

Variable fonts: avar 2 and vertical metrics

A version 2 avar table lets an axis move the others: in the second font, full weight also narrows the width and a narrow width also makes the weight heavier, so the same font-weight and font-stretch settings read differently than in the plain font of the same design.

font-weight: 900

The image shows the letters 'A', 'B', 'A', and 'B' in a plain font with a font-weight of 900. The letters are black and have a standard, slightly wide spacing.

plain font, font-weight: 900

The image shows the letters 'A', 'B', 'A', and 'B' in the avar 2 font with a font-weight of 900. Compared to the plain font, these letters are noticeably narrower and appear more condensed.

avar 2 font, font-weight: 900

font-variation-settings: 'wght' 700, 'wdth' 120

The image shows the letters 'A', 'B', 'A', and 'B' in a plain font with font-variation-settings of 'wght' 700 and 'wdth' 120. The letters are black and have a standard, slightly wide spacing.

plain font

The image shows the letters 'A', 'B', 'A', and 'B' in the avar 2 font with font-variation-settings of 'wght' 700 and 'wdth' 120. The letters are black and have a standard, slightly wide spacing.

avar 2 font

Vertical text

In vertical text each glyph advances by its *vertical* advance, which follows the axes through VVAR (or, without it, the phantom points of gvar): the heavier the weight, the longer the column.

The image shows the letters 'A', 'B', '/', 'A', 'B', and '/' arranged vertically in a plain font with a font-weight of 100. The column is relatively short.

font-weight: 100

The image shows the letters 'A', 'B', '/', 'A', 'B', and '/' arranged vertically in a plain font with a font-weight of 400. The column is longer than the one for font-weight 100.

font-weight: 400

The image shows the letters 'A', 'B', '/', 'A', 'B', and '/' arranged vertically in a plain font with a font-weight of 900. The column is the longest of the three.

font-weight: 900