MFC Sappho Monogram Guidebook

The source of inspiration for Sappho Monogram is an alphabet set from the book, "Monograms and Alphabets for Combination" by Dollfus Mieg & Cie, first published in the 1890's.

Sappho Monogram utilizes OpenType features that enable you to create more complex monograms, so what began originally as two sets of 26 roman letters grew to an astounding 800+ character font in order to create a unique interwoven monogram effect!

If you would like to learn more about traditional monogram formatting and rules, please feel free to visit our website and download our tutorial PDF, "Rules of Traditional Monogramming Explained" at http://www.monogramfonts.com/MonogramRules.pdf

Sappho Monogram Basic Styles

Sappho Monogram supports one, two, or three letter monograms by interchanging the wide stumped Capitals and the tall narrow Capitals (in the lowercase positions) together. (NOTE: the OpenType Ligature feature should be turned off to properly mix cases.)

One letter monograms

Type any capital letter or lowercase letter

Two letter monograms
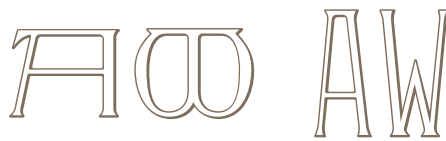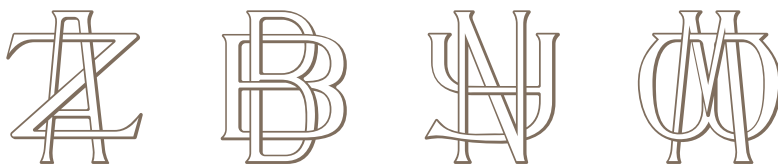

Type any two capital or lowercase letters

Three letter monograms

Type any CAP-lowercase-CAP, or lowercase-CAP-lowercase combination of letters

Sappho Monogram Unique Interwoven Format

Sappho Monogram is also capable of a unique, two letter interwoven monogram style. This intertwined monogram requires the Ligature feature, available in most OpenType savvy applications, such as Adobe Illustrator CS (see Fig. 1). Just type any lowercase letter followed immediately by a Capital letter and the combined monogram will appear. (NOTE: some letterforms are modified to create proper intertwined monograms)

Type any lowercase letter followed immediately by a Capital letter (with the Ligatures feature enabled)

Figure 1
OpenType features are enabled by selecting the various buttons found in the OpenType Palette. Here, the enabled Ligature option has been circled.
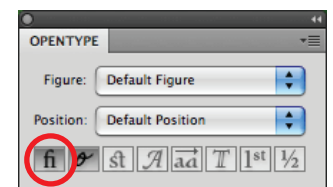
Sappho Monogram Titling

Sappho Monogram can also be used when typed as all Capitals or all Lowercase as a titling font. Shown below are a few examples of titles typeset using Sappho Monogram.

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Chromatic Effects

The MFC Sappho Monogram family includes 4 additional fonts that can be combined to create exciting chromatic effects! These fonts include, Sappho Monogram One, Sappho Monogram Two, Sappho Monogram Solid, and Sappho Monogram Stencil. Each font can be overlayed individually or in combinations with the base font, colored separately, or shifted slightly for shadow effects. These techniques can be applied to any of the monogram styles on the previous page.

Sappho Monogram Regular		Base font
Sappho Monogram One	no lowercase	Solid interior contours of only the uppercase glyphs, including the interwoven glyphs
Sappho Monogram Two	no uppercase	Solid interior contours of only the lowercase glyphs, including the interwoven glyphs
Sappho Monogram Stencil		Solid interior contours of all the glyphs, including the interwoven glyphs; this font can also be used stand alone
Sappho Monogram Solid		All the interior contours removed, including the interwoven glyphs; this font can also be used stand alone

How to Apply Color

To apply color, simply type your monogram using the Regular font, then copy and paste the monogram in another layer and change to the Sappho One font. Repeat this step, and this time change to the Sappho Two font. Now that you have three separate layers you can color and organize them. Order the layers so that the Regular layer is on top, with layers One and Two beneath it. Move these layers until they line up correctly. You may have to zoom in to get the registration right. To add a shadow, copy the monogram to another layer and switch to Sappho Solid, select a color and make sure it is the bottom layer. Now shift the layer left or right, up or down to create the shadow effect.

Create your monogram using the Regular font

Copy and paste the monogram, switch to Sappho One and change the color.

Again, paste the monogram, switch to Sappho Two and change the color.

Again, paste the monogram, switch to Sappho Solid and change the color.

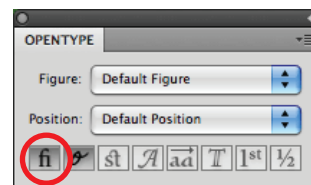Stack and align the layers, with the Regular layer on top and the Solid layer on the bottom

The colorizing method works on the interwoven monograms too!

Making Intertwined Monograms
To create intertwined monograms, enable the Ligatures feature and type any lowercase letter followed immediately by a Capital letter

For single color monograms, delete the Sappho Two layer and switch the Sappho One Layer to Sappho Stencil