

# Tiresias Screenfont

A clear and easy to read typeface

for tomorrow's  
screen-based systems



## A typeface for all screens

Television screens are now being used in a wide range of locations for displaying information. On public transport, at airports, railways or ferry terminals information is often displayed on TV monitors. Building societies and banks use screens to display information on cash dispensers. Many governments are now planning screen-based public information systems in libraries and government offices.

Reading information from screens in one form or another will become a daily activity for most people. As digital television becomes available, our televisions at home will develop into interactive terminals. We will then be able to access the Internet, download information linked to television and radio programmes, plan a journey and carry out banking from our own homes.

Reading a screen can be difficult for anyone under some circumstances such as bright sunlight. However, the problems are more severe for elderly and visually impaired people. The choice of typeface can make all the difference to screen legibility.

Visual impairment is much more common than many people think. It is estimated that the majority of the population have problems reading some displays at travel terminals.

The typeface Tiresias Screenfont was originally designed for subtitling on UK digital television by a team led by Dr John Gill. It has been specifically designed for screen display and has been adopted by the UK Digital Television Group as the resident font for interactive television.

The typeface is compatible with current screen generation technologies, and is available for use with all types of screen applications.

**The report on the design of Tiresias Screenfont and the full set of characters can be seen on the web site: <http://www.eyecue.co.uk/tiresias>**

A B C D E

W X Y Z a

u v w x y z

= ÷ # <

∞ Æ Œ Ø

## Tiresias Screen

Tiresias Screenfont has been designed to be easy to distinguish from each other with specific reference to personal philosophy that good design for good design for everybody.

Throughout the design process, legibility were studied.

These included:

- Character shapes.
- Relative weight or thickness of
- Inter-character spacing.
- Aspect ratios that affect the manner in which they could be used.





F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V  
 b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t  
 z 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 £ € \$ ¢ ¥ +  
 > @ ! ? & ( . , ; : ) [ ] { } / \ %  
 Å ø æ œ å ß \* ¼ ½ ¾ « » ‹ ›

## font

signed to have characters that are  
 her. The design was carried out,  
 ns with visual impairments, on the  
 r visually impaired persons is

the key factors that affect

f the character shapes.

maximum size at which the type

Tiresias Screenfont has been designed with a medium weight. Special consideration has been given to character shapes that could be difficult to distinguish. For people with low vision some numerals such as 6, 8, and 9 can be confused. Tiresias Screenfont has open shapes, designed to make each character as clear as possible.

Characters such as the lower case 'l' have been designed to ensure they are different from the numeral '1' or a lower case 'i'. The tail on the 'l' also helps stop two 'l's merging. These factors may not seem important to persons with good vision but to a person with low vision they can make all the difference.

Tiresias Screenfont has been tested with the public, including groups of visually and hearing impaired persons. There has been such general approval that the design team is confident that this new typeface will bring a considerable improvement in the legibility of text on screens.



