
TYPE BY : THIEMICH

AKTUEL

ACCENTED LOWER CASE

DYPHTONGS · LIGATURES

ACCENTS

SYMBOLS · ALTERNATE SYMBOLS

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AKTUELL BLOND · BLOND ITALIC

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Aktuell is Thomas Thiemich's first commercially released serif design, based upon a traditional broad-nib contrast.

Aktuell is a story of smaller and bigger connections. Its design was originally commissioned by the German-based design agency 'Lamm & Kirch' in 2015, for the new corporate identity of Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst in Leipzig (HGB). 'Lamm & Kirch' sought a new typeface that would work along Akzidenz Grotesque BQ Light Extended, designed by the renowned German designer Gunther Gerard Lange. Lange, on his turn, was also educated at the same alma mater - HGB. The creative brief also required of the new typeface to relate to Timeless - a DDR-version of the Times New Roman, originally published by VEB Typoart - the well-known east German foundry that succumbed with the fall of Berlin Wall.

To add more serendipitous facts, from the late 1940s on, quite a few HGB graduates - including G. G. Lange - had worked for VEB Typoart. In fact, the two institutions had a special relationship and so Aktuell is thoroughly connected to both, the former DDR heritage and HGB in particular.

Aktuell is a typographic performer: an efficient design featuring short ascenders and descenders. These proportions make Aktuell most suitable design for composing compact text columns. Aktuell evokes a rather strict demeanour. It may even appear cold, or even rigid to some. But no matter how you look at it, its design features make a very reliable and determined impression - qualities praised in the artistic climate of HGB. On the other hand, this slightly peculiar yet crystal clear determination is a quality wildly embraced nowadays. This presents Aktuell as a contemporary typeface that is not neglecting any of the traditional qualities required of a true text face, suitable for continuous reading. Yet, if you give it a closer look, it is not books you might envision typeset in Aktuell, but rather screen typography. For it excels in delivering an attractive evenness of colour and a remarkable readability and legibility in space-conscious environments.

Aktuell is available in 5 weights of roman and italic designs: Blond, Normal, Medium, SemiBold, and Bold. Its character set includes lining and old style figures, standard and discretionary ligatures, fractions, superiors, inferiors, numerators and denominators, and case-sensitive punctuation. The fonts support the Latin Extended 1 character set, which is a valuable tool for composing multilingual Latin-script text.

Aktuell fonts are available in OTF CFF, TTF, WOFF, and WOFF2 formats.