

Chandler 42

A vintage "messy typewriter" font

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Chandler 42 is a specialty font designed to look like something typed on an old portable typewriter. I love it, but that may be because I pounded typewriters that produced letters quite like these. Remember those funny round typewriter erasers with the brush? And carbon paper?

Font design is an interesting niche within graphic design. Probably not many of us are into font design or can imagine spending much time worrying about fonts in general, but there are people who devote large amounts of time thinking about and designing specialty fonts for advertising and publishing. One such person is Steve Mehallo, who calls himself a "design strategist." Steve, a designer and teacher, has a number of font designs to his credit, including Chandler 42.



machine may have been built, but also serves a different purpose. The '4' in the font is one of the coolest numbers I've ever seen, so I had to include it in the name somehow.

My goal with the font was to make it the most accurate rendering I could with the technology – and I'd say it holds up well compared to the quickly-drawn versions that flood the market today.

I hope this answers your question. It was a fun one to work on – and still exciting every time I see it being used.

Chandler 42 is what is known as a messy typewriter font. After a mention of Chandler 42 was found online by Dick Chandler, I followed up by writing an email to Steve. My question was "Why the name?"

Steve's response follows:

Chandler 42 was released back in 1994. It was one of the first messy typewriter fonts on the market, and as someone who loves history, I spent my time researching typewriter history. At one point, I wanted to name it after Sholes, inventor of the machine. Mark Twain also fiddled a bit with the technology.

Chandler 42 was drawn from the output from a 1940s model Royal Portable – and after some false starts with the name, a friend suggested calling it Marlowe; I thought about it for a second, then decided that the mystery genre would be great to honor. My dad loved detective fiction – so I settled on Chandler, after Raymond. The '42' is a nod to the year the

Specialty fonts can be downloaded from many different sites on the internet. The Chandler 42 font is available in several variations at new.myfonts.com/fonts/steve-mehallo/chandler-42/ ✨



Output from a Royal portable typewriter much like the 1942 model above was the inspiration for Chandler 42. Image courtesy of The Classic Typewriter Store – mytypewriter.com