

THE SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION

The Five system is one of a series of stencil typefaces first published by MuirMcNeil in 2017. It was extensively revised in 2021 in three different contours, each in two widths, two optical weights and in positive and negative versions.

Constructed from basic geometric segments, Five is intended to explore fundamental relationships between figure and ground. It is predicated on the idea that readers distinguish letters and words not solely by means of the strokes from which they are made but the formation of the spaces within and between them.

In MuirMcNeil Five, the structure of letterforms is differentiated through linear intervals between their strokes rather than by means of external profiles alone. Instead of constructing glyphs from a minimal set of strokes in the conventional manner, Five has been built around a system of internal spaces that are reduced to thin white lines, resulting in dense and imposing alphabets.

The stencil contours and void spaces of the Five typefaces reference designs such as Josef Albers' *Kombinations-Schrift* along with those of compressed rectilinear sans serifs from the 1960s like *Compacta*, *Impact* and *Walter Haettenschweiler's Schmalffette Grotesk* from 1954.

To facilitate visual differentiation between characters, in MuirMcNeil Five the lower case, from baseline to x-height, divides into either two or three horizontal sections. Following principles similar to those used by *Walter Ballmer* in 1971 for his *Olivetti* logo and lettering designs, this allows stroke proportions to be modulated more subtly and more naturally than is common in constructed types.

Kombinations-Schrift: 1920s

ABCDEF G abcdefg

Schmalffette Grotesk: 1954

ABCDEFGHI abcdefgh

Compacta: 1963

ABCDEFGHI labcdefgh

Impact: 1965

ABCDEFGHI abcdefgh

Olivetti lettering: 1971

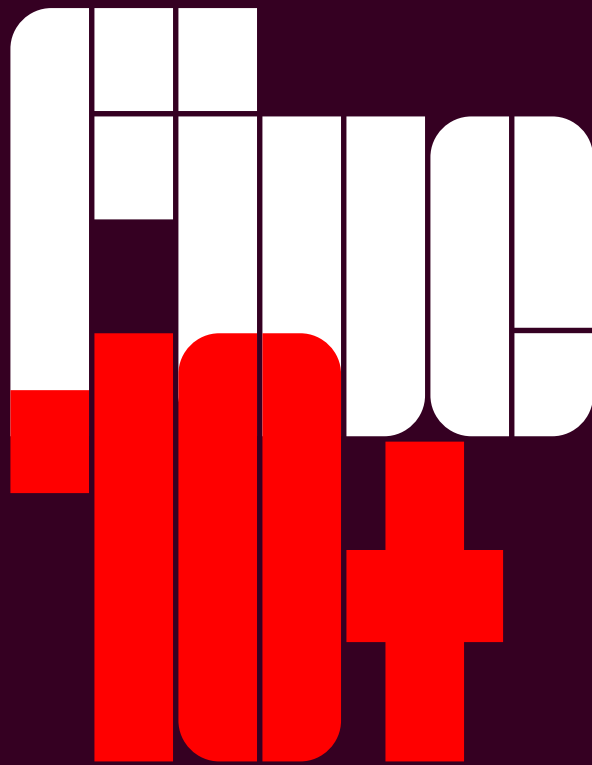
ab cdefghijklmn

Five 20

ABCDEFGHIJKL abcdefghijk

Five 21

ABCDEFGHIJKL abcdefghijk



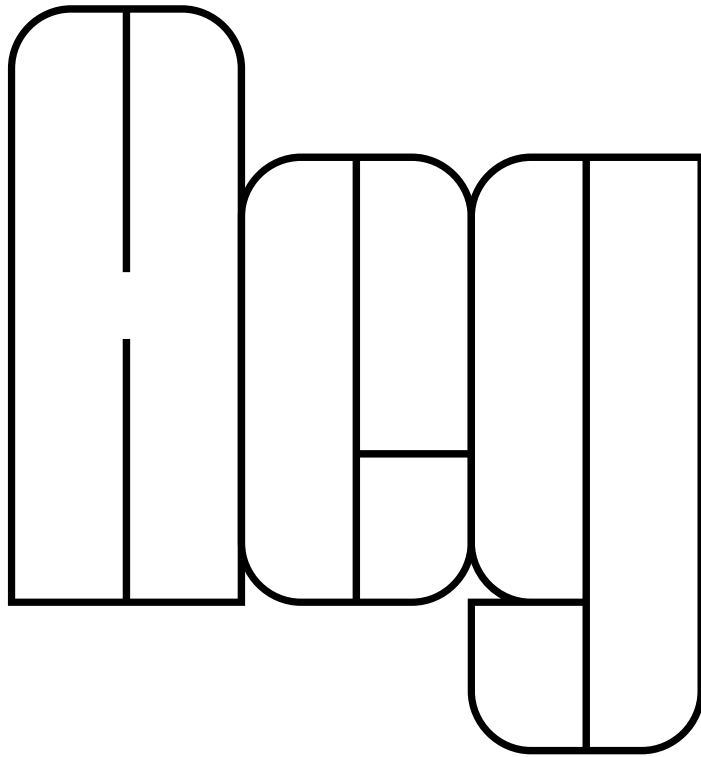
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High

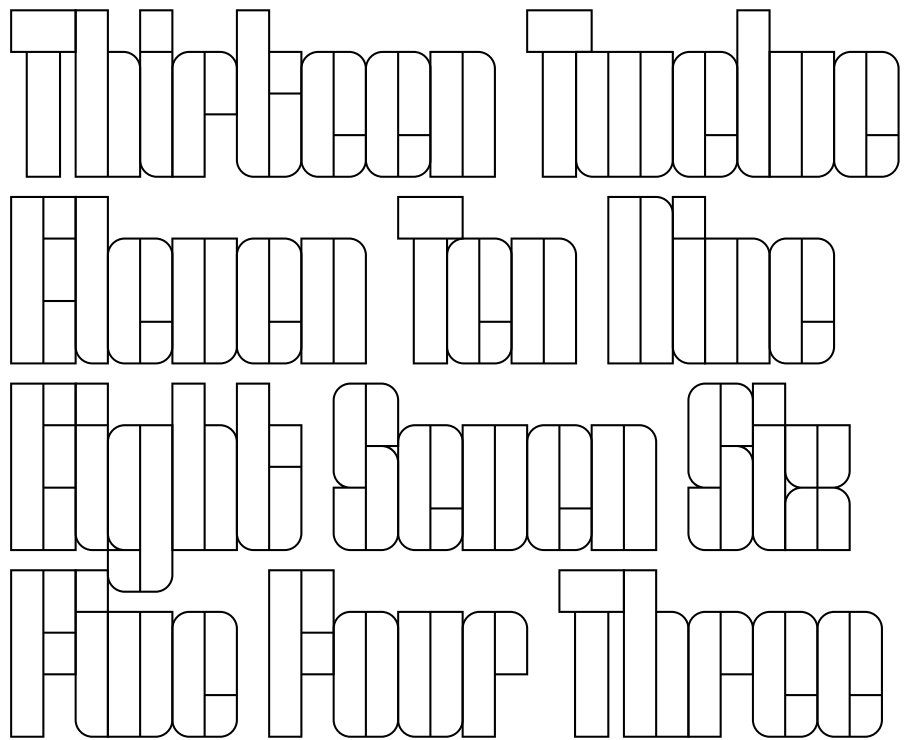
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Thirteen Twelve
Eleven Ten Nine
Eight Seven Six
Five Four Three

280pt



80pt



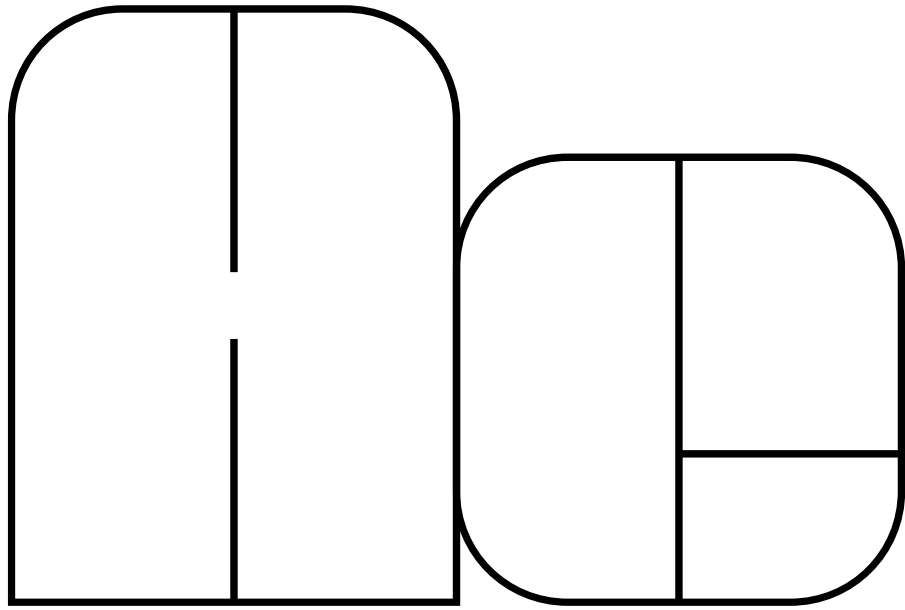
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FO

80pt

Thirteen
Twelve
Eleven
Ten Nine
Eight

280pt



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Thirteen
Twelve
Eleven
Ten Nine
Eight

280pt

High

80pt

**Thirteen Twelve
Eleven Ten Nine
Eight Seven**

40pt

**Eleven Ten Nine Eight Seven
Six Five Four Three Two
One Zero**

280pt

115

80pt

Thirteen Twelve
Eleven Ten Nine
Eight Seven

40pt

Eleven Ten Nine Eight Seven
Six Five Four Three Two
One Zero

280pt

HO

80pt

Thirteen
Twelve
Eleven

40pt

Seven Six Five
Four Three Two
One Zero

280pt

AD

80pt

Thirteen
Twelve
Eleven

40pt

Seven Six Five
Four Three Two
One Zero

Five 20+

280pt

NOV

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**Thirteen Twelve
Eleven Ten Nine
Eight Seven Six
Five Four Three**

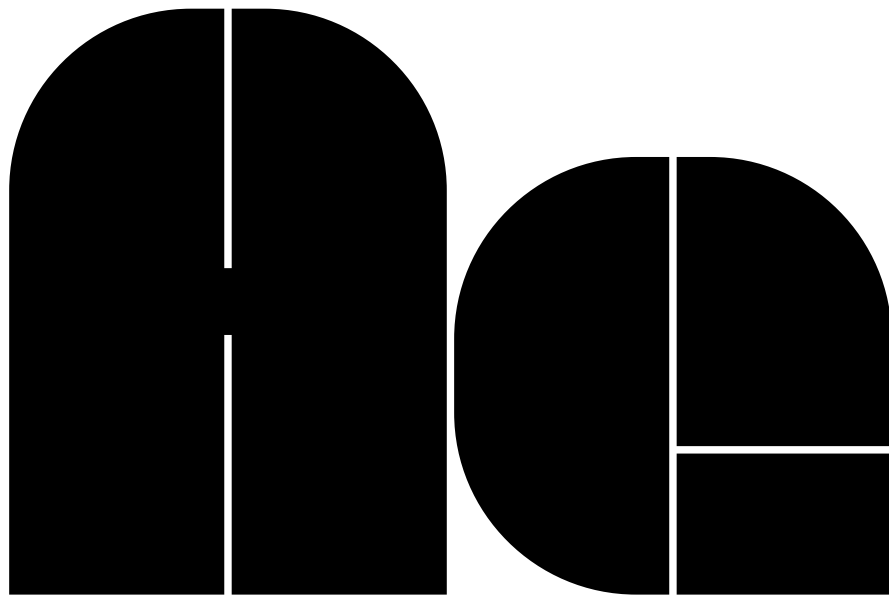
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AGG

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Thirteen Twelve
Eleven Ten Nine
Eight Seven Six
Five Four Three

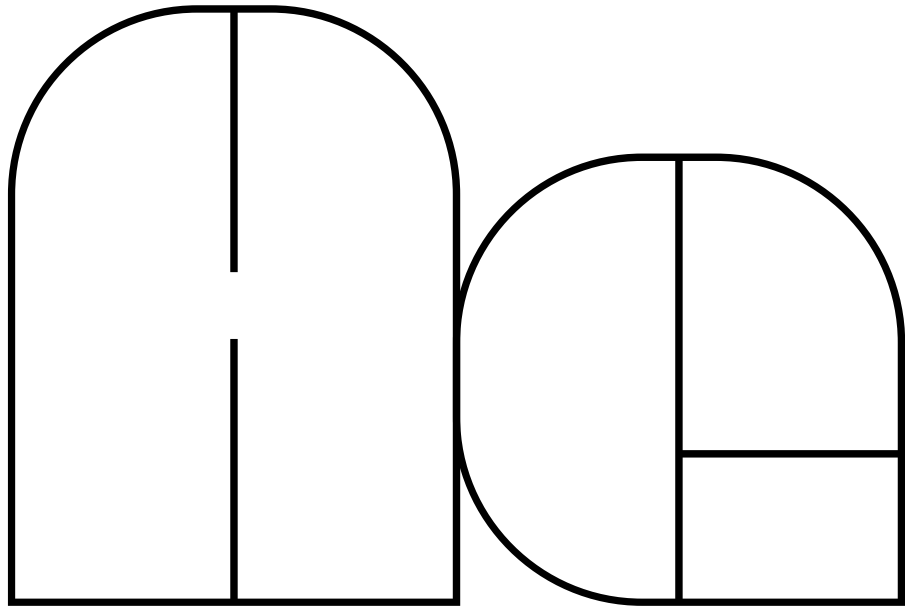
280pt



80pt

Thirteen
Twelve
Eleven
Ten Nine
Eight

280pt



80pt

Thirteen
Twelve
Eleven
Ten Nine
Eight

280pt

Hey

80pt

**Thirteen Twelve
Eleven Ten Nine
Eight Seven**

40pt

**Eleven Ten Nine Eight Seven
Six Five Four Three Two
One Zero**

280pt

Ag

80pt

Thirteen Twelve
Eleven Ten Nine
Eight Seven

40pt

Eleven Ten Nine Eight Seven
Six Five Four Three Two
One Zero

280pt

HO

80pt

Thirteen
Twelve
Eleven

40pt

Seven Six Five
Four Three Two
One Zero

280pt

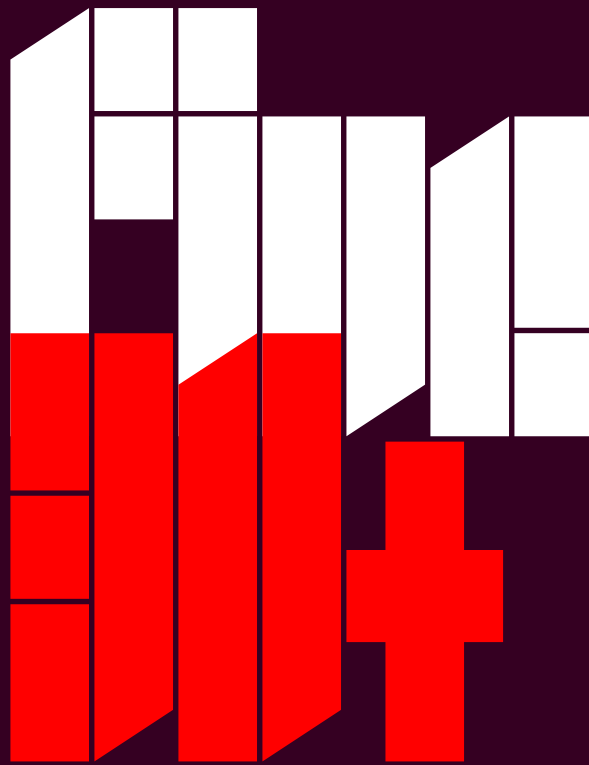


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Thirteen
Twelve
Eleven

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Seven Six Five
Four Three Two
One Zero



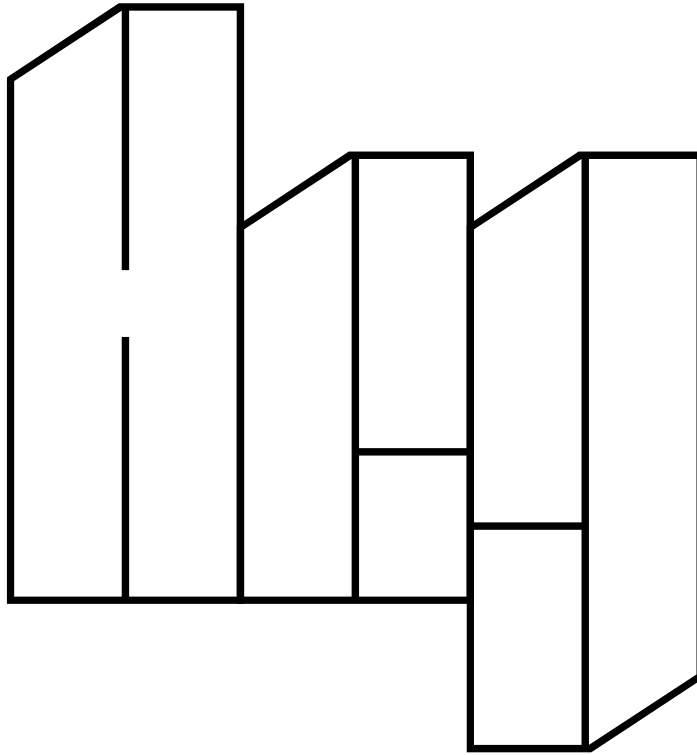
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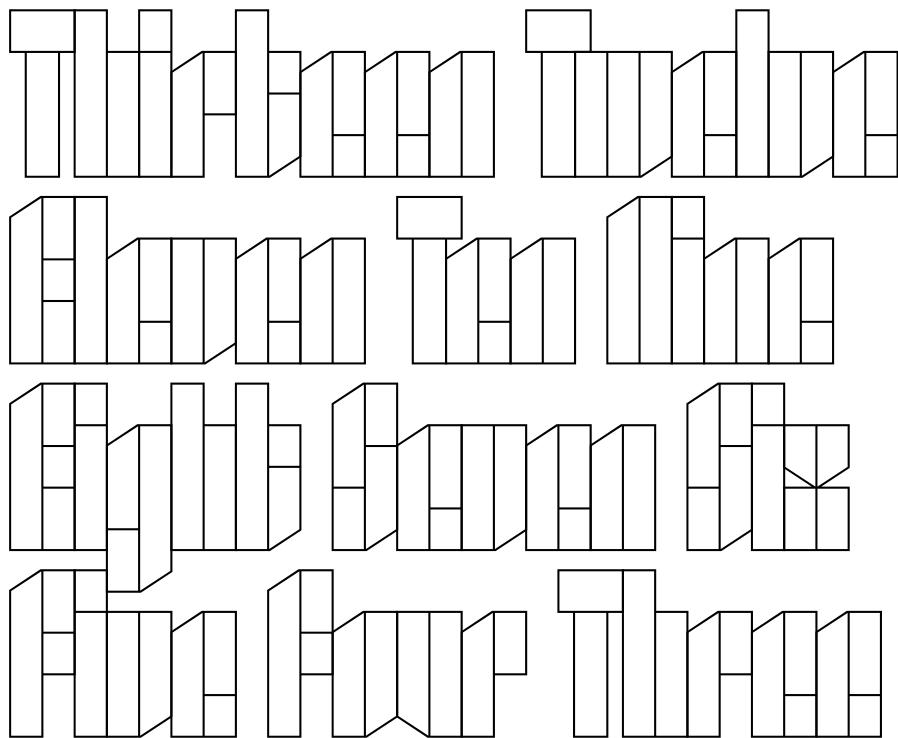
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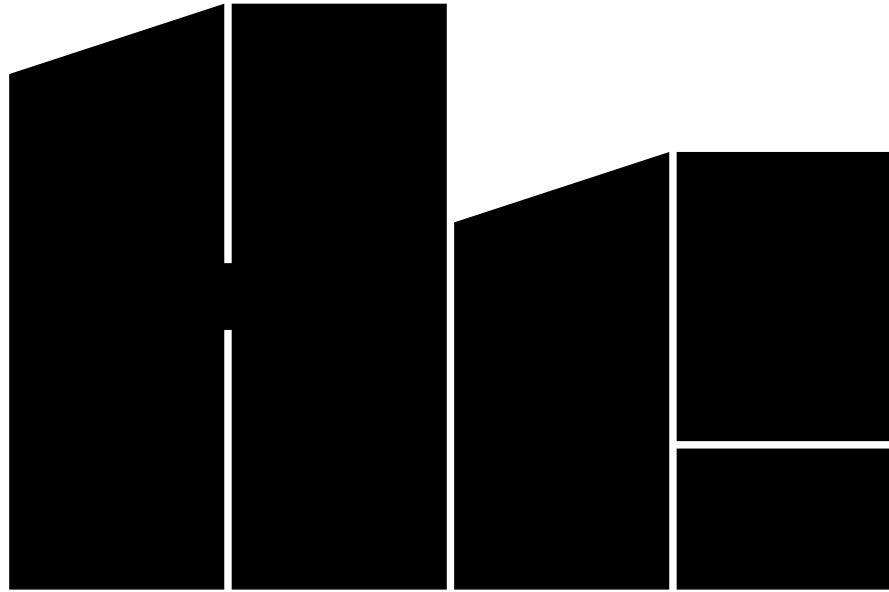
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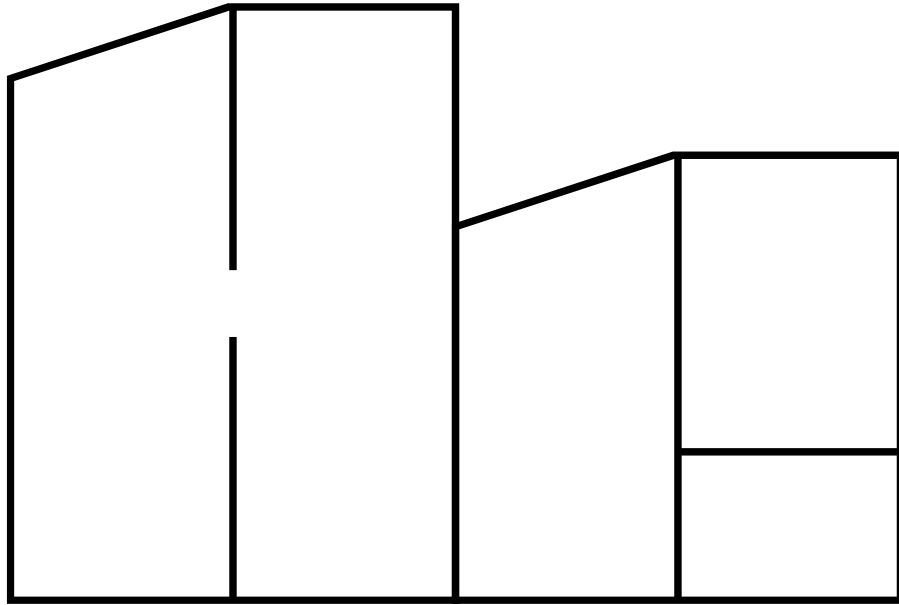
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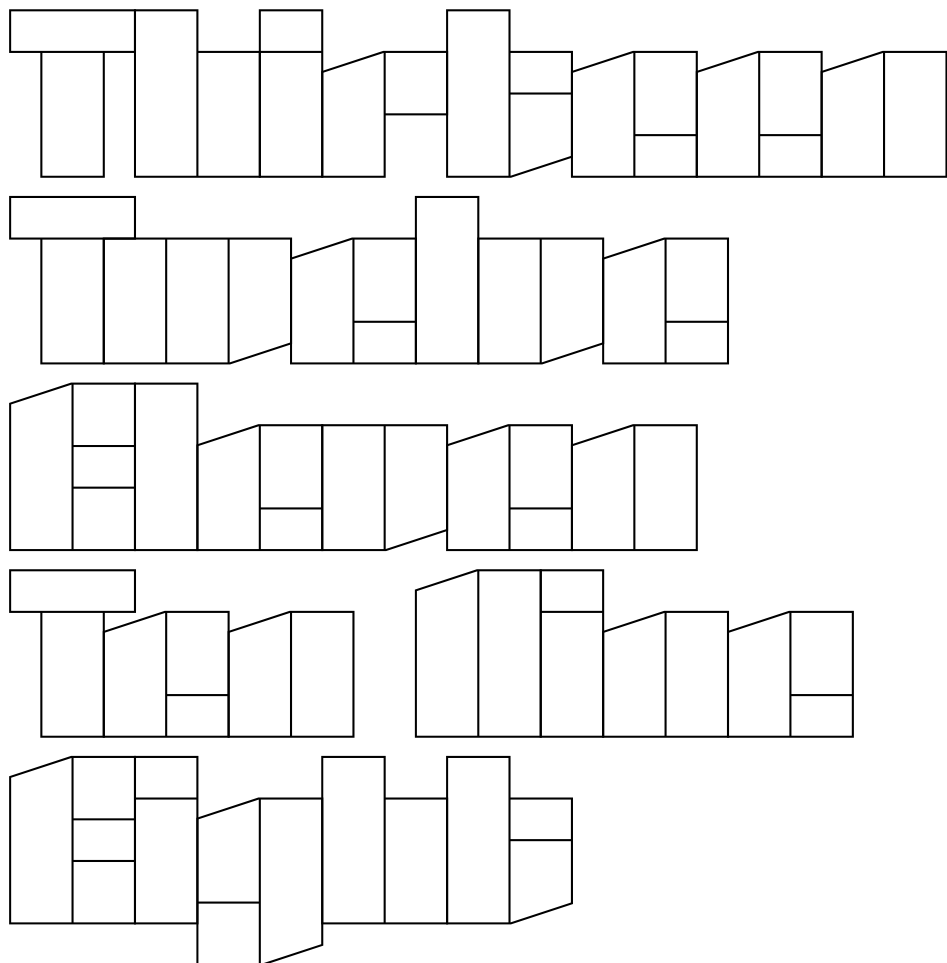
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280pt



80pt



280pt

Hi!

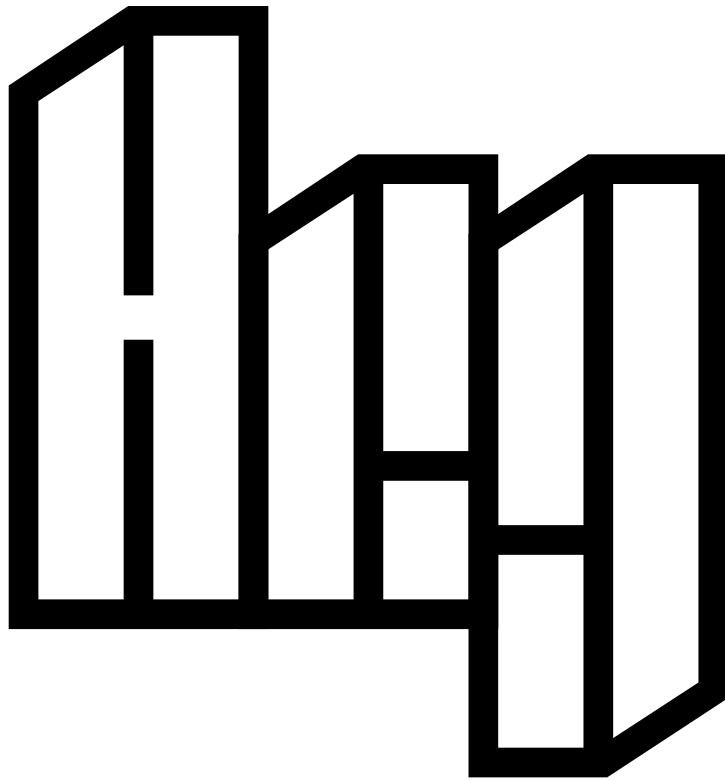
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Thirteen Twelve
Eleven Ten Nine
Eight Seven

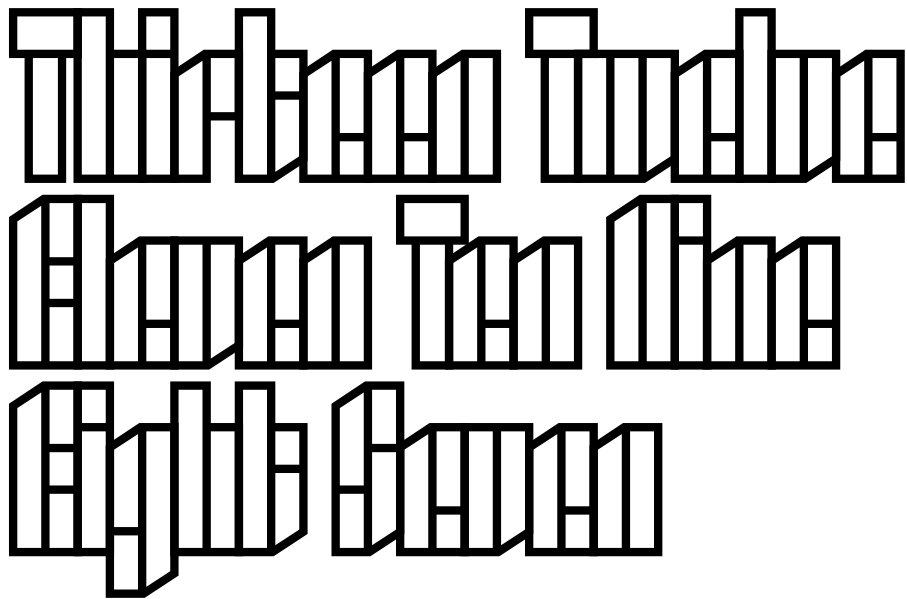
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Eleven Ten Nine Eight Seven
Six Five Four Three Two
One Zero

280pt



80pt



40pt



280pt

THIRTEEN

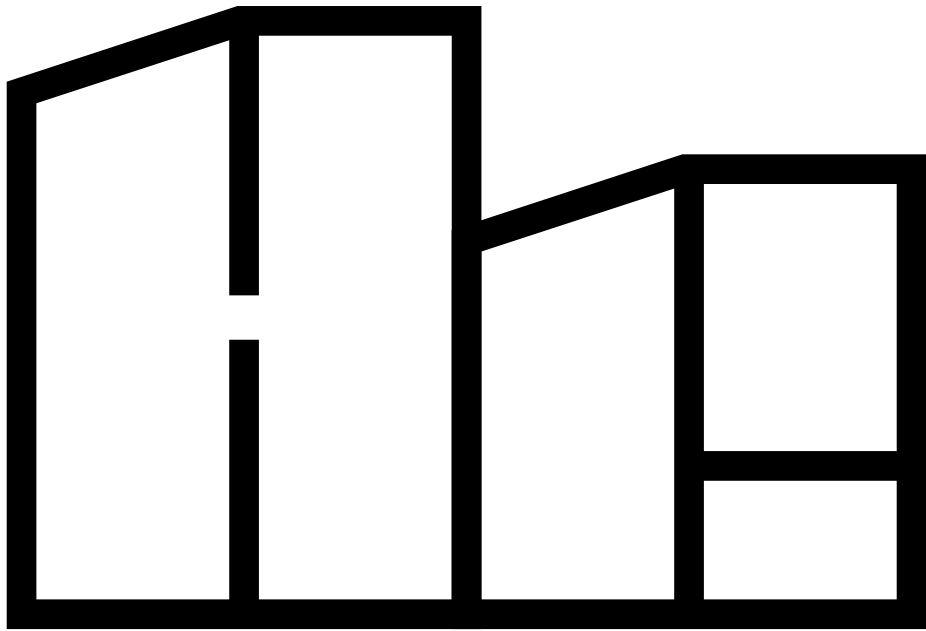
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THIRTEEN
THIRTEEN
THIRTEEN

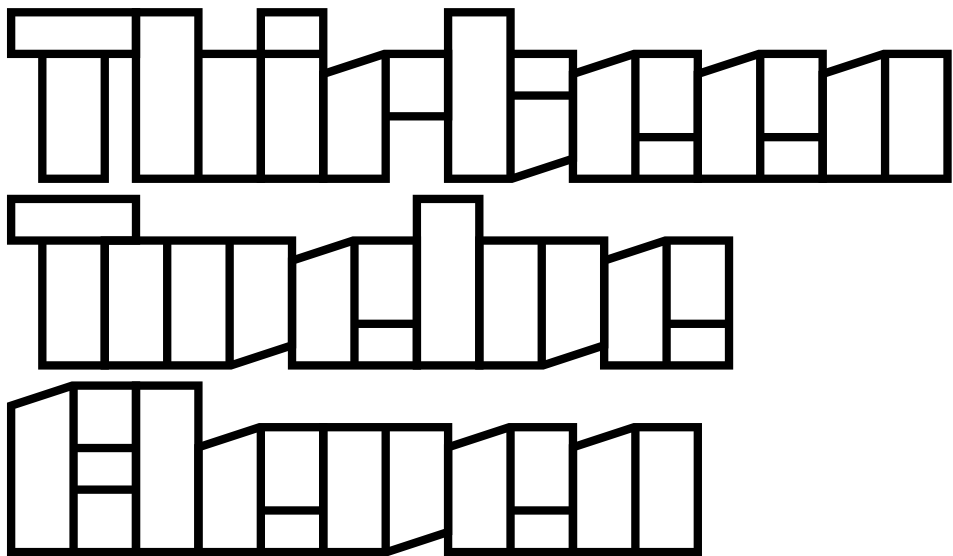
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THIRTEEN
THIRTEEN
THIRTEEN

280pt



80pt



40pt

