

The LUDLOW Quarterly™

A Newsletter For Ludlow Typograph Operators and Enthusiasts

Ludlow Speed-setting

Part II - The Perfect Copy

Most text is set from copy. If you can make ideal copy you can set mats faster. I write on a computer and then output to a printer, using a column width that matches the specific Ludlow font and width I am setting. The column width of the printout should be adjusted to match the text length, not the physical length, of the Ludlow column.

For example, if you are setting a 21 pica column (3.5") on the Ludlow the stick might hold 10 e's, 10 a's, 5 m's, 5 n's, and 3 r's. Type those letters into the computer and set the column margin just after the last letter. Depending on the typeface used, the computer's columns will likely not be 3.5". Set a line and add letters until tight, then use that exact text string to set the computer margins. Final adjust by trial and error.

You want the computer printout to mirror exactly what the Ludlow font produces. Sophisticated programs, like PageMaker or Quark Express, will let you stretch text or change spacing in minute increments and exactly duplicate the Ludlow font, but they are not necessary.

If the printout copy is justified flush left, even when you are fully justifying the Ludlow mats, the amount of space at the end of the line gives a big clue to what size Ludlow spacing material you reach

for. If using hyphenation, print out the copy exactly as you want it to appear when set. Print out the copy in double or triple spacing if you find that easier to set, and run the spelling checker!

Machine Placement

Good placement of the machine and mat cabinet can make text setting work much faster and easier. It makes no sense to walk twelve feet for every cast.

I use a right-hand-pull Ludlow cabinet (when looking at the open case of mats the drawer pull is on the right) set parallel to the front edge of the Ludlow machine and about 34 inches away. Leave empty the third or fourth case slot from the top of the cabinet. Whatever font being currently used for speedsetting text goes into that space. The center of the drawer when fully extended should be directly across from the stick slot in the Ludlow tabletop.

The height of the case center and the height of the tabletop should be almost equal. Now for the best tip - sit on a swiveling stool between the cabinet and machine, adjusted to a height that makes arm motions most comfortable.

Gather mats and spaces into the stick, spin around to the machine, set the stick on the tabletop, tap mats flat, and lock the stick. Insert it into the machine, throw the handle, and trip the lever. While the machine cycles, you can take

the last slug ejected from the machine and with a scraper of some sort clean up any feathered lead at the sides of the face or top edge of the slug. This takes only a few seconds. As soon as the locking handle pops open you can grab the stick, swivel back around, and be distributing the mats into the case in about two seconds.

A Case for Speed

Wooden Ludlow cases are too deep. The dividers of each section are higher than the mats and interfere with setting because the pack of gathered mats (see issue #5 re: gathering) has no flat area on which to momentarily land and stabilize. The solution is to raise the mats.

You need to raise the mats about 10 points. The easiest way is to use a paper cutter to cut 1/8" board stock and line every section. Just raise the mat tops equal to or slightly above the wood dividers. The bottom edge of the case is even higher, and those sections needs about 5/16" buildup.

Now put some surplus quad blocks or large spaces into each section and then load the mats. You want about 1 inch of quad spaces behind every stack of mats, but reduce the amount of spaces to ensure 3/4" open space at the top of each section for easy mat picking. The idea is to build a "landing zone" for gathered mats to rest on as each new letter is gathered onto the pack. Only prepare one or two cases to use for serious text setting. Shift fonts into and out of these special speed cases as needed.

Speedsetting makes setting text on the Ludlow downright enjoyable, and very much faster than handsetting type.

There are probably a few more techniques that improve on what is described here. Don't forget about multiple casting and printing x-number-up! Experiment, and if you find any helpful ideas, share them with us!



LudlowQrt@aol.com

For the convenience of our subscribers, we have established an internet account for **The Ludlow Quarterly**. Everyone should find it easier and cheaper to contact us online, especially our many overseas subscribers. The address is listed above. You are invited to use it to submit articles, suggestions, and tips!



Why does Hawaii have an interstate highway?



Safety Keys? - Give us a break!

My goodness, there is a hot Ludlow rumor! It goes something to the effect that safety keys, the little breakable things in the cap at the end of the main shaft, are in short supply and they aren't making them any more. The real story is that all the Ludlow equipment suppliers have thousands in stock. The fellow who has made them for years sold the equipment to a different company, but you need never worry about a good supply. It should be noted here that a machine only breaks keys when there is something wrong with it, generally dirt, loose parts, or adjustments.



If a cow laughed really hard,
would milk come out her nose?

Do you need a silencer if you
are going to shoot a mime?

Service Tip

Lubraclean fluid is a very special chemical formulation and on heavy cleaning jobs requires time and temperature to work its best. Try smearing Lubraclean all over the hot piston or mouthpiece, brush it with a wire brush, then wait a while before wiping things clean. Think of it as a detergent and allow the chemicals time to work.

Health Tip

If you notice a yellow powder floating on your metal in the crucible, check the pot temperature. This forms only at temperatures way above normal, and I understand that it is a very soluble lead compound, and therefore much more dangerous than the white lead oxides and normal dross.

Why isn't "phonetic" spelled
the way it sounds?

In response to inquiries about Lining Plate fonts, we did a search of several Ludlow typeface books to make this chart of all possible Ludlow Lining Plate faces. Hopefully, it is correct. If anyone has any contrary information, please contact the Editor.

All Possible Lining Plate Fonts

Fonts	Point sizes and numbers
Commerce Goth. Light	6pt(1-2-3-4) 12pt(1-2-3-4) 18pt(1-2)
Commerce Goth. Light Cond.	6pt(1-2-3-4) 12pt(1-2-3-4) 18pt(1-2)
Commerce Goth. Medium	6pt(1-2-3-4) 12pt(1-2-3-4) 18pt(1-2)
Commerce Goth. Med. Cond.	6pt(1-2-3-4) 12pt(1-2-3-4) 18pt(1-2)
Lining Litho Light	6pt(1-2-3-4) 12pt(1-2-3-4) 18pt(1-2)
Lining Litho Bold	6pt(1-2-3-4) 12pt(1-2-3-4) 18pt(1-2)
L.P.Gothic Light	6pt(1-2-3-4) 12pt(1-2-3-4) 18pt(1-2) 24pt(1-2)
L.P.Gothic Light Condensed	6pt(1-2-3-4) 12pt(1-2-3-4) 18pt(1-2)
L.P.Gothic Light Extended	6pt(1-2-3-4) 12pt(1-2-3-4)
L.P.Gothic Heavy	6pt(1-2-3-4) 12pt(1-2-3-4) 18pt(1-2) 24pt(1-2)
L.P.Gothic Heavy Condensed	6pt(1-2-3-4) 12pt(1-2-3-4) 18pt(1-2)
L.P.Gothic Heavy Extended	6pt(1-2-3-4) 12pt(1-2-3-4)
L.P.Gothic Bold	6pt(2-3-4) 12pt(1-2-3-4) 18pt(1-2?) 24pt(1)
Engravers Bold	6pt(2-3-4-5) 12pt(1-2-3) 18pt(1-2) 24pt(1)
Victoria Italic	6pt(2-3-4) 12pt(1-2-3-4)

Service Tip

The main magnetic relay that controls crucible heating makes a loud buzzing sound in many machines. Of course, it cycles on and off. When it fails, or drives you crazy with all that buzzing, don't try to find an exact replacement at a high cost and which will eventually give you the same noise. W. W. Graingers has a relay for about \$20.00. Check the voltages for your machine, but most 220 volt machines will take the 5x848e relay. 110 volt machines should take the 5x847. These are DPDT magnetic relays with self-wiping silver contacts, and they are quiet! (see LQ issue # 1 for solid state crucible control devices)

1996 Calendar

August 25-27: American Amateur Press Convention. Rapid city, SD. Info; Jack Swenson, Box 488, Custer, SD 57730. Call 605-673-3718

September 26-29: American Typecasting Fellowship Convention. Holiday Inn (Airport) Charlotte, NC. Info; Pat Taylor, 52 Fairway Ridge, Lake Wylie, SC 29710.

P•I•P•E Donations

The **Postage-Ink-Paper-Equipment** fund had no contributors this quarter. We are still trying to preserve all sorts of Ludlow items, including promotional materials, manuals, and books. We can sometimes pay the shipping costs. The price of brass is hitting new lows, so have a heart and consider sending sorts and broken fonts of mats to us instead of melting them. Once they are gone they are gone forever.

Classified Ads

Still only 15 cents per word. You must subscribe to advertise. Deadline for the Fall issue is September 15th.

Free

Three new(?) crucible heating elements for Intertype machines. Contact Editor, **LUDLOW Quarterly**.

Wanted

Wanted: Old fashioned composing stone, preferably marble, for a permanent printing museum exhibit in the Phoenix Public Library. Hugh Woodruf, 7300 N. 51st Ave. - #A276, Glendale, AZ 85301, or call 602-937-4791.

Wanted: Two oak type cabinets wanted, one single-wide, one double-wide, for use in print shop. Must be in restorable condition, priced reasonably, and in the Southwest. I am also interested in foundry type. Don Walker, 4979 C.R. 250, Durango, CO 81301. Phone (970) 247-1713.

Wanted: Carbide blade for G-100 Trim-O-Saw, J. Moran, 3011 Country Club Dr., Muskegon, MI 49441.

Wanted: Ludlow and Linotype mats for non-latin faces, Monotype display mats, Curle saw. Phillip Driscoll, 135 East Church Street, Clinton, Michigan 49236.

Wanted: Eusebius 8 and 10 point Ludlow mats. Buy or trade for other mats. Dale Stedman, 4422 Dodge Ave., Fort Wayne, IN 46815. Phone (219) 483-7841.

Wanted: Ludlow mats. Eusebius and Eusebius Italic in 10 - 12 - 14 point. Cedar Creek Press, P.O. Box 59, Mason City, IA 50401, or JHenry@willowtree.com.



If nothing sticks to teflon, how do they get the teflon to stick to the pan?



For Sale

For Sale: 1.5" x 20.5" Ludlow stick, (five column) and one font 36pt Karnak. Phone/fax 64-6-876-4865, Hastings Rubber Stamps, Box 269, Hastings, New Zealand.

For Sale: Largest selection of Ludlow fonts in North America. Over 10,000 total fonts - over 1500 different. For complete list phone, fax or write DON BLACK, 120 Midwest Road, Unit 5, Scarborough, Ont. Canada M1P 3B2. Phone 416-751-5944, Fax 416-751-5413. Also have a large list of special sale fonts \$30.00 each. Have all related supplies for Ludlow, also thousands of Lino fonts and accessories.

For Sale or For Trade: Foundry Type in original factory packages. Keith Watkins, 330 East Center, Providence, Utah 84332.

For Sale: New! "Ludlow Field Service Notes" and Ludlow mat gauges with reference charts are now available from the author of "The Ludlow Trouble-Shooting Guide". Jim Parrish, P.O. Box 230, Brinkley, AR 72021-0230, or call (501) 734-4035.

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For Sale: Wood type. 1" - 4", seven fonts, regular, bold, extended faces. Ludlow mats for sale or trade. Ludlow wanted, NE area. (508) 587-8850. (MA)

For Sale: Ludlow Type \$1.00 per line. Send \$5.00 for laminated Type specimen sheets. Top Notch Press, 28 Wardwell Rd, Canton, MA 02021. (617) 828-4088.

For Sale: Ludlow mats - Several fonts of Umbra - Garamond - Coronet mats. Real good deal or trade for other fonts. B. Simon, 3115 W. Cavedale Dr. Phs, AZ.85027- 602-581-1748. (or LudlowQrt@aol.com)

For Sale: Two Ludlows, one is a model M, 20 cabinets of mats, centering sticks, etc. Call, fax, or write for listing. The Front Rubber Stamp Co., Inc. 960 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston MA 02118. Phone 1-800-666-7600, Fax 1-800-666-7605.

For Sale: Ludlow, 30 fonts, left and right hand cabinets, tools, extra plunger, spare parts. 1924 Intertype, 3 mags and side mag. 1888 Pearle platten press, excellent condition, good rollers, hand crank full page proof press, lots of rules, borders, leads and slugs, some handset type. Call 412-658-1493. \$1800 takes everything. Located in New Castle, PA.

For Sale: Model L Ludlows, mats, cabinets, hand-set type, Lino mats, proof presses (6), Washington/Hoe presses, remelt furnace, stones, Linotypes: Model #5, Electron, lots more! LINOMARL, Box 356, Amador City, CA 95601. Tel.:(209) 267-5470. CAN BE DELIVERED!

For Sale: Kelsey hand press, 5" x 8" Excelsior model in excellent condition with new rollers. \$165.00 FOB Durango. Don Walker, 4979 C.R. 250, Durango CO 81301. Phone (970) 247-1713.

For Sale: Ludlow Typograph Machine, model L, uses natural gas or propane, new motor belt and new mouthpiece. Stored in temperature controlled building. Excellent condition. Clean and ready to run. \$1500. Two Supersurfacers, \$100.00 each OBO. Ph. 210-650-5473, ask for Rick. (TX)

For Sale: Complete Ludlow outfit, with machine, mats, tools, and spare parts. Installed and guaranteed. Call P.J. Burns, Mercersburg, PA. (717) 328-3092.

Trade Services

LUDLOW REPAIRS and Machine Rebuilding in your shop. Service tours throughout the country. Now scheduling the Northeast area. Expert composing stick and mold repairs. Jim Parrish, author of "The Ludlow Trouble Shooting Guide" Write Jim Parrish, P.O. Box 230, Brinkley, AR 72021-0230, or call (501) 734-4035.

DAVE SEAT - HOT METAL SERVICES

The USA's most complete source for Ludlow, Linotype, and Intertype parts and supplies. Most orders shipped same day. In plant machine service and maintenance in 50 states and Canada. Rebuilt Ludlow machines. Large selection of new and used mats. 206 Whitnel Drive, P.O. Box 1160, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122. Phone (800) 542-2508, or 24 hour FAX is (800) 468-6382. E-Mail: 70254.1575@compuserve.com. WWW page at: <http://machinerynet.com/printersmarketplace/hotmetalservices>.

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THE LUDLOW QUARTERLY

Bill Simon, Editor/Publisher at 3115 W. Cavedale Dr, Phoenix, AZ. 85027-7637. Phone (602) 581-1748. E-mail: LudlowQrt@aol.com. \$ 6.00 per 4 issues US, \$8.00 Canada, \$12.00 other countries. 15 cents per word for classified advertising. Deadline for issue #7 is September 15th, 1996, provided that space is still available. Only subscribers may advertise. We welcome letters to the editor, questions, tips, suggestions, experiences, and articles. Reprints of some past issues of the Ludlow Quarterly are available at \$2.50 each.

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