THE STORY of Kandal

Kandal Details

Wedge Serifs

HEG

"Modern" Proportions

NARROW CAPS

Jenson-like Structure

snarf

Weighting Scheme

rrrr

Cursive Italic

ping

THE IDEA FOR KANDAL goes back to one of Mark Simonson's earliest typeface designs, *Excalibur,* which he began working on in 1977. This early version was inspired mainly by the typefaces of Hermann Zapf. He did a second version in 1979 which he submitted to International Typeface Corporation. This one was heavily influenced by Jim Parkinson's Jenson-like *Rolling Stone* typeface. Although he put a lot of work into it, he still had much to learn about type design and, not surprisingly, it was not accepted by ITC.

Around 1987, Mark began developing fonts using a Macintosh and the font design program Fontographer and took another stab at Excalibur. The third time was the charm and Excalibur (redubbed *Kandal*—Excalibur was taken) was accepted by FontHaus and released in 1994 as one of Mark's first commercial fonts.

The three versions of what was to become Kandal differed quite a bit, but one thing they all had in common was the *wedge serif* which gives it a crisp, angular character. The overall structure of the face is Jenson-like, but with proportions more like nineteenth-century "antiques" such as Century Old Style. The contrast between the thicks and thins is low, and there is a hint of angular stress.

The weighting scheme is unusual for a serif typeface. Both the thick and thin parts of letters gain weight equally as the face gets bolder, not unlike a sans serif or egyptian face. To keep the type color even, the serifs get shorter as the weight increases. This keeps the inter-character spacing proportional to the counters (the insides of the letters). The italic follows a modern, somewhat cursive model.

The name comes from Mark's paternal grandmother's maiden name, which in turn comes from the name of a town in Norway. It rhymes with "bundle."

With four weights and matching italics, Kandal is versatile and highly legible face. Nevertheless, nothing is perfect. Mark is at it again, working on a new, improved, more full-featured version of Kandal which he plans to release some time in 2005. ■

Kandal Features

Weights

Kandal Book
Kandal Book Italic
Kandal Medium
Kandal Medium Italic
Kandal Bold
Kandal Bold Italic
Kandal Black
Kandal Black Italic

Ligatures

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Dingbats

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Kandal *was designed by Mark Simonson in 1994.*

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Kandal Book

Please

KNIGHT

Frightened

GEOGRAPHY

Wine & Roses

PLANETARIUM

Viva Wedge Serifs

UNRAVELLING YARN

Damn the Torpedoes!

THE KNIGHTS WHO SAY

Ancestoral Norwegian Town

12-pt. THE FIRST WORD OF EVERY sentence and the first word of ev ery line of poetry should begin with a capital letter. All proper names should begin with capital letters. Words derived from proper names

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SELECTED CHARACTERS FROM THE COMPLETE FONT

Kandal Book

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