

ALBERTUS

‘Nothing made by a human can avoid personal expression, and nothing made for a human should avoid personal expression.’
– *Hrant Papazian*

The typeface Albertus, otherwise known as ‘the Faber typeface’¹ (due to it being most popularly known for acting as the typeface for the title of Faber’s novels), is a glyphic serif display typeface created by Berthold Wolpe between the periods of 1932 – 1940.² The purpose of this typeface was to be used for the British branch of the printing company known as Monotype.² Wolpe named the type after the thirteenth-century philosopher and theologian, Albertus Magnus,² it is for this reason that the typeface was used for street signs and such and eventually became a typeface known for its intellectual application.¹



Albertus Regular
Albertus Light
Albertus Italic

This typeface originated through tilting capitals, and then evolved in a lower case and weighted type until it finally became a strongly cursive, slender italic.⁴ These characters were produced through cutting them with a chisel rather than illustrating them on paper.¹ Wolpe did not incise the letters but rather cut around the characters to leave them raised within the piece of metal.¹ ‘The result is a typeface that is both classical and modern.’¹ The Albertus typeface now comes as a family of four with the original typeface as well as Albertus Pro Light, Albertus Pro Roman and Albertus Pro Italic.³

The Albertus typeface is most commonly seen on London street signs, classy book jackets and even at the end of some BBC documentaries.¹ Wolpe’s typeface has been further adapted to be used in TV shows such as spy thriller *The Prisoner* and American series *How to Get Away with Murder*, where it acted as both the title card and logo for both series.² Director John Carpenter famously uses this typeface for the opening credits of several of his films including *Escape from New York*, *The Thing*, *Big Trouble in Little China* and *They Live*.² The variance of this typeface was also used for album covers and single releases for the band Coldplay which include *Parachutes*, *A Rush of Blood to the Head* and *X&Y*.²

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1. Hugh Pearman, 1994, *Design Classic: The Albertus Typeface*, London, NI Syndication Limited, pg. 20
 2. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albertus_\(typeface\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albertus_(typeface)) (23/09/2019)
 3. <https://www.fonts.com/font/monotype/albertus/complete-family-pack> (23/09/2019)
 4. James Pardey, 2011, *Wolpe, Albertus and Faber’s classic covers*, Germany, Centaur Communications Limited, pg. 71
 5. John Walters, 2009, *Shouting from the Shelves*, London, Eye Magazine Limited, pg. 88

