

A CHARACTER STUDY ANALYSIS

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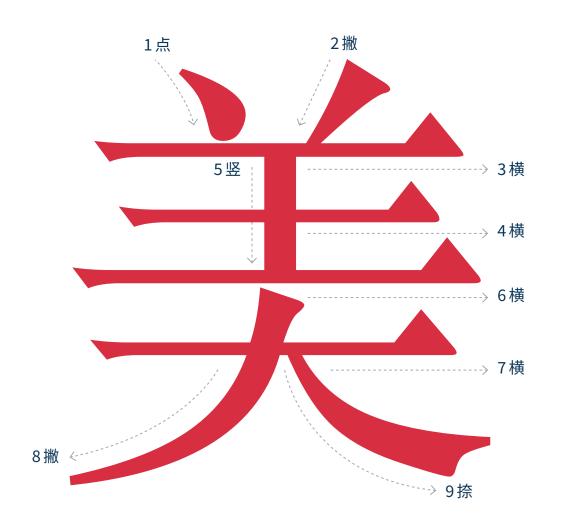


beautiful, beauty; pleasing, very satisfactory 简体字 simplified 繁体字 traditional





笔画 strokes



KEY

点 diǎn

撇 piē

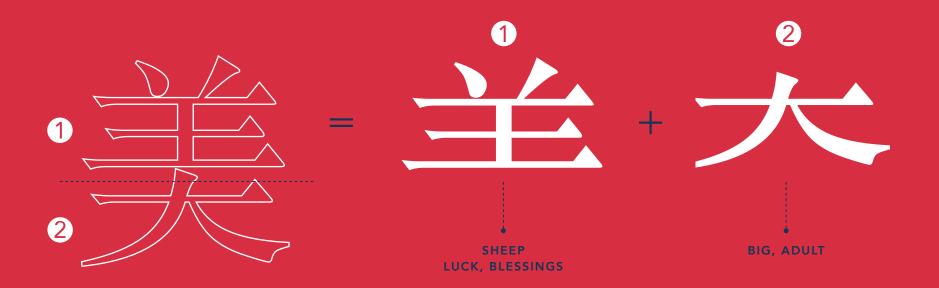
横 héng

竖 shù

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捺 nà

部首 radicals



CHARACTER THOUGHT

sheep + big = beauty;
sheep grow big; it's a beautiful thing

"美"汉字的单词 words with měi

元美 wán měi perfection

美女 měi nǚ beautiful woman

美丽 měi lì beauty; inside + out

shen mei appreciating the arts; have good taste 优美 yōu měi graceful; elegant

唯美 wéi měi

美德 měi dé virtue

之美 ài měi wishing to appear beautiful 甜美 tián měi sweet; pleasant

精美 jīng měi delicate; fine

美化 měi huà embellishment

美人计 měi rén jì honey trap 美味 měi wèi delicacy; tasty food

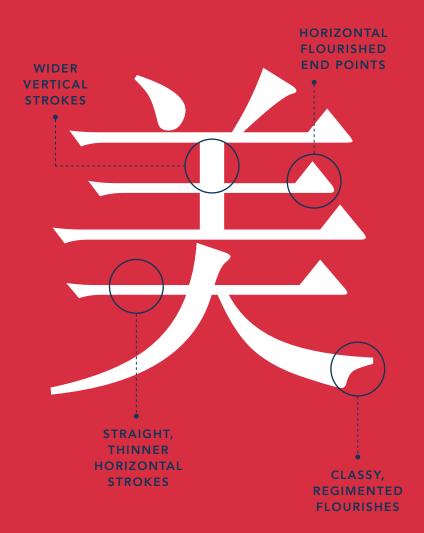
美国 měi guó United States

美元 měi yuán U.S. dollar

美剧 měi jù U.S. television series

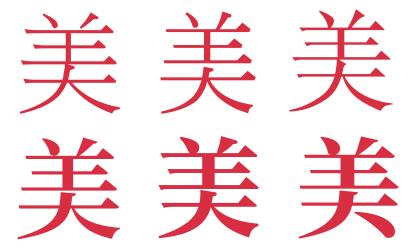


宋体 **song tǐ**

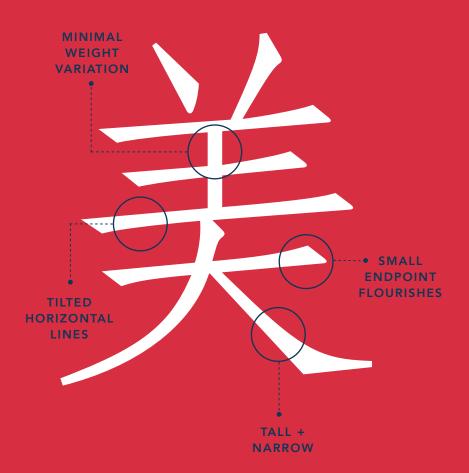


1. THE CLASSIC SERIF

Early songti scripts were in use as far back as the Song Dynasty (960-1279 A.D.), when Chinese woodblock printing reached its golden age. Due to the grain of the wood in the woodblocks, which ran horizontally, horizontal lines were easy to produce and could be thinner, but vertical lines, which ran counter to the wood grain, were prone to breakage during carving, and had to be thicker. Because the end points of the horizontal lines were easily worn away, flourishes were added to make them thicker and longer-lasting. And so the font style, the Chinese serif typified by perfectly straight horizontal strokes, wider verticals, and classy but regimented flourishes, was born. As it's the style used for the biggest part of Chinese typography history, it's the most familiar and popular one for texts, even today.

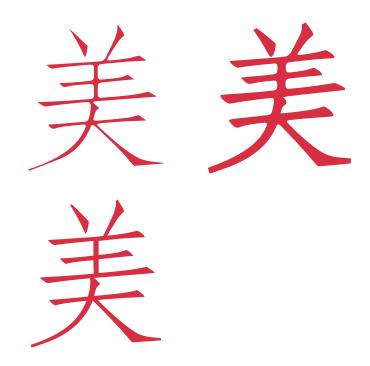


^{仿宋体} **fǎng sòng tǐ**



2. A HYBRID CLASS

A hybrid style, mixing the structure of a songti font with the hand-lettered visual influence of a kaiti font. The untrained eye will have a tough time telling the difference between a fang-songti and a songti typeface at first, but here's a quick trick for telling them apart: the horizontal lines in a classic songti are perfectly straight, whereas this class features a tilted horizontal stroke. In addition, this class features smaller endpoint flourishes, less width variation in strokes, and is often visually narrower and taller than songti fonts.

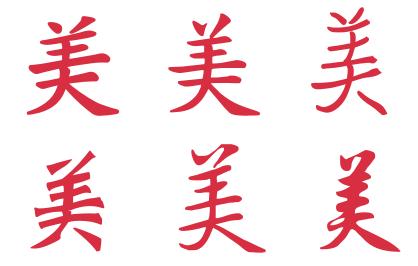


楷体 **kǎi tǐ**

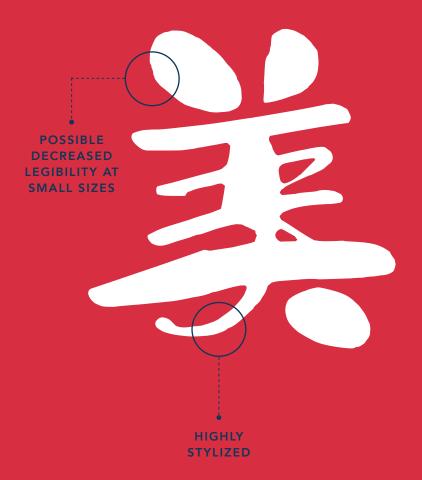


3. "REGULAR STYLE"

Modern kaiti fonts are inspired by calligraphic styles, relating to the calligraphic Regular Script (楷书)—"regular" denoting "official" or "formal." But these are not novelty fonts—they never get overly flowery, and these fonts obey a number of parameters, proportions and details, while maintaining an upright structure. This is what separates it from other handwritten fonts. This is the last calligraphic style that appeared in the history of Chinese calligraphy (around the 7th century). In use, it can be hard to read, especially at smaller sizes, so they are often used as in display typography.

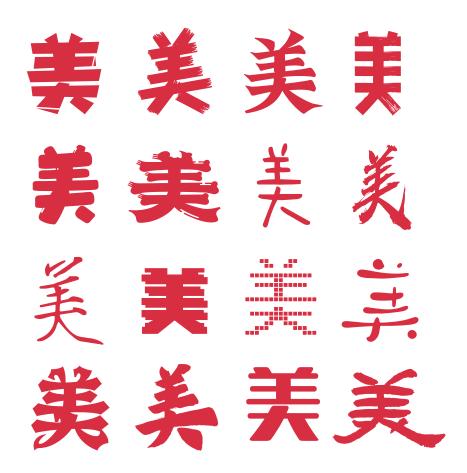


美术体 **měi shù tǐ**

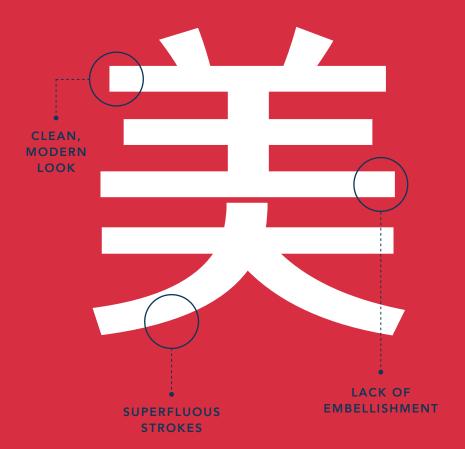


4. DISPLAY FONTS

These are highly stylized font faces that give typefaces personalities ranging from silly to historical to novelty. Meishu means "artistic" so this covers a wide range of lettering type styles. Being that these fonts are more stylistic in nature, some are best used in larger displays such as headlines, titles, and logos.



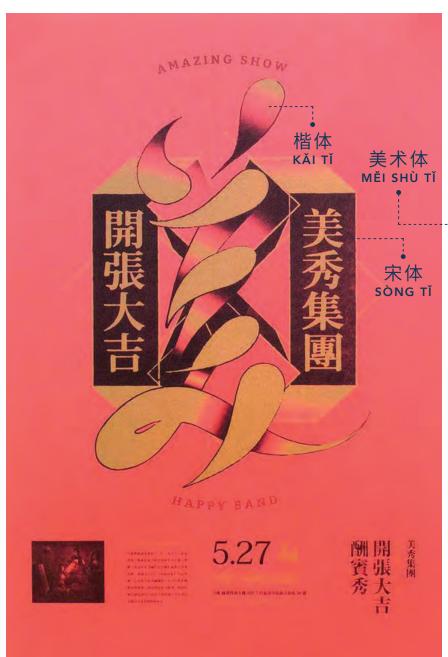
黑体 hēi tǐ



5. A SAN SERIF CLASS

Heiti fonts or "black-style" are a relatively modern invention. The exact history is heavily disputed by scholars, but we see it first emerge in the commercial press around the early 1900s with the influence of typefaces imported from Europe. The earliest typefaces developed in this class included thicker weighted strokes to mimic the stroke lines in Chinese calligraphy. Contemporary designs include thinner strokes. You can identify this class by its superfluous strokes and lack of embellishments, which help increase legibility and give the class a clean and modern look. Heiti is one of the most popular styles in the digital realm, dominating Chinese phones, computers and web layouts. It also be found in brands and designs that want to appear modern.

美美美美美















楷体 KĂI TĬ





IDENTIFYING CHARACTERS





WHERE MIGHT YOU OFTEN SEE 美?

In public, this character can often be found in places associated with fashion, beauty, luxury, country pride, and the U.S.

examples may include:

1.

nail + hair salons, women's clothing stores, travel agencies, financial institutions, and restaurants

2.

businesses, brands + products focused on appearance, luxury, and beauty

3.

businesses, brands + products that target women as the main audience

4.

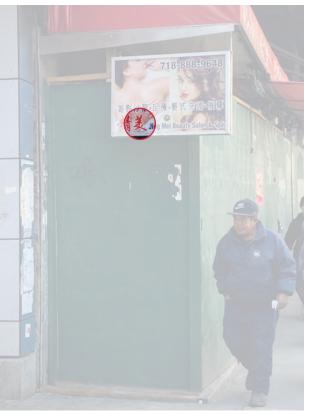
associations with country, chinese government + country pride and the United States (since mei is in the name of the country)





JĪNG (ZHĪ) MĚI 精之美





JĪNG (ZHĪ) MĚI 精之美





MĚI RÓNG 美容

beauty treatment, facials





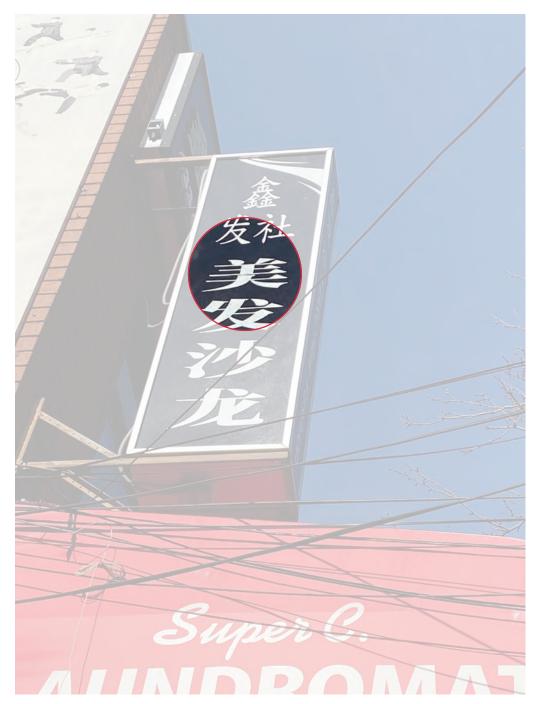


MĚI RÓNG 美容

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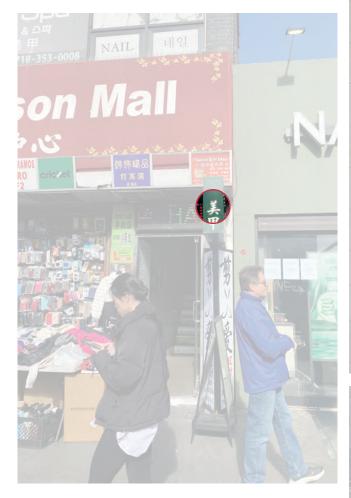


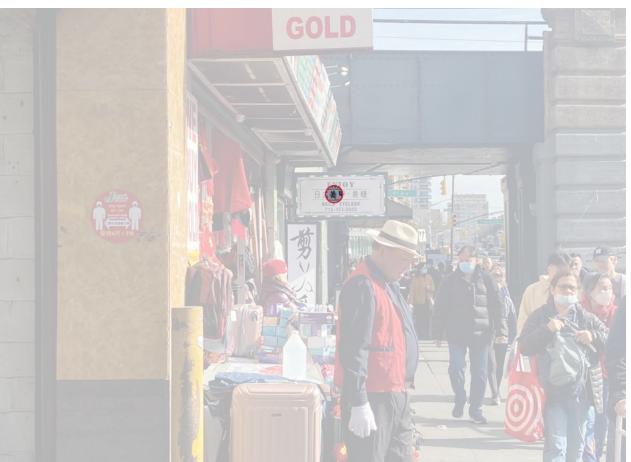






MĚI JIĂ 美甲







MĚI JIĂ 美甲





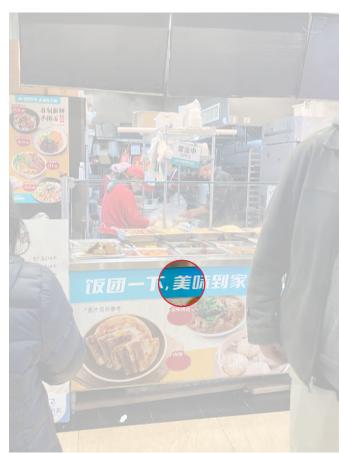




MĚI SHÍ 美食

good food, delicacy









MĚI SHÍ 美食

good food, delicacy





MĚI GUÓ 美国





MĚI GUÓ 美国







