

How much type
or spacing to order ?

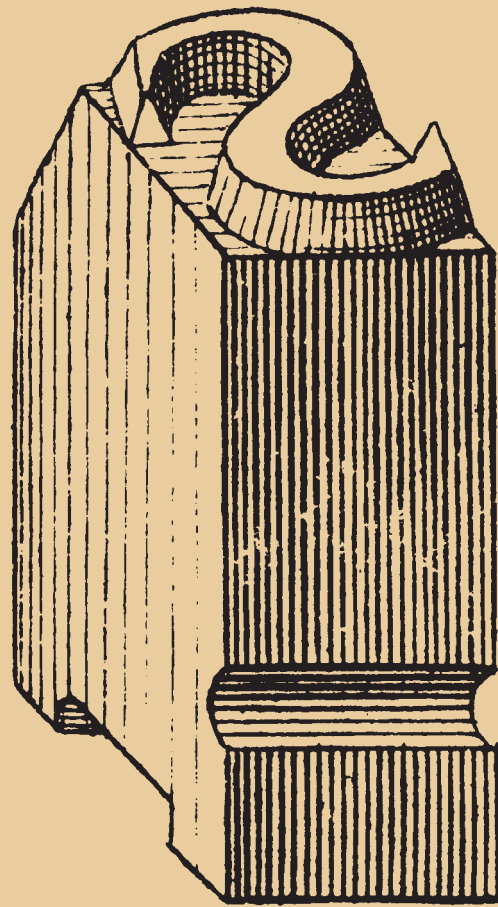
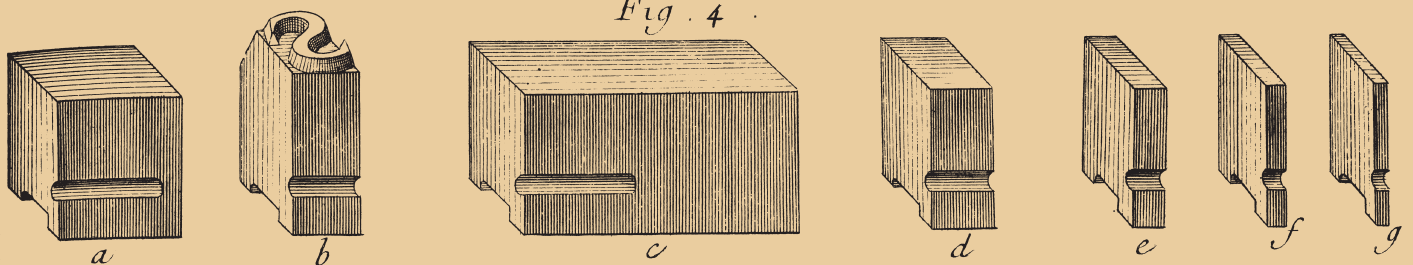


Fig. 4 .



How to determine how much type you require.

No two printers need the same amount of type. The best way to proceed is to find a small book or project similar to what you would like to print, and depending upon how many pages you wish to print at a time, count up the vowels on say, 4 pages of text (assuming you want to be able to print two pages at a time and set enough type to do two press runs during a printing session, and compare these counts against the 1/2 strength font scheme. (When ordering display type for headings, titles etc., you are probably using large type and consult the relevant scheme— for 18 pt go to half-strength, for 24 pt quarter strength, for 60 pt go to the 1/8 scheme.

So, if say four representative pages had 320 e's total, then you would want 6 lower case fonts and probably 2 or 3 upper case fonts. (320 divided by 58 e's per 1/2 strength font = 5.5 fonts, and round up to six fonts). If you are printing haiku, then obviously much less type would be required.

The thing is that the amount of type required will depend upon what you're printing: poetry, fiction or whatever, and the size of your press and your preferences for form imposition. If you are using a large Vandercook and want to do 4 or 8 pages up, then that's one thing, and if you're using a 3x5 Kelsey and are printing one page at a time that is entirely another. Then there is the issue of how much type you like to set at one time. I cast an entire book at one go, so that I can proof the whole thing in advance. If you want to do advance proofing, then you will need enough type to set the entire book all at once. Some people like to set only a page or two, print that and then distribute the type and start over.

So it depends upon preferred texts, press size, setting and proofing habits. There definitely is not a one size fits all thing here.

To determine the amount of spacing required, use the same process above, counting vowels, to determine how many fonts are in your type case, then order one font of spacing for every font of type in the case.

— Spacing Fonts —

	Ems	Ens	Thick	Mid	Thin	Hair
1/2 Strength	75	40	100	80	80	40
1/4 Strength	50	30	60	40	40	20
1/8 Strength	25	15	30	20	20	20

Generally: “Thick” = 1/3 em, “Mid” = 1/4 em, “Thin” = 1/5 em, Hair = 2 pts
For larger sizes more set (width) sizes may be added.

We sell spaces and quads by the lb. as well as in fonts priced by the lb.

If you have a case nicely apportioned with spacing, weigh the spacing and use that as a guide to ordering.

Otherwise, if a case has say 2 caps and 4 lower case, figure on 3 or 4 fonts.

One method to determine how much spacing is required would be to count up say the lower case “a”s, then divide by the appropriate font strength, to determine the approximate number of fonts required in your type case.

For your information, a **1/2 strength spacing font** of:

- 12 point weighs 0.9 lbs
- 14 pt weighs in at 1.2 lbs
- 16 pt weighs in at 1 lbs 5.8 oz
- 18 pt weighs in at 2.08 lbs

a **1/4 Strength font** of:

- 24 pt comes to 2.4 lbs
- 36 at 5.3 lbs
- 48 at 9 lbs

a **1/8 Strength spacing font**:

- 60 pt 6 lbs 4.6 oz
- 72 pt at 8 lbs 11 oz

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