

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'⁵ (due to it being most popularly known for acting as the typeface for the title of Faber's novels), is a glyptic 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

1. Hugh Pearman, 1994, Design Classic: The Albertus Typeface, London, NI Syndication Limited, pg. 20
2. [\(23/09/2019\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albertus_(typeface))
3. [\(23/09/2019\)](https://www.fonts.com/font/monotype/albertus/complete-family-pack)
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

