

TIDAL SPINE

Literary Serif Typeface — Development & Sales Specimen

A fluid editorial serif built around
asymmetric stress, wave-like curvature
and restrained calligraphic terminals.

Important production status: this package is a professional specimen/development package. It does not contain a final commercial OTF/CFF or variable-font build. The OTF/VF files must be generated and validated in a font-production environment before sale.

LATIN PLUS · BOOK → BOLD · TEXT / DISPLAY · STATIC + VARIABLE

01 — Design DNA

Tidal Spine is conceived for literary publishing, essays, poetry and serious editorial work. Its core visual behavior is a controlled tension between conventional reading rhythm and subtle fluid modulation.

Construction

Bracketed serifs · medium x-height · medium contrast · asymmetric stress · fluid modulation · slightly calligraphic terminals · contemporary proportions · no historical-oldstyle imitation.

The intended result is literary rather than nostalgic: familiar enough for long reading, distinctive enough for premium editorial identity.

02 — Weight Architecture

Style	Primary role	Target optical behavior
Book	Long-form reading	Quiet color, generous rhythm
Regular	General editorial	Balanced text density
Medium	Subheads / emphasis	Controlled authority
Semibold	Navigation / titles	Stronger hierarchy
Bold	Display / cover	High-impact editorial voice
Italic	Quotation / emphasis	Expressive but restrained

Recommended optical masters: Text and Display. Variable axis: wght + opsz.

03 — Character Set

Latin Plus

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
À Á Â Ã Ä Å Æ Ç È É Ê Ë Ì Í Î Ï Ñ Ò Ó Ô
Õ Ö Ø Æ Š Ù Ú Û Ü Ý Ž
à á â ã ä å æ ç è é ê ë ì í î ï ñ ò ó ô õ ö ø
œ š ù ú û ü ý ž

Figures & editorial forms

Oldstyle + lining · proportional + tabular · small caps · fractions · superscripts ·
subscripts · ordinals · editorial punctuation

OpenType feature target

kern · liga · onum · lnum · pnum · tnum · smcp · c2sc · frac · sups · subs · ordn · ss01

04 — Reading Test

At 8.5–14 pt, Tidal Spine should maintain an even grey value across 60–80 character lines. Testing should include long-form prose, dialogue, quotations, footnotes and stacked diacritics.

The measure of a serious text face is not the isolated glyph. It is the sustained rhythm of a page: the spacing between words, the cadence of punctuation, the balance of capitals, and the behavior of italics inside a dense paragraph.

“A literary typeface must disappear just enough for the text to remain present.”

12 pt · 70 characters per line · intended for extended reading

05 — Poetry / Italic Test

The tide returns
not as repetition,
but as pressure remembered by the shore.

A sentence bends.
A line breaks.
The page keeps its balance.

Italic direction: calligraphic energy without ornamental flourish; maintain strong word shape and stable text colour.

06 — Editorial Punctuation

“Quotation” ‘single quotation’ — em
dash – en dash ... ellipsis § section ¶
paragraph () [] { } / * † ‡

Footnote ^{1 2 3} · fractions ¼ ½ ¾ · ordinal forms 1st 2nd 3rd · stacked marks: á é í ó ú · Â
Ê Î Ò Û

Validation requirement: inspect punctuation at small sizes and verify diacritic clearance in all intended language extensions.

07 — Production Checklist

- Draw master glyphs as clean Bézier outlines.
- Build Text and Display optical masters.
- Interpolate and validate wght + opsz variable axes.
- Complete kerning classes and editorial punctuation spacing.
- Implement OpenType substitutions and figure styles.
- Test hinting/rendering across macOS, Windows, iOS and major browsers.
- Run fontTools/OT-Sanitise-style validation and proof all exported instances.
- Generate OTF/CFF static family and variable font deliverables.

Commercial deliverables target

TidalSpine-Book.otf · TidalSpine-Regular.otf · TidalSpine-Medium.otf ·
TidalSpine-Semibold.otf · TidalSpine-Bold.otf · matching Italics · TidalSpine-VF.woff2 ·
TidalSpine-VF.ttf · specimen PDF · EULA · readme

08 — Sales Positioning

Tidal Spine

A contemporary literary serif for publishers, authors, cultural institutions, magazines and premium editorial systems.

Core differentiator: fluid modulation and asymmetric stress create movement inside a disciplined reading architecture. The face should feel authored and contemporary without borrowing the signature construction of a specific historical typeface.

PRODUCT STATUS — SPECIMEN / PRODUCTION MASTER BRIEF