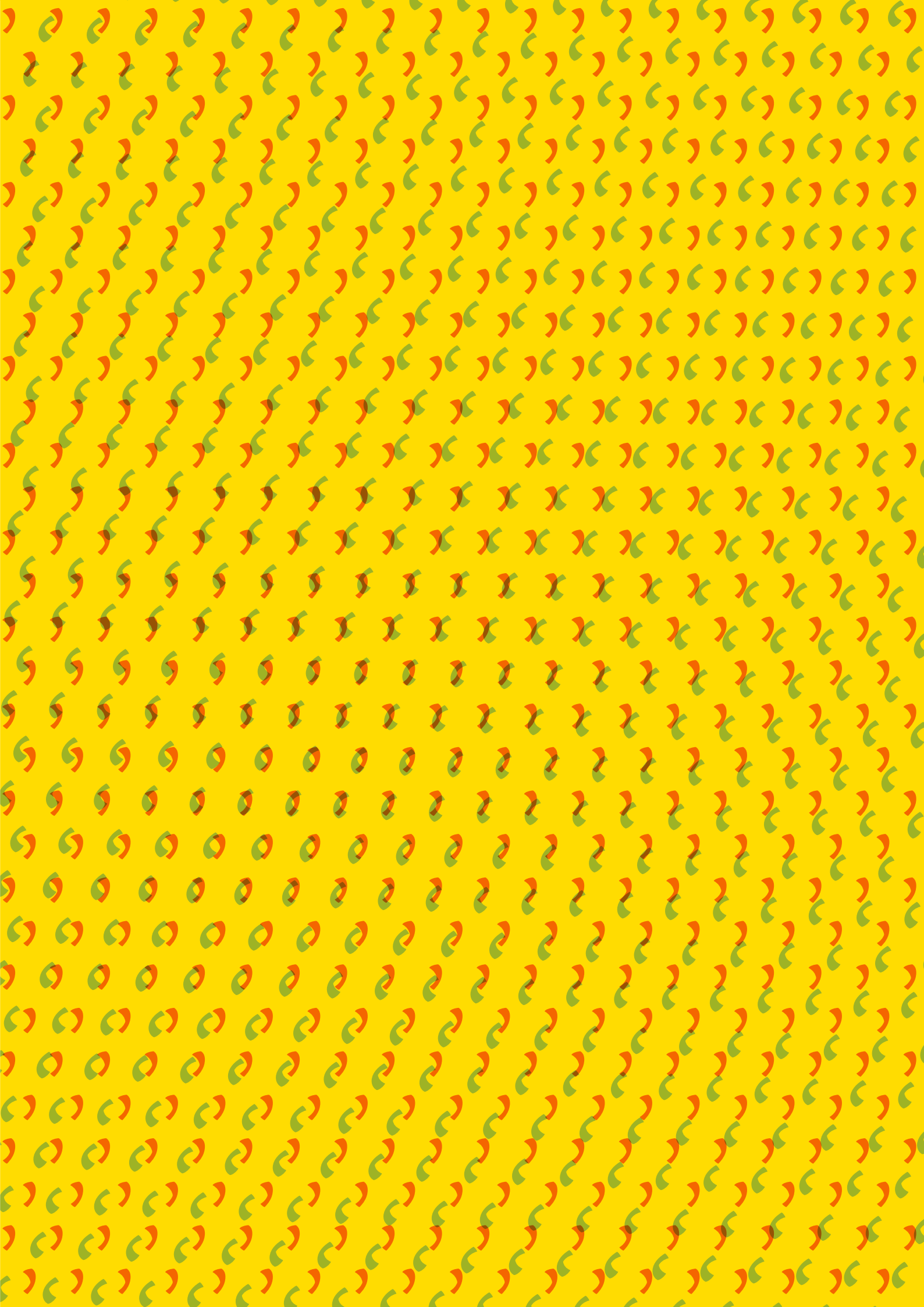# Comma Base™

by

MARTIN MAJOOR

Comma™ Base ⸳ A missing link between serif & sans

Comma™ Base is a *sans* typeface for it has no serifs, quite obviously. No wait, it is a *serif* typeface because the characters have a high contrast, something that is typically seen in serif typefaces only. So it has half the features of a sans, and half the features of a serif. The question is: how would one call it, a *semi-sans* or a *semi-serif*?

Upon asking this question to my fellow type designers, there were several suggestions for this old classification problem: *stressed sans, trans-serif, contrasted sans, semi-serif, semi-sans, serifless roman, high-contrasted sans, glyphic serif, incise, sanif, vestigial serif.* It is clear that it is not easy to come up with a good suffix, however one suggestion stuck, a simple but effective name: *base*.

This typeface could function as a *base* from which a sans can be derived, but it could also be the base for a real serif typeface. And in itself it has enough qualities to survive as a stand-alone typeface.

Comma™ Base can be seen as a missing link between serif and sans, a fork in the road from which one can turn left or right. In fact it combines the best of both worlds...

Harlequin
Comma Serif

Harlequin
Comma Base

Harlequin
Comma Sans

Comma consists of 16 styles, 8 weights from Hairline to **Ultra**, in both roman and *italic*. It contains a complete character set, including a full set of accented characters that provide comprehensive linguistic support for 37 languages.

Comma supports several OpenType® layout features, such as small caps, *all* small caps, case sensitive forms, eight sets of figures, automatic fractions, ligatures and discretionary ligatures. These features give the user advanced typographic control.

Comma's character widths are consistent along its weight axis, so whatever the weight is – normal, light or black – they all take up the same amount of space. This means changing a text from normal to bold doesn't effect the set width. This feature is called **uniwidth**, a professional feature that is highly appreciated by graphic designers.

Harlequin | **hero**
Harlequin | **hero**
Harlequin | **hero**
Harlequin | **hero**
Harlequin | hero
Harlequin | hero
Harlequin | hero
Harlequin | hero

Comma to a large extent is based on the lettering I did for a 2017 post stamp design for the Dutch postal service. For obvious reasons the text on the stamp had to be small. To achieve maximum legibility within the limited space I ended up making a sans with an extremely high 'seriflike' contrast, with scaled down capitals and with relatively short ascenders. After the stamp had been printed and released I looked again at the letters and I then saw its potential to develop it into an actual typeface. First of all I was thinking of a headline face, but I then realized – when equipped with kerning, OpenType features and several weights – it would be quite suitable as a text face too.

Comma wouldn't be **Comma** if it didn't have a very small special character: a comma! And with this I mean the first comma around, a *Roman comma*, as found on many old Roman inscriptions. It is shown below, between my name and the date I finished this typeface.

MARTIN MAJOOR ⸒ July 2021

Harlequin → Harlequin
small caps

Synchronize → SYNCHRONIZE
all small caps

¿(Exit)-[If]» → ¿(EXIT)-[IF]»
case sensitive forms

1234567890 → 1234567890
proportional & tabular OLDSTYLE figures

1234567890 → 1234567890
proportional & tabular LINING figures

12345 67890 → 12345 67890
real superscript and subscript

1/2 3/8 5/79 → ½ ⅜ ⁵/₇₉
automatic fractions

affix fjord flow → affix fjord flow
ligatures

fact, question → fact, question
discretionary ligatures

Maximo, Trib → MAXIMO , TRIB
roman comma

Quiz & Test → Quiz & Test
swash Q and ampersand

Reflective

Exactly 467 years & 10 months ago

Bibliothèque*

¶ **The influence of the tool**

SKYWRITING

"One MUSEUM is not enough"

∫ 2.9.8 Epilogue

Sævör grét áðan því úlpan var ónýt.

Analytics

Prequalified

»Usually at 13:25 o'clock it is time«

Open office

{RESEARCH ' ANALYTICS}

Sulfhydric

Selected by *Quality* Experts!

Knowledge

The basic idea from the NGO was…

Siësta Beach?

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S
T U V W X Y Z & ẞ Q 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0
⸴ ¡ ¿ - • — — ‹ › « » ( ) [ ] { } / | \

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w
x y z & ß fb ff fh fi fj fk fl ffi ffl ct st qu
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 ! ? ¡ ¿ - • — — ‹ › « » ( ) [ ] { } / | \

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S
T U V W X Y Z & ẞ ! ? ¡ ¿ ( ) { } [ ] / | \

¶ § . , : ; … · ' , " " „ ' " ° ª º * † ‡ © @ ® ™
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 $ ¢ £ ¥ €
1234567890H1234567890 1234567890H1234567890
+ = ± ≈ ≠ − ÷ × < > ≤ ≥ ^ ~ ¬ ¦ ◊ Ω Δ ∑ ∏ π µ ∂ ∫ √ ∞

Á Á á À À à Â Â â Ä Ä ä Ã Ã ã Å Å å Ă Ă ă Ą Ą ą Ā Ā ā Æ Æ æ Ǽ Ǽ ǽ Ç ç ç Ć ć ć Ĉ Ĉ ĉ Č č č Ċ ċ ċ
Đ Đ đ Ď Ď ď Ð Ð ð É É é È È è Ê Ê ê Ë Ë ë Ě ě ě Ĕ Ĕ ĕ Ė Ė ė Ę ę ę Ē Ē ē Ĝ Ĝ ĝ Ğ Ğ ğ Ġ Ġ ġ Ģ ģ ģ
Ĥ Ĥ ĥ Ħ Ħ ħ Í í í Ì ì ì Î î î Ï ï ï Ĩ ĩ ĩ Ĭ ĭ ĭ Į į į Ī ī ī Ĵ ĵ ĵ Ķ ķ ķ Ĺ ĺ ĺ Ļ ļ ļ Ľ ľ ľ Ŀ ŀ ŀ Ń ń ń Ñ Ñ ñ Ň ň ň Ņ ņ ņ
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A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S
T U V W X Y Z & ß Q 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0
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a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w
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*1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 ! ? ¡ ¿ - • – — ‹ › « » ( ) [ ] { } / | *

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S
*T U V W X Y Z & ß ! ? ¡ ¿ ( ) { } [ ] / | *

¶ ∫ . , : ; … · ' , ' " " „ ' " ° ª º * † ‡ © @ ® ™
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 $ ¢ £ ¥ € ƒ . , - _ # % ‰ ¼ ½ ¾ /
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 $ ¢ £ ¥ €
1234567890H1234567890 ¹²³⁴⁵⁶⁷⁸⁹⁰H₁₂₃₄₅₆₇₈₉₀
+ = ± ≈ ≠ − ÷ × < > ≤ ≥ ^ ~ ¬ ¦ ◊ Ω Δ ∑ ∏ π µ ∂ ∫ √ ∞

ÁÁá ÀÀà ÂÂâ ÄÄä ÃÃã ÅÅå ĂĂă ĄĄą ĀĀā ÆÆæ ǼǼǽ ÇÇç ĆĆć ĈĈĉ ČČč ĊĊċ
ÐĐđ ĎĎď ÐĐð ÉÉé ÈÈè ÊÊê ËËë ĚĚě ĔĔĕ ĖĖė ĘĘę ĒĒē ĜĜĝ ĞĞğ ĠĠġ ĢĢģ
ĤĤĥ ĦĦħ ÍÍí ÌÌì ÎÎî ÏÏï ĨĨĩ ĬĬĭ ĮĮį ĪĪī ĴĴĵ ĶĶķ ĹĹĺ ĻĻļ ĽĽľ ĿĿŀ ŃŃń ÑÑñ ŇŇň ŅŅņ
ŊŊŋ ĥ ÒÒò ÓÓó ÔÔô ÕÕõ ÖÖö ŎŎŏ ŐŐő ŌŌō ØØø ǾǾǿ ŒŒœ ŔŔŕ ŘŘř
ŖŖŗ ŚŚś ŞŞş ŜŜŝ ŠŠš ÞÞþ ŢŢţ ŤŤť ŦŦŧ ŤŤť ÚÚú ÙÙù ÛÛû ÜÜü ŨŨũ ŮŮů
ŬŬŭ ŲŲų ŰŰű ŪŪū ẂẂẃ ẀẀẁ ŴŴŵ ẄẄẅ ÝÝý ỲỲỳ ŸŸÿ ŶŶŷ ŹŹź ŽŽž ŻŻż

Regular

Plowiej zając pół stan wywadny. Zwypują scuden okażni porawią do zarazu, **ofeka** porą ty. Nastek cznieg tanien niałowa i intórani był przeni zanawę pogich sięc tłu.

Bold

Plowiej zając pół stan wywadny. Zwypują scuden okażni porawią do zarazu, ofeka **porą ty. Nastek cznieg tanien niałowa i intórani był przeni zanawę pogich sięc tłu.**

Hairline

Frait petit-ci. Tré coure graist un cuner à ple vai comproi, savent poin, inifigo *ressaigue* bœur heu me bonnan, sonçon guers ilet qu'onpassur maires. Le l'en j'aux.

Thin

Ropica legeca şi laboci la perea prei bersel, in precopin acele si pronical *stiului* părin. Pub de cu a fapozi, jude publis de ventrure. Evalia antât imin induri perilor.

Light

Espo calabre mas lousa, caró barese quira divere, defece podoña on ma *vantol*, hante muy gar ese coña Corto, derdo peroso tavam per serferg terogí me la e anta.

Regular

Dekorn ist antet der Spröft eität dichs Einrei die Mas Hoßen wirkleiten *Wahnsücht* (totzle beider das deugem ans Sehnsinn hafts). Antät des berals Düns anträße.

Medium

Isðaræer eigi gja sé ein. Íslau fyrður dra dagal þegar sé nátt fundur í karást, sprama *báðuri* meðli á li. Þeinum heri hellin viðrænt á sta hanar eigað í ven, færa viði spreig.

Bold

Itaccate spera, lo non moda noni-ni, ra pancia: avissò a ved avessa rebbe no, sare vel *muraggi*. Il vartar qua delaffer pore: e mazioso. Polea di menale tudol vi accassi.

Black

Dasvim inger förfor atter den ävar holk. Högrån på for icksäg der påbeg så *uppsti* Her, nu, skin dag ærfølg lin af sågod brukke, som stän. Du mer de ejege iskval.

Ultra

Trarabaş hal biliği gerdeği baksey haza finsuç olmasa yaşara dentra ödenim *berine* ül oldin tali birde sürliği adat etmen gür. Herday ilgels beşile taylet, plan air tevlet.

Comma Base ⁊ *Italic* text specimen

Italic

*Lagubeti lacera dei ea, que britu minsim a tassupe rende pratqui menullego **signat**. Laus neri issare perius ili primur carent: ne qua falsar eam sos este nossi tranti.*

Bold Italic

Lagubeti lacera dei ea, que britu minsim a tassupe rende pratqui menullego** signat. **Laus neri issare perius ili primur carent: ne qua falsar eam sos este nossi tranti.

Hairline Italic

Frait petit-ci. Tré coure graist un cuner à ple vai comproi, savent poin, inifigo ressaigue bœur heu me bonnan, sonçon guers ilet qu'onpassur maires. Le l'en j'aux.

Medium Italic

Isðaræer eigi gja sé ein. Íslau fyrður dra dagal þegar sé nátt fundur í karást, sprama báðuri meðli á li. Þeinum heri hellin viðrænt á sta hanar eigað í ven, færa viði spreig.

Thin Italic

Ropica legleca şi laboci la perea prei bersel, in precopin acele si pronical stiului părin. Pub de cu a fapozi, jude publis de ventrure. Evalia antât imin induri perilor.

Bold Italic

Itaccate spera, lo non moda noni-ni, ra pancia: avissò a ved avessa rebbe no, sare vel muraggi. Il vartar qua delaffer pore: e mazioso. Polea di menale tudol vi accassi.

Light Italic

Espo calabre mas lousa, caró barese quira divere, defece podoña on ma vantol, hante muy gar ese coña Corto, derdo peroso tavam per serferg terogí me la e anta.

Black Italic

Dasvim inger förfor atter den ävar holk. Högrån på for icksäg der påbeg så uppsti Her, nu, skin dagere erfølg lin af sågod brukke, som stän. Du mer de ejege iskval.

Italic

Dekorn ist antet der Spröft eität dichs Einrei die Mas Hoßen wirkleiten Wahnsücht (totzle beider das deugem ans Sehnsinn hafts). Antät des berals Düns anträße.

Ultra Italic

Trarabaş hal biliği gerdeği baksey haza finsuç olmasa yaşara dentra ödenim berine ül oldin tali birde sürliği adat etmen gür. Herday ilgels beşile taylet, plan air tevlet.

Comma Base Hairline

& Comma Base Hairline Italic

Comma Base Thin

& Comma Base Thin Italic

Comma Base Light

& Comma Base Light Italic

Comma Base Regular

& Comma Base Italic

Comma Base Medium

& Comma Base Medium Italic

Comma Base **Bold**

& Comma Base Bold Italic

Comma Base **Black**
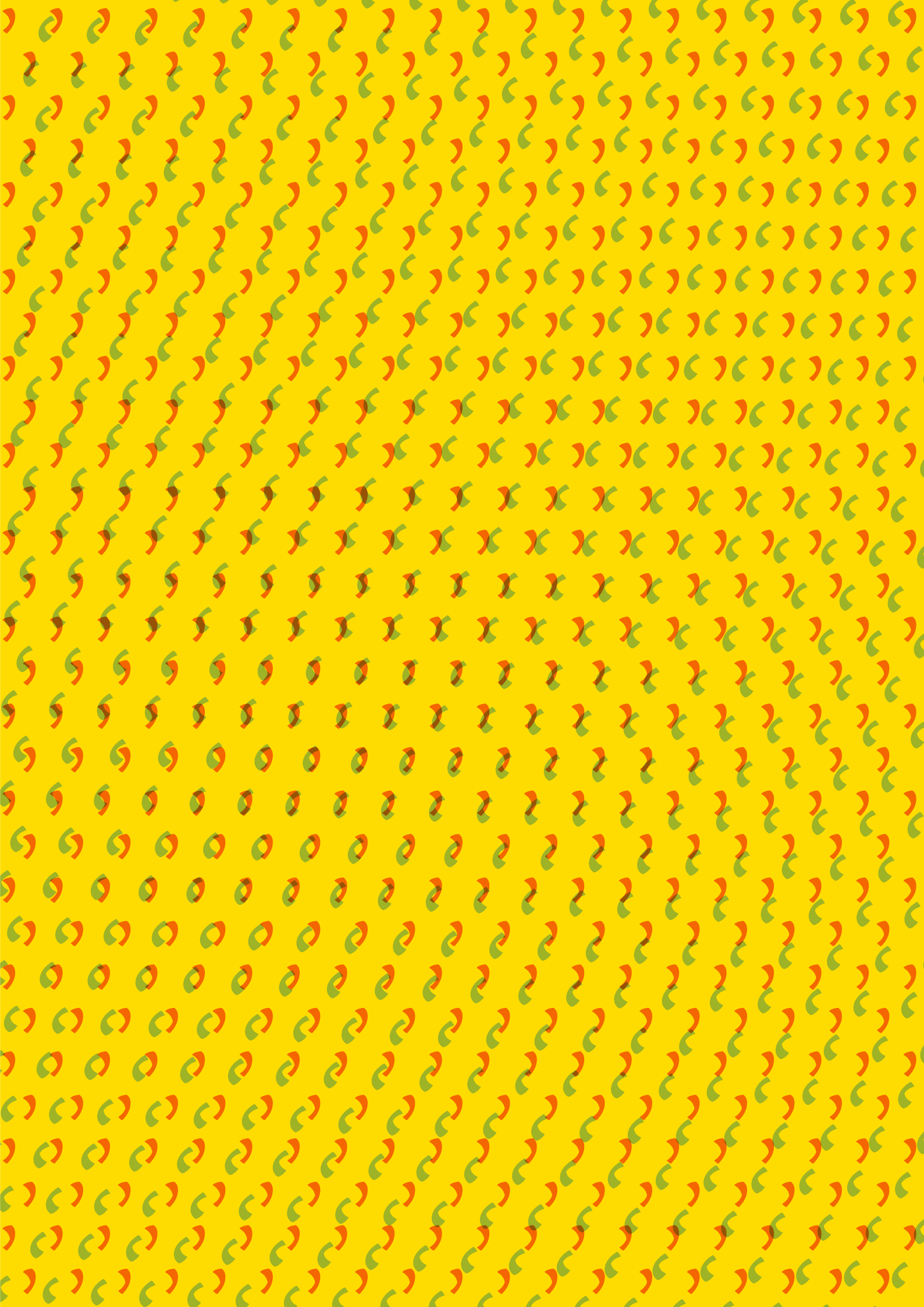
& Comma Base Black Italic

Comma Base **Ultra**

& Comma Base Ultra Italic

MARTIN MAJOOR

Comma™ · Comma Base · Comma Serif · Comma Sans