

Typographic Sin

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- > Font designers draw their glyphs as Bezier control points with font editors on a square coordinate system, which can be for instance 1024 x 1024 units long (the exact number differs between Type1 and TrueType).
- > The side length of this square is what publishing software also offers you as the font-dependent length unit "em" (originally meant to be the width of an M, which is usually the widest Latin character). It is my understanding that the PostScript and Windows API font size in points sets this "em" value, therefore if you have a "12 point" font, you get a "12 point-per-em" font.
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- > In practice, good choices for baseline skip are near 1.2-1.5 em, depending on the line length. A 12 point font is typically set with 14 pt baseline distance. If you used PostScript fonts so far with the font size as the distance between baselines when text lines are 50-90 characters long, then I'm afraid you might have committed a serious typographic sin.

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