

The Story of *Heckle*

ALTERNATE LOWERCASE E

Big Cheese
Big Cheese

PLAIN CAPS FOR ALL-CAP SETTINGS

UNITED
UNITED

ARBITRARY FRACTIONS

33/100 → *33/100*

H

HECKLE is a family of display fonts that began as a tiny sketch on a notepad in 2005. I had this big idea to try to make money selling lettering-based t-shirts at CafePress.com. One of the designs was the word “Heh” in a brush script with a 1940s/1950s feel. It was one of those styles that came out of the subconscious inventory of lettering styles I’d soaked up

Heh

like a sponge in my youth. ★ I didn’t sell many t-shirts, but I *did* end up with some neat lettering designs that could potentially be expanded into typefaces. Such was the case with the “Heh” shirt design. In 2017, I did a draft of the caps and lowercase in my font editor. It looked promising, but I didn’t get back to work on it until

Heh

October 2025. ☞ Over the next five months, I expanded it to a family of six weights, from Light to Black. Refinements from the original lettering included tilting the stroke endings forward and using sharp corners on the insides of curved strokes, giving the design a crisp, energetic appearance. I honestly am not skilled at doing brush lettering. My method is to build letters by abstracting what I see, creating shapes that *could* be made with a brush, if that makes sense. That said, it’s a completely intuitive process. I stop when it *looks* right. ✱ Once I got the basic design worked out, I filled out the rest of the character set, adding an alternate lowercase “e,” contextual alternates for all-caps settings (intended more for acronyms and abbreviations rather than extended text), my usual set of dingbats (featuring a manicule inspired by cartoonist Preston Blair), and—even though they may not get much use—the standard math and symbol characters, which are all but required in digital fonts. Heckle supports most Western and Central European Latin-based languages. ☹ I never imagined back in 2005 that this silly t-shirt design would turn into a complete font family, but I’m really happy with how it turned out. Heckle is suitable for any kind of display use—book covers, packaging, signage, advertising, magazines, websites, branding—where a lively, vintage hand-lettered look is desired.

—MARK SIMONSON

EXTENSIVE LANGUAGE SUPPORT

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DINGBATS



ARROWS



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Cheesecake
was designed by
Mark Simonson
and released in 2026.

Magnetically
Dependable 1947
Enlargement Warm
231 Commercialization
Temperamental Visualisation
Radioactivité Rançon Accompagnez
Großen Wickeltisch Beeilen Absicht Donnerstags
Ajá Completamente Enseñarle Pos Levantarme Devolverá
Różnica Wyjątkowo Wyspie Wyrażnie Mój Prawnika Okazało Takiego
Undersätter Stenqe Kollapser Begrensninger Kretsløp Østover Stjal Utenomjordisk Misforståelsen
PEASE CORGI ÇEBO ELECTROSTATICS PHOSPHORESCES CONTIGUOUS RETROSPECTIVELY FIREPOWER

Adventurous
Thumbnails 1962
Journeymen Dazed
758 Echocardiograms
Unburdening Kaleidoscopes
Doigt Commerçassent Autodéfense
Perspektivansicht Stattfinden Zweckmäßigkeit
Románticos Preguntamos Acompañarla Consideración
Dwaj Czytam Trzecia Przeżyje Van Porządku Swą Uspokój Żołnierzy
Fikse Opprør Ergerlig Liqg Kjempeglad År Forventninger Offentliggjør Hellig Kommentere
GRAVELYPHOTOSENSITIZE PENNYROYALS THERMOELECTRIC ANEURYSM DEMAGOGICAL RASTER

*Triumphant
Persuasive 1956
Acknowledgments
701 Superabundance
Visualized Communicated
Aperçusses Répandu Publication
Fürchterlichen Nahe Wurst Großbritannien
Involucrada Detenidamente Facilidad Acompañará
Byliście Oczekuje Stare Ręce Podobny Całkowicie Zeby Znajdziesz
Mennesker Sommerhuset Regnskapsfører Terroristene Skipets Slås Inkompetent Liksom
SEMICONDUCTORS ANTAGONIST UNCONTROLLABILITY UNRESPONSIVENESS COLLABORATIONS*

*Stipulating
Roadsters 1942
Environmentalist
753 Correspondence
Oppenheimer Nowadays
Démission Manège Cadençasse
Rechtmäßig Schlafen Diene Selbstständig
Discretamente Rabioso Español Recibió Jugaban
Następnym Wziął Ludźmi Ścianie Samej Godziny Zostawiłem
Gærningen Følsom Inn Stjerneskudd Spørsmålene Eventyret Bør Seile Verdigheten
DISCOMBOBULATING RESTED TYRANNOSAURUSES DIVULGENCE SIGNALIZED RANDOMISES*

*Backward
Mistakes 1954
Ambidextrously
181 Laughingstock
Fledging Superlatively
Doté Révélent Commerçantes
Geschäftspartner Weihnachtsgeschenk
Acompañarme Doté Reyes Apacible Guárdalo
Waszych Wyjeżdżam Biorę Myśleli Kolejnego Prezydenta
Tan Vegne Forståelsesfull Underveis Nøt Hansken Trobbel Bretter Kamerater
ASYMMETRIC BUSINESSES OPERATIONAL HOUSEBOUND GAMBLER COLLABORATIONS*

**Guardian
Pancake 1941
Superficialities
275 Moonlighting
Frigid Knowledgeable
Acceptez Réveillez Matières
Vergaßen Unruhig Entschlossenheit
Champiñones Inmunidad Avisó Estudiante
Opowiem Oddzwonię Pracować Wyszedł Szczęśliwego
Dominerende Gjennomskuet Halsbåndet Feige Varden Kolla Etterforsker
LONELIEST REFORMATTED ISLAND ACQUISITIVENESS HOMINOIDS PREMEDITATED**

Heckle Black

COMPLETE CHARACTER SET

LATIN CAPITALS

[illegible]

LATIN LOWERCASE

[illegible]

FIGURES, FRACTIONS, SUPERScript & SCIENTIFIC INFERIOR FIGURES, CURRENCY, AND MATHEMATICAL

1234567890
1234567890/1234567890 1234567890 1234567890 1/2 1/4 3/4 1/8 3/8 5/8 7/8
%‰\$¢£€¥ƒø÷=≠><≥≤±≈¬~^∞∫√ΔΠΣΩδμπ

DASHES, DELIMITERS, CONJOINERS, AND PUNCTUATION, AND MISCELLANEOUS

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Hardware Hank

'56 Chevrolet Bel Air

*Café
au Lait*

*Do Androids
Dream of
Electric Sheep?
by Philip K. Dick*

The Kitchen of the Future!

Electric

Appliance Superstore & Restaurant