

The Complete Manual of Typography

by James Felici

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I'm old enough to know that I meet the "complete manual" of anything with a certain amount of skepticism. This book more than deserves the title.

My past extends to working in publication production in the days of hot-metal type (I actually know why a newspaper spread is called a "double truck"). The information presented in Felici's book covers it all. He provides us with a quick—and accurate—history of typography. The subject matter has help; breath-taking page design.

This book is a beautiful blend of content and concept. The pages don't use gimmicks to make them beautiful; they just are. A typography professor of mine taught me, "Good design is rarely noticed." As much as I tried to find fault both with the Felici manual's explanation and how they were shown, I failed on both counts. This book deserves to be among every designer's library of reference material, if nothing more than to be a source of inspiration.

Fred Guerra