

**5 Classic Presentation Fonts**

Every computer comes with a set of [fonts pre-installed](http://www.apaddedcell.com/sites/www.apaddedcell.com/files/fonts-article/final/index.html) as standard. What you probably didn’t know is that *some* of those fonts totally rock for presentations!

I’ve listed my ‘*classic*’ go to fonts that I primarily use in my presentation designs. I use these fonts when custom fonts can’t be considered for compatibility reasons using presentation templates over multiple computers. What, pray tell, are these classic fonts I refer to then?

Without further hesitation here are my 5 classic presentation fonts that will look good in any presentation, if you know how to use them correctly!

**1. Helvetica**



Quick, somebody get the *Helvetica* police! Sure, you’ve probably heard it recommended time and time again, but frankly I don’t care. *Helvetica* rocks this world. It is a flexible, diverse and robust typeface.

The beauty of *Helvetica* is in its neutrality. It is a font that can blend to any style, almost like that a chameleon in the font world.

If I could summarise *Helvetica* in one sentence, it would be: “Clarity with complete simplicity.”

*Helvetica* was designed and created by Max Miedinger & Eduard Hoffmann in the late 1950s. Interestingly, *Helvetica* was originally named Die Neue Haas Grotesk (I’m sure that name went down well with the cool kids).

*Helvetica* has been extremely popular typeface with corporations. America Apparel, for example, uses it for their logo. Here are [40 Excellent Logos](http://www.webdesignerdepot.com/2009/03/40-excellent-logos-created-with-helvetica/) that use *Helvetica.*

In presentations, *Helvetica* is powerful and can add real impact, but it doesn’t take over the limelight. It is also really easy to read at different sizes and weights.

Some people may confuse *Arial* with *Helvetica* due to their number of similarities. To the non-typography connoisseur’s eye, it is hard to tell the difference between the two. I found [an excellent comparison](http://designrfix.com/fonts/arial-helvetica) of the two typefaces for you to compare. Personally, I’m also a big fan of *Arial*, but it didn’t quite make this top 5 list. (Plus, I would have been shot down by a few of my designer buddies of mine had I selected Arial above others on this list.)

**2. Garamond**



Not a typeface many would automatically go for but a great font all the same. I like *Garamond* for its more mature qualities.

It is a typeface that always remains professional with quite a clean, sharp appearance.

*Garamond* has a rich history behind it and one of the reasons I love it! Claude Garamond, a French publisher from Paris, created the font and was one of leading type designers of his time.

The original typeface created for a French King called Francis I in the 1540’s.

There have been many [later versions of *Garamond*](http://www.linotype.com/1419/garamond.html) created, including numerous variations (trying to improve on the original version) such as a custom variant of the *ITC Garamond*typeface, called *Apple* *Garamond***.**

**3. Futura**



*Futura* is a Sans-serif typeface (meaning it has no serifs), designed between 1924 and 1926 by typeface designer Paul Renner. Created during the Bauhaus period, commissioned by the Bauer type foundry.

A fun fact for you: the Apollo 11 astronauts left [a commemorative plaque](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f9/Apollo11Plaque.jpg) on the moon in 1969. The text set in *Futura*.

*Futura* is another font that is great for readability and one of the reasons I’m fond of using it in presentations. It is an elegant font that has a real personality.

If you’re using it in presentations is it especially good for headlines. There is an excellent article on [*Futura’s* amazing past](http://99designs.com/designer-blog/2012/04/11/know-your-typeface-futuras-amazing-past) to see how the typeface has changed in design over the years.

**4. Gill Sans**



I’ve always had a soft spot for *Gill Sans.*It used to be my go to font during my school years. I used it in my essays, projects, or just for general homework headings and then let *Times Roman* do the grunt body text.

Another Sans Serif font, *Gill Sans* presents a friendly and warm look without being too overstated. Some have even been known to refer to Gill Sans as ‘*the British Helvetica’*.

*Gill Sans*created by British graphic artist and sculptor Eric Gill. Initially, it had been inspired by the [typeface *Johnston*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johnston_(typeface)), by Edward Johnston. The *Johnston* typeface had previously been used for Transport for London on the London Underground in 1913.  Eric Gill had previously been Johnston’s apprentice at the time.

*Gill Sans* was popularised during its use as the typeface for all LNER’s (*London and North Eastern Railway*) posters and publicity material in the late 1920s.

[](http://cdn.thepresentationdesigner.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/whitby-lner-agency-poster.jpg)

*Gill Sans – Beyond classic!*

The BBC logo still uses the typeface to this day, and it is still a very modern font with many designers around the world.

**5. Rockwell**



Last but not least, one of my most favourite fonts of all time is *Rockwell*. The typeface was designed at [~~Monotype foundry’s~~](http://www.monotypefonts.com/Library/History.asp) in-house design studio in 1934.

*Rockwell* is a font that is bold and vigorous, and it will give your presentation a distinct, confident look about it.

*Rockwell* primary use should be for display because of its[*mono-weighted stroke*](http://www.sitepoint.com/the-sans-serif-typeface/)*.*

I’m a big fan of using*Rockwell* for the major points and headline text. It can add impact to your design if used right. I’d suggest further reading this article on [exploring the use of Rockwell](http://ashtongraphicdesign.blogspot.co.uk/2011/11/exploring-rockwell.html)%20in%20graphic%20design).

There you have it, *five classic presentation fonts* that every single person who has ever designed an Apple Keynote or Microsoft PowerPoint™ presentation should have in their arsenal. Go out and enjoy them.