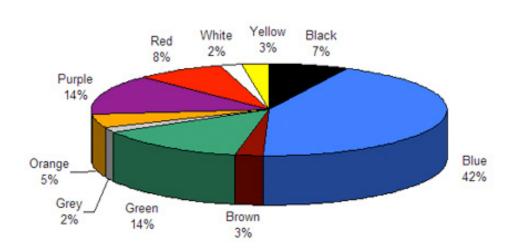




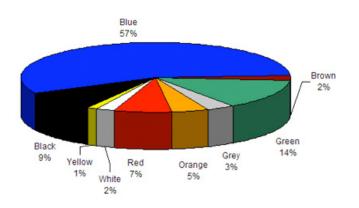
#### Don't be afraid of color.

Americans don't use a lot of color: clothes are drab, houses and cars are dark or muted colors. Therefore we don't have a lot of experience and are not comfortable making decisions about color.

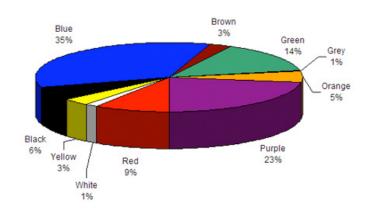




#### Male - Favorite Color



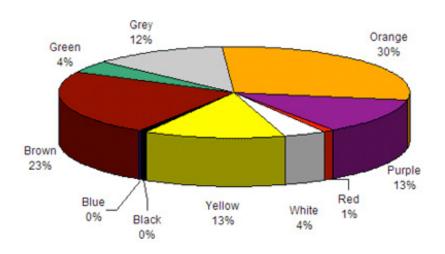
#### Female - Favorite Color



#### Poll results: What is your favorite color?

In the US blue is the overwhelmingly favorite color, although women show more breadth of favorites. All graphs are from a survey in late January 2003 by a student at University of Washington, Joe Hallock.

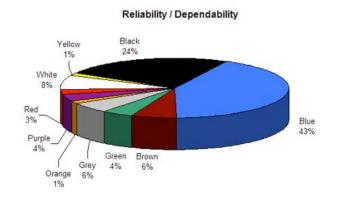
#### Least Favorite Color

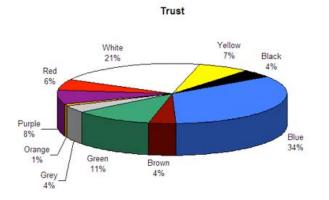


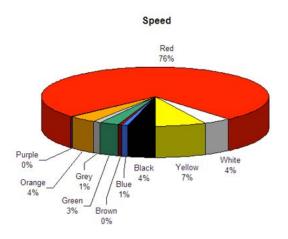
#### Poll results: What is your least favorite color?

Blue is nobody's least favorite color, neither is black. Orange and brown are much riskier choices.

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#### Poll results: Reliability/Dependability, Trust, Speed

I don't think any of these are surprises.

#### Most of your biases and instincts are correct.

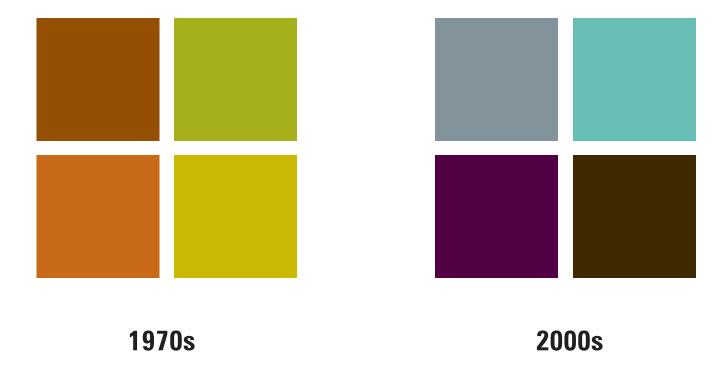
Ex. Light pink is for baby girls

## There are rarely right or wrong colors, but some are more appropriate than others.

Ex. Putting Army personnel in light pink

#### Do you want to maintain standards or break out of them?

Ex. Having light pink as the corporate color for a financial planner might make her stand out, attract Moms, etc.



#### **Color Trends**

There are trends that are worth watching. What they have at Target vs. WalMart. Once a color (or material) is in mass production for homewares it is peaking in popularity and therefore will soon look passe. Color combinations tend to be more trendy than individual colors.

# Layout

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Lottery sales show 5.7 percent increase for new fiscal year

Lottery income is up for the first three months of the state fiscal year - a bright spot in an otherwise gloomy report that showed total state revenues down by \$42 million.

Lottery revenues are \$707,000 over projections, an increase of 5.7 percent, since the new state fiscal year began July 1.

'It's been a good three months,' said Dan Gwadosky, director of the Maine Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations. 'We're off to a good start.' As the national economy struggled, so did lottery revenues, he said.

In Maine, which has 1,300 lottery agents, the smaller momand- pop convenience stores have been particularly hard- hit as people have shifted their buying habits to larger national retailers, said Gwadosky, a former Democratic speaker of the House.

#### How we read

In English, we read from the top left portion of the page to the bottom right.

start v sales

y sales show 5.7 percent increase w fiscal year

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#### How we read

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#### **Example of layout taking advantage of how we read**

This layout presents information just as the reader expects, from top left to bottom right.



#### **Example of layout taking advantage of how we read**

This layout presents information just as the reader expects, from top left to bottom right.

#### Maine Hardware now sells Viking Refrigerators

We are proud to be Portland's only retailer of this premier brand of refrigerators. Sleek, stainless steel styling will fit in perfectly in your top-of-the-line kitchen design. Also, they use 10-20% less energy than other refrigerators, so they are green and pay for themselves quickly.

To celebrate our new stock of refrigerators and freezers we are offering 25% off all Viking units.

### 25% off Viking Refrigerators Save Now!

#### **Maine Hardware**

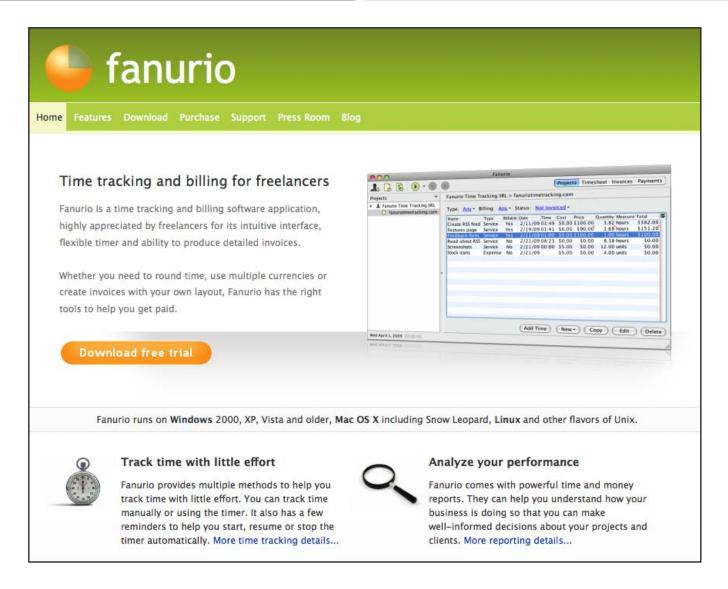
Union Station Plaza, 274 St. John Street, Portland ME 207.773.5604

Offer Good through November 15, 2009

#### **Breaking the Rules**

Making things big or bold interrupts this usual flow, but then we usually re-track on the normal flow.

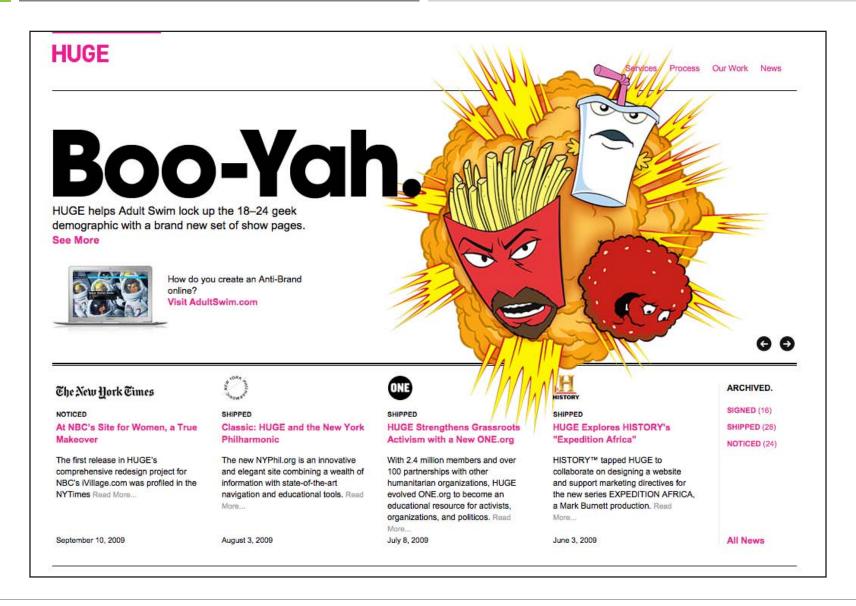
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#### Using color to interrupt the flow

Color is a great way to redirect the reader's eye. The call to action here is "Download free trial" and we want the user to see that right away.

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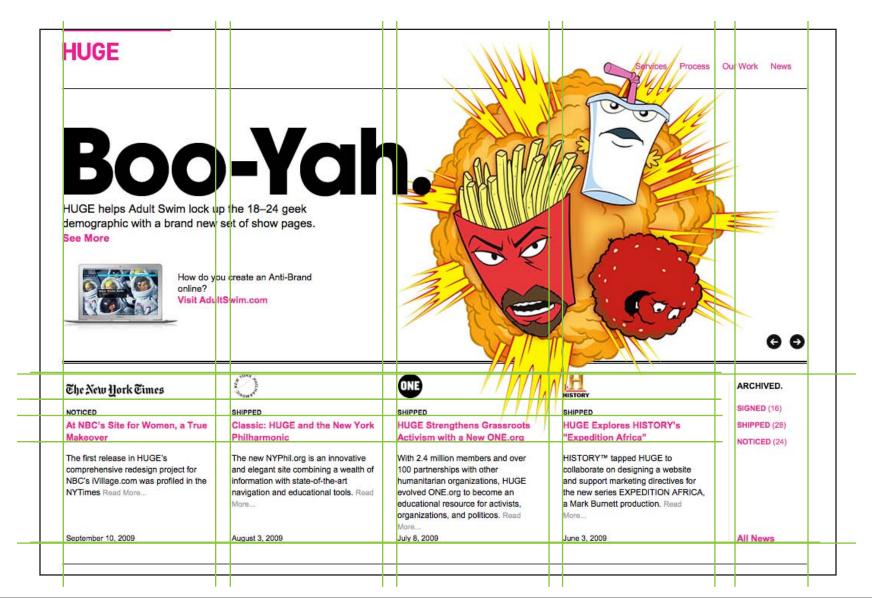


#### Grid

Notice all the columns line up and are the same weight. There is rhythm in the horizontal columns. Additionally, all graphics were resized to be the same general size or weight. When everything sits on a grid, those items no longer fight for position.



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#### **Grids**

This means everything lines up. It also means the columns are evenly divided. Grids allow you to have a lot of information and not have it be overwhelming. Having things break the grid can add visual interest.

#### BRACKETT, WOODS & WOLFF

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

#### Welcomes John Smith

To our Tax Preparation Department



Give John a call and receive 20% off your tax preparation!

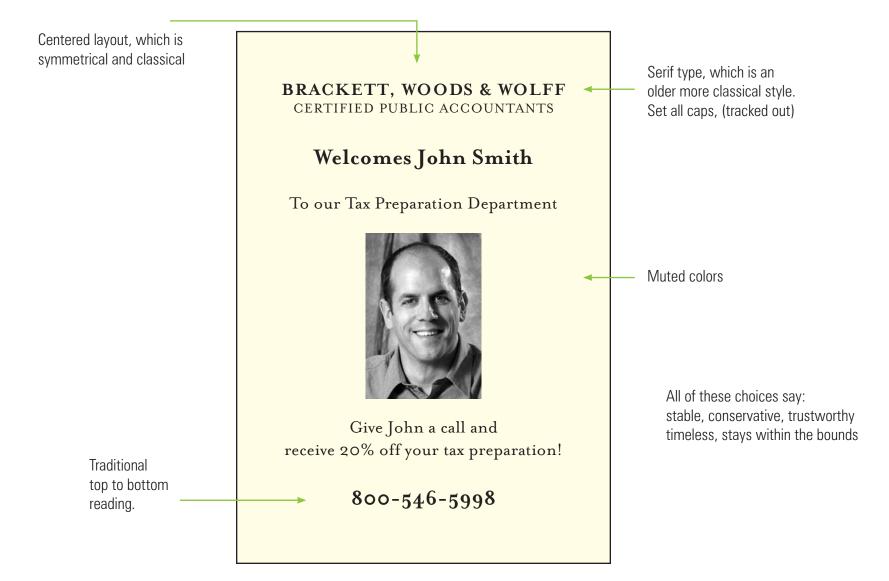
800-546-5998

#### **Tradition matters.**

Styles of typography, layout, and color usage have historical ties that cannot be ignored. Lawyers, Accountants, Doctors and Insurance companies have traditionally not marketed aggressively and also want to show a sense of steadiness and conservatism.



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#### GENOS ROCK CLUB

LIVE MUSIC, DRINKS AND FOOD

#### Welcomes The Kooks

For a Live Perormance

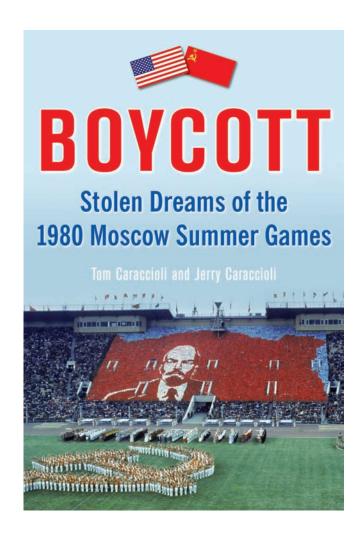


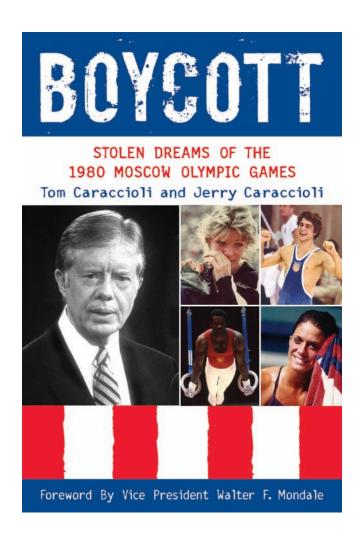
Saturday, November 6 8:00 pm

#### **Tradition matters.**

The same format does not work for an ad for a Rock Band performance.

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#### What is the message?

Both of these covers the reader that the book is about the US Boycott of the Olymic games in 1980. But the cover on the left focuses on the games in Moscow, whereas the cover on the right focuses on US politics and the US athletes.

### **Limitations of design**

#### All imagery should be high-quality

High-resolution, well-lit photography Professional illustration rather than clip art Imagery appropriate for the subject

#### **Effective copywriting is critical**

Succint, easy-to-read, compelling Appropriate tone

# Choosing a Designer or Firm

### How to find (and work well with) a good designer

#### Get referrals.

Talk with other business owners or marketers to get the names of people they like

#### Look at their work.

View their web site, and you may want to see printed samples

#### Talk.

Communication and chemistry is critical

#### Get an estimate.

Rates vary, and how designers estimate varies, confirm what's included

### **Money \$\$\$\$**

#### Be upfront with your budget

There are often more ways than one to complete a project

#### What are the production (non-design) costs/challenges?

Are there specifications that are required

#### Revisions are the wild card

No designer can be expected to work indefinitely

#### **Get** what you pay for

More experience, better process, higher-quality work, larger network

### Be as clear about your strategy and goals for the project.

#### I need a web site

VS.

Creating a web site to introduce a new product, including e-commerce Designing landing pages for click throughs from Google Ads

#### I need a marketing piece

VS.

Design of a postcard to attract people to an open house Design of a take-home educational piece for potential investors

## You'll get the most value from a designer if you work with them as a partner.

#### Give them the information they need.

Provide the goals and strategy, and your thoughts.

Give references to your own current work (keep things cohesive) as well as industry-related things such as competitors, key businesses, etc.

Give them time

**Give good feedback** 

If you feel the need to micro-manage them, then you probably need a new designer.

# Communication

### How to Communicate with a Graphic Designer:

Tell us the problem, not the solution.

NO

Make it bold
Make it red
Make it bigger

YES

# Emphasize this! Make it more noticeable

NO.

Move this here, move that there.

Change that font.

YES

I don't know where to look first.

People need to read this first.

# "This item/information needs to be emphasized more."

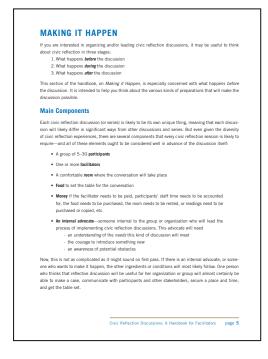
#### **Explain the goals**

The designer can than work to make that item more noticeable and/or also make other items sit back more.

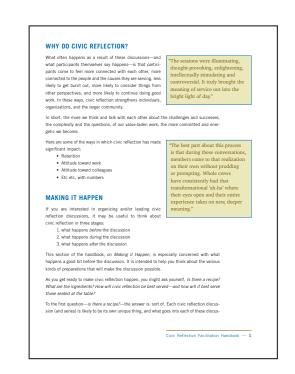
### "There are too many different styles and it's too busy"

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# "The entire page looks very similar and 'blah"







#### Don't be shy

Some clients are afraid to talk like this, but it's really more helpful than a specific solution like "make this red!" There are circumstances where design is meant to be more eye-catching than others (ex. an advertisement vs. the text within a book). You may need to better explain the purpose of the piece under development or better identify which parts should be emphasized and which can play a more supporting role.

# Impact and Visual Hierarchy

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### How is your message being conveyed?

#### **Old rules:**

Editorial (wants to read) vs. advertising (interruption)

#### **New rules:**

It's hard to keep anyone's attention, and some situations are worse than others.

#### **Rules of engagement**

We used to express a lot of differences between something educational and something marketing. A book vs an ad, but that's not totally true anymore.

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Are you really going to read all this text? Even if it's about benefits, rather than features. I don't think you're going to pay attention all the way to the bottom. It's just too much. No one cares. You may think you need to get lots and lots and lots of information, backed by statistics and details, but sometimes that is just not the best way.

In the end, you end up losing your audience as they quickly flip the page, click somewhere else, or just go away. But:

For more details: http://www.website.com

#### Short headlines.

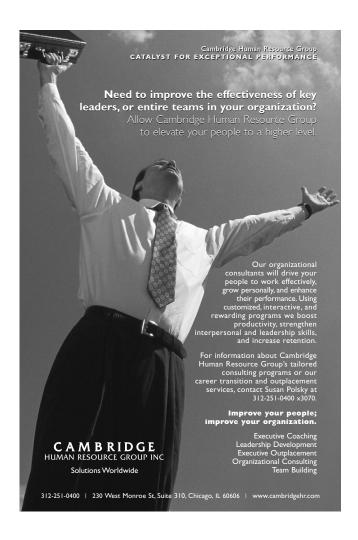
Brief benefits description.

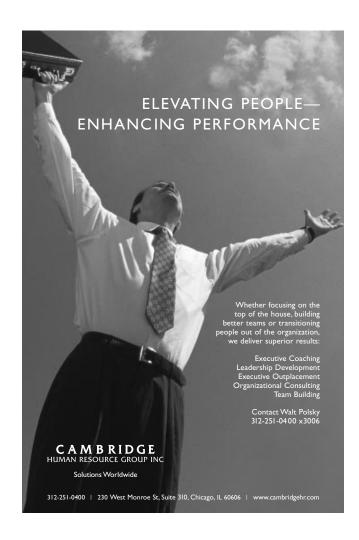
Call to action: website.com

#### **Too many words**

Most of us start with too many words. Even though we see the error on other people's work, we don't always see it in our own. If you cannot cut the copy, work with an editor or writer to help you.

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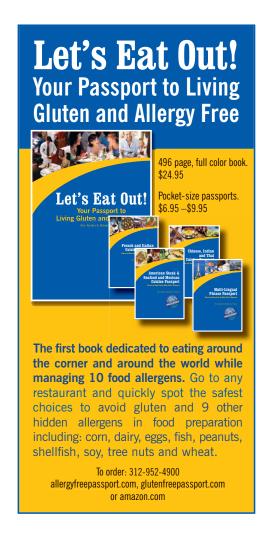


#### **Simplify for impact**

Reduce copy. Eliminate elements. Group information together.

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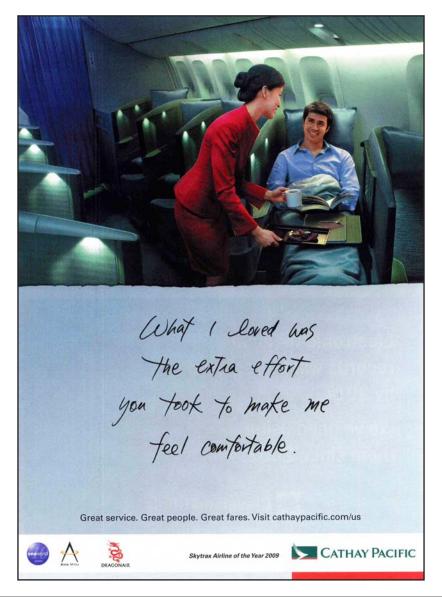


#### Reduce the copy!

Less is nearly always more when trying to create impact.



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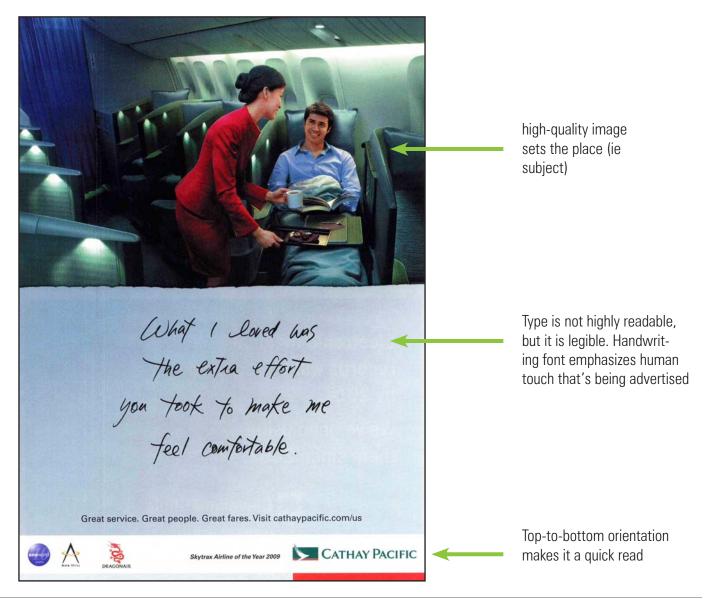


#### This ad is a quick read

Uses a clear, high-impact photo, top-to-bottom reading style.



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#### Cigars!

While this ad contains a lot of information, it is grouped together at the bottom, which helps a lot



Photo of cigars quickly targets audience

#### **Graphic Design for Marketing Professionals**

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Color and bold type attract the eye with the offer

There is a lot of info, but it's mostly grouped together.

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#### I have no clue!

I don't know what this company does, or where to begin reading this ad.



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Don't know where to look first, or what the message is???

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#### Hmmm... lots of awards, oh a cruise ship

The awards need to be grouped together, and the typeface is difficult to read. Considering that the headline is confusing, this is even more important.



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Awards are scattered over the page. Don't know where to look first. Grouping them together sould help



Typeface is not very readable, and the copywriting is confusing

Most people will zero in on the boat to figure out this is about Cruise Lines

Background color is good contrast to logo, and a compelling color. However the graphics in the background are adding anything



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#### Sewanee Close is obviously a beautiful place

More information is available to me in the navigation and in the supporting text.

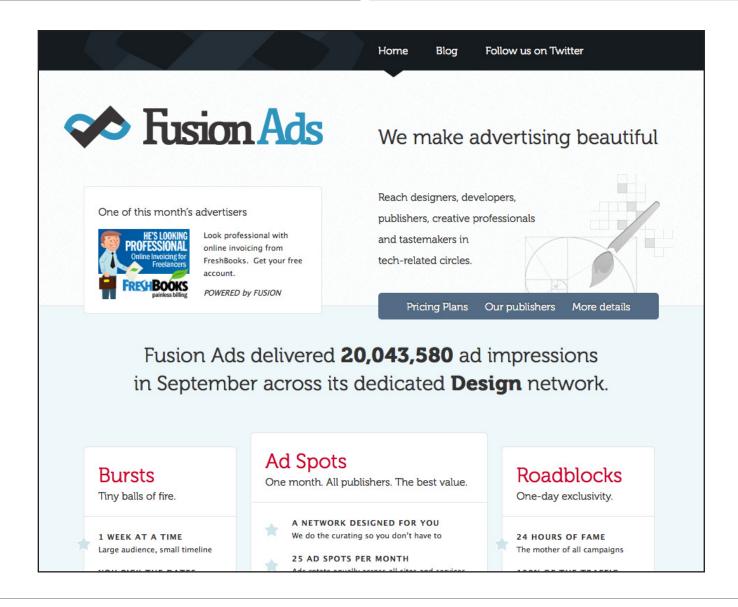
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#### Hierarchy and impact can still be fun

The key elements are still recognizable and easy to find, even though the whole look is more hand-done.

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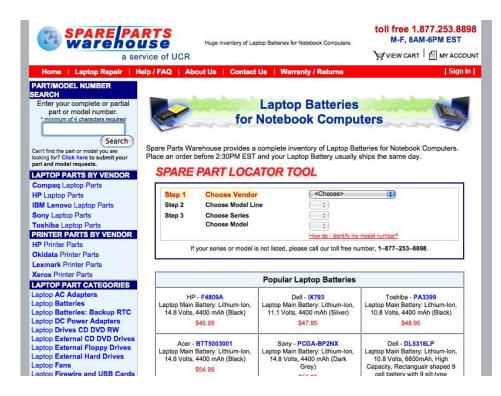


#### Blah

Even when individual elements look OK, the whole design is not that great. This lacks impact—nothing is big, bold, or bright. Not sure where to look first.



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#### Comparison of two similar sites

Even if you have a lot of content to fit in, it can be done in an appealing and logical way.

# www.visiblelogic.com/blog