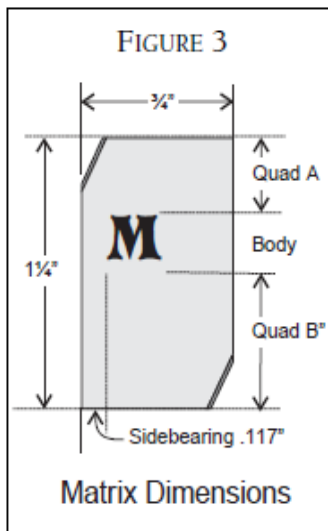


David,

In regards to your concern over the measurement of the length of a Thompson Monotype Mat, I have decided to offer these comments in hopes that they may shed some light on the discrepancy you found.

The length of the Thompson mat is not critical as long as it is at least 1 inch, and not more than 1.28". The width is also not important as long as it is wide enough for a Sidebearing on both sides, i.e., foundry mats. However, there are two very important measurements on the Thompson mat that must always be consistent: 1) the *Sidebearing*, and 2) the *Headbearing* (Marked Quad A in Figure 3).*



The reason for these two issues is in type alignment when casting. The U.S. Monotype mats have a consistent Headbearing based upon point size (see Table II*). If you look at the mat when placed in the Thompson mold you'll notice that it is "upside down" so to speak (see illustration I). The Sidebearing must be consistent with each mat or the type caster will be constantly making horizontal adjustments to keep the beard of the type the same distance from the edge of the type body. The Headbearing must also be consistent or the caster will also need to make vertical adjustments to the mat. The length of the mat and the Footbearing play no part in casting - as long as the mat is of the length mentioned above.

However, when making your own mats, i.e., electrodepositing or engraving you need to ensure that the Headbearing (Quad A Figure 3), and the Footbearing (Quad B Figure 3) are the correct length. The Footbearing is used to hold the mat in the correct position on the form (see Figure 4).

When engraving, all attempts must be made to keep the two measurements exact or the caster will spend more time adjusting the type carrier so that the type aligns that casting the type. I know!

Now, to address Sky Shipley's excellent comment, "I would like to offer the thought that as long as any matrix produces the identical image on paper as its Monotype equivalent--as would necessarily be the case from

an electrodeposited mat--then the line standard is valid for that mat. That is, a face positioned on a body to the correct line standard will be properly aligned irrespective of the quality or nature of the matrix."

Sky is correct - if you electrodeposit a mat for, say, Deepdene 14 pt. 315 using the line standard (see illustration 3 and 4) you would match up with the other type cast for that fount using that line standard. However, if it were an "o" or an "s" that you were casting, you would either need the "o" or "s" or the "u" from the original fount to correctly align. Line standards are for base alignment only - the starting point. I might add that most boxes of matrices have the line standard in it, or a Cap H from the original casting. The two line standards, 14 pt. and 24 pt. displayed in illustrations 3 and 4 are marked .1330 and .2248 respectively. The 14 pt. has a 14 on the top (not shown) and the ".1330" scratched into the body. The 24 pt. has "24 . 2248" on the bottom. Using a micrometer both measured as advertised. The "step" is the base line that the type is aligned to.

Not all boxes of Monotype mats have the line standard included - sorry to say, and often finding out what the line standard should be is very difficult. Some are listed in Monotype's book of specimens, but not all. An example is the listing for Caslon 337 from Monotype Specimens:

Pt.	Line Standard
14	.1314
18	.1591
22	.1950
24	.2265
30	.2550
36	.3360

Note the difference between Deepdene's 14 pt. and 24 pt. American Monotype Line Standards vary according to fount and are not standard.

English Monotype

English Monotype mats are as advertised by Paul. They come with a Line Standard which is a cross, as shown in Illustration 5. For example, the mat shown is marked "24 pt. 24", which means it should be cast on a 24x24 type body, centered exactly. If this is done, then all the ensuing mats will conform to the correct Line Standard.

You say, "The other possible error is his statement that one can use a Thompson space mold to cast Ludlow mats on the Thompson." I think you are correct in this assumption. Although I have not done it, I feel that the vertical blade would be where the problem exists. Monotype made a mold just for casting Ludlow mats on the Thompson, and they would not have done this unless there was a good reason. I have such a mold, and mats, but no desire to cast them.

Also, David, it is not necessary to have the trimmed corners unless you are casting the matrix in a Monotype Display sorts caster, i.e., Orphan Annie.

