Jura

Redesign from scratch

Pros

Extensive language coverage:

— Wide Latin support

— Vietnamese

— Cyrillic

— Greek

— Kayah Li (Tibetan)

Popular and Trendy Eurostile design

— usable workhorse font for text

Author is active and helping in development.

Problems

The four weights of Jura were developed unsystematically. The Light style was designed first, and other weights were added later using an offset filter, instead of proper interpolation. As a result letter proportions vary heavily across styles. The extreme Light and SemiBold masters are incompatible. Making changes in the existing source framework in ineffective, and time-draining.

Problems in design:

— inconsistency of proportions

— low aesthetic and technical level

— limited scope of weights [bolder styles needed]
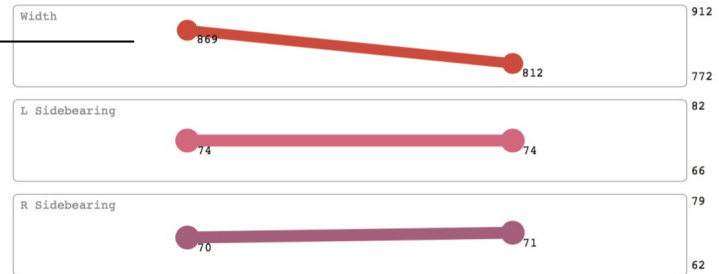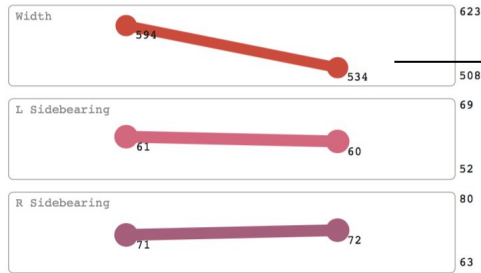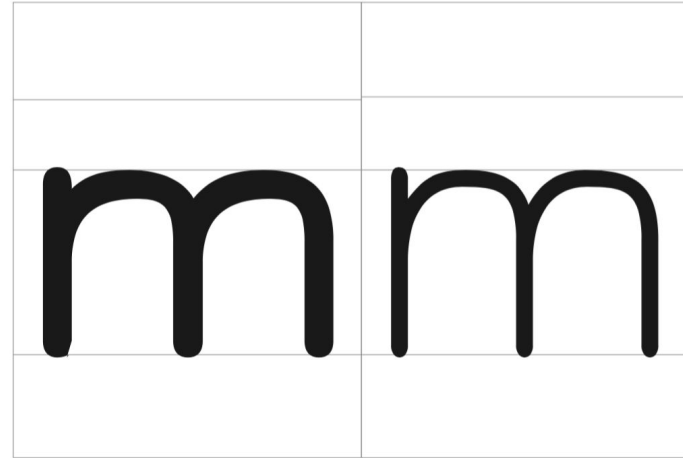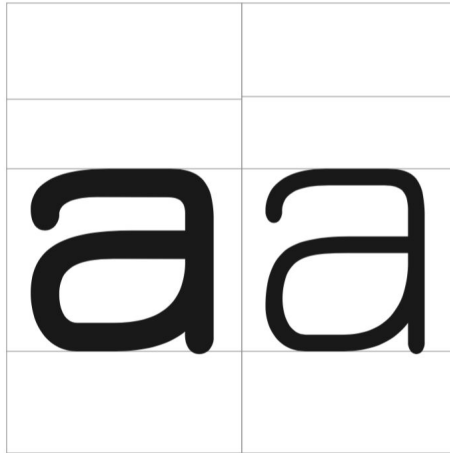
— Cyrillic shapes need redrawing

zomn

aoao

Comparing weights. Cyan=Light(300), Magenta=SemiBold (600)

Inconsistent proportions across weights

Inconsistent proportions across weights

AUTOPSY report shows inconsistency in widths across extreme weights — Light, and SemiBold

					circumfx.acute	circumfx.grave	circumflex.hook	circumflex.tilde
plophukayahli	calyakayahli	calyaplukayahli	cwikayahli	shyakayahli				
O.sc	uniFB01	uniFB02	uniFFFD	.notdef	.null	nonmargreturn		
ikayahli	ookayahli	uekayahli	ekayahli	ukayahli	eekayahli	okayahli		
breve.acute	breve.grave	breve.hook	breve.tilde	A.sc	E.sc	I.sc		

Inconsistent charset

Solutions

Instead of making the masters compatible or reworking each style, a better solution would be to redraw a new hairline master on top of the existing, and apply offset + round corners filters to produce more styles. A single master can be used to generate 8 styles versus the existing 4. Of course, the generated instances will need some fine-tuning.

While drawing the new master, problems with proportions and Cyrillic design will be addressed. This method would take less time and is more efficient in the long run[easier updates in future].

Working in the existing framework requires fixing compatibility issues for almost every glyph, which is an extremely tedious and inefficient method of working.
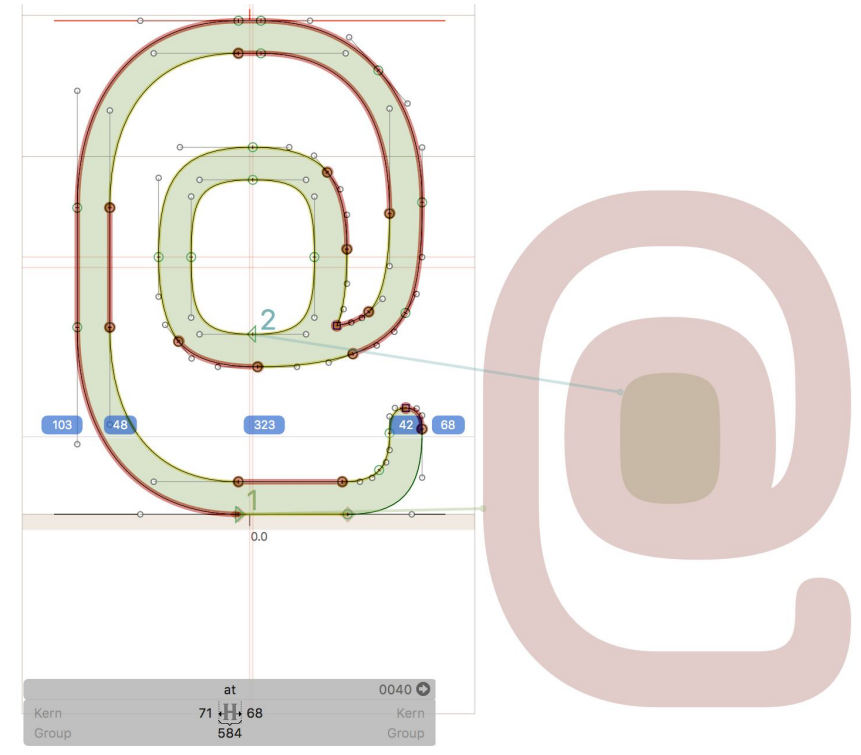
3 hour sprint results

After some work on the original source files I realized it is fruitful to continue in this direction. Each glyph needs to be tediously corrected, and then masters made compatible. Much faster would be to redesign from scratch. So, I created a new font, and assigned the original Regular style as a background for referencing. During 3 hours I was able to compete basic Latin a-z, and generate 8 styles programmatically.

Then I made several iterations to improve the spacing and amount of weight for each style. First I recreated the existing 4, and then explored options for extending weights for Jura. The generated Bolder styles would require a fair amount of manual fine-tuning, while Lighter styles are ready-to-go.
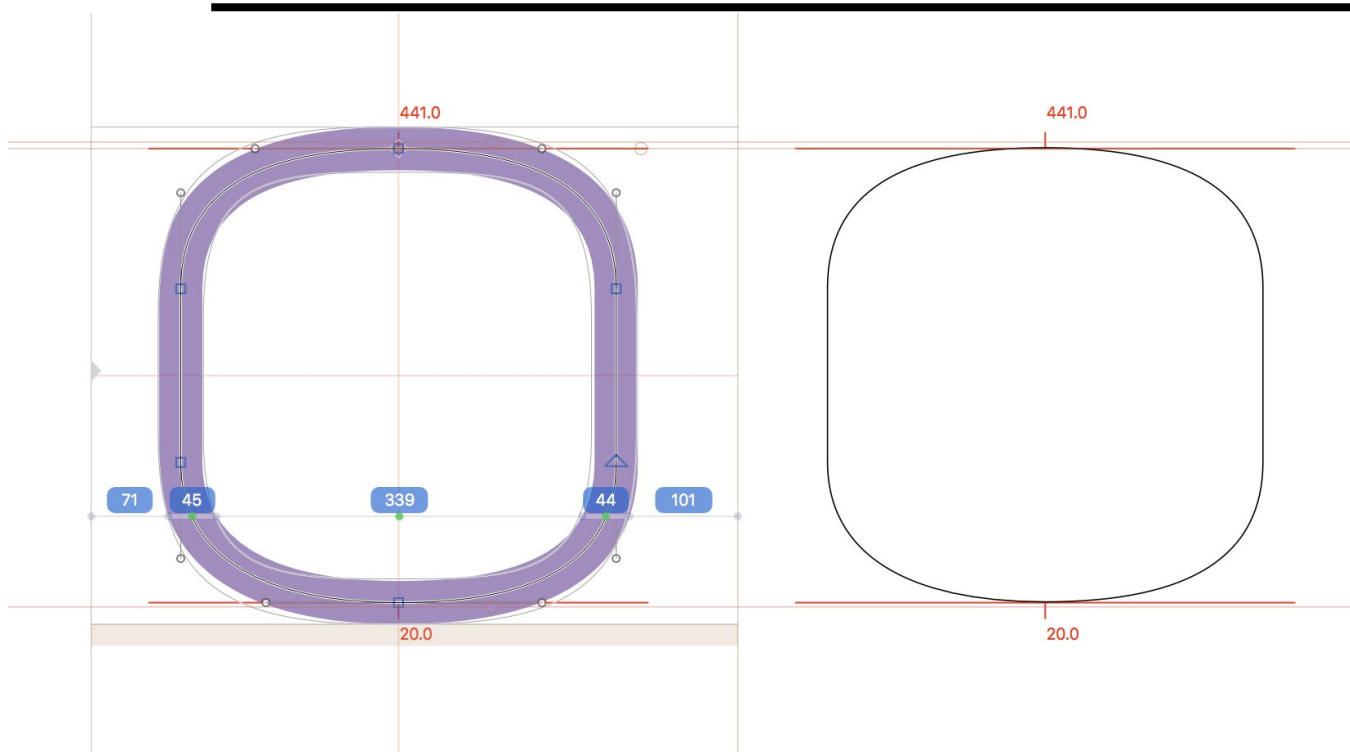
Method of working. Right: Offset filter applied real-time to create the Regular weight. Left: Single *hairline* master used for generating all 8 weights.
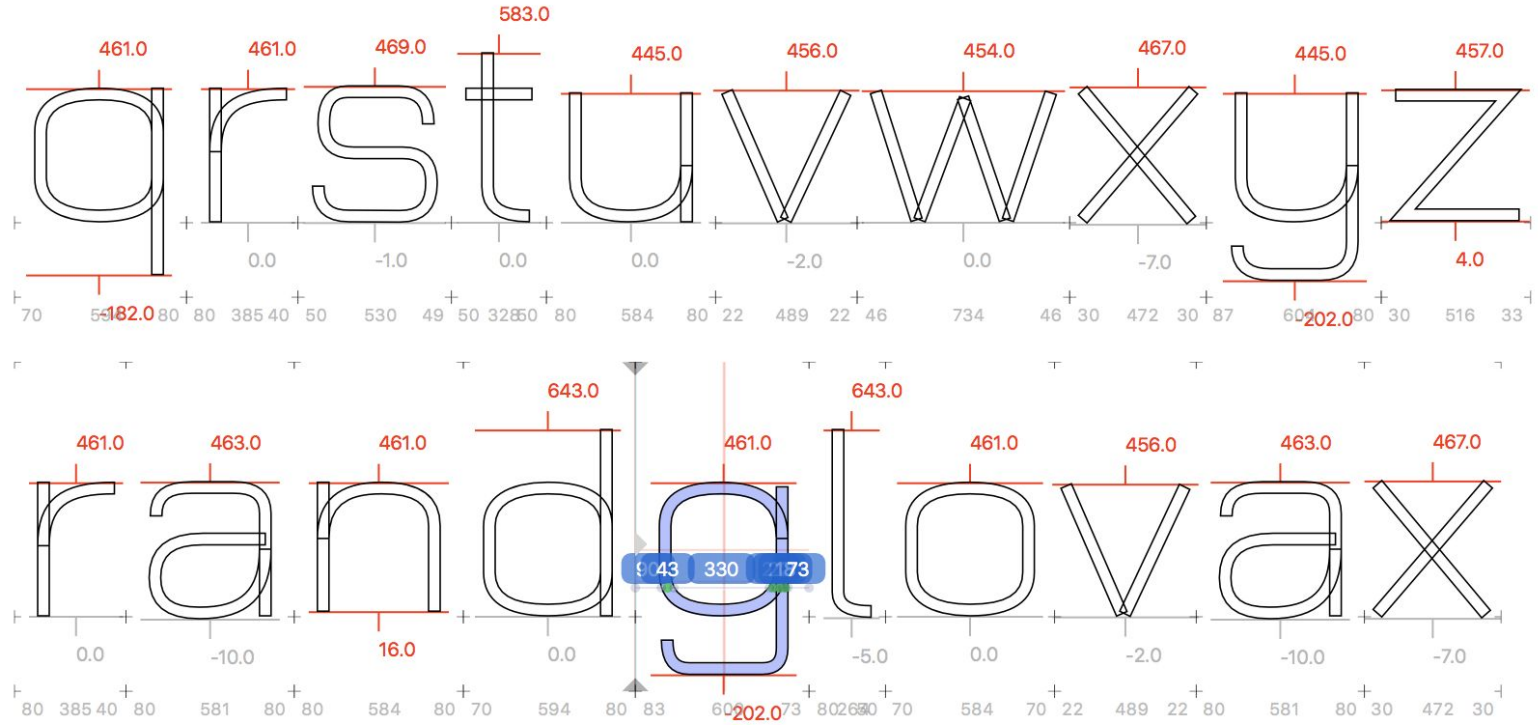
Work-in-Progress. Programmatically generated Regular style. Offset filter: applied. Round Corners Filter: not applied.
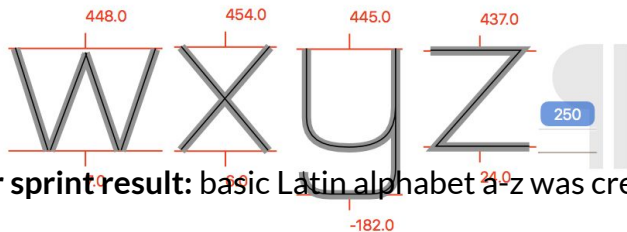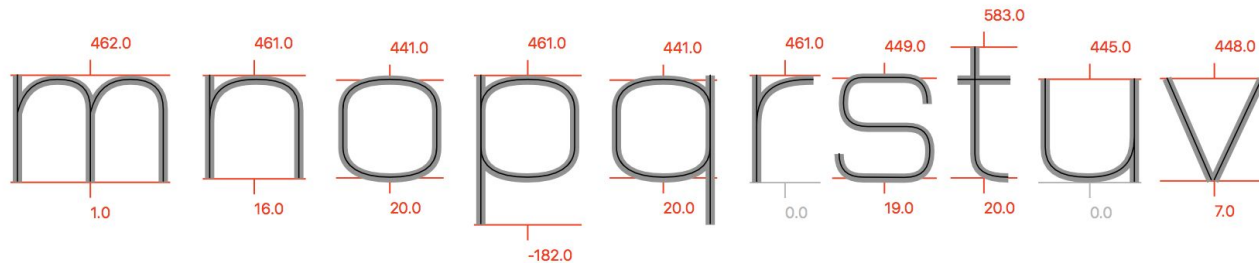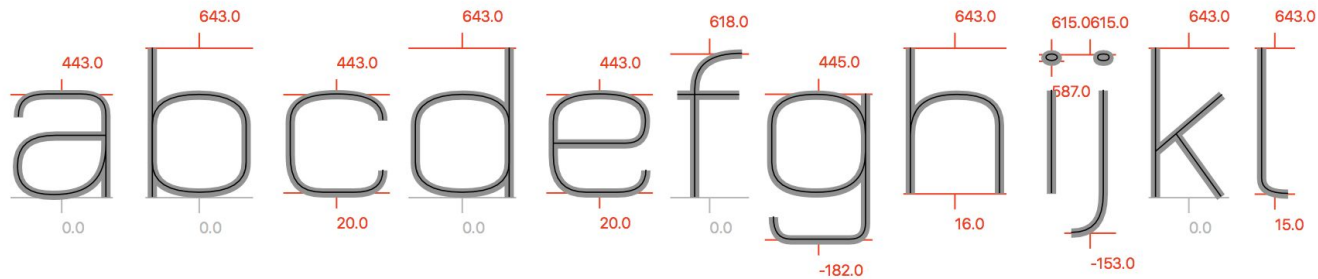
3 hour sprint result: basic Latin alphabet a-z was created. Problems with proportions and spacing were fixed along the way

3 hour sprint result: Extending the weight scope. Style-specific transformations to metrics and strokes were applied.

13px

fortieth boring trait favoring barrage referring thrusting tannest embargo sausage gaining astutest augur hibernate variant hearse beggaring foresee eagerer hearten ensnaring tufting interstate meager veneration stigma feminine tabbing noising trimming throbbing ransoming stiffen oaring fishing rehire overbore bonniest ravishment teensiest mintier shriven unforeseen overrate surgeon smarter submarine revenging assuaging masher amnesia insentient rehashing fresher buttering sorghum thine sitter month serer minting variate torsion gaunt berthing goofiest sober informing sourer tonight neigh iratest torte situate rheumier antagonist serening motion guise unseeing masseuse

16px

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3 hour sprint result: Testing the generated styled and fine-tuning transformation settings. Bold style need manual adjustments.

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the five boxing wizards jump quickly pack my red box

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the five boxing wizards jump quickly pack my red box with five dozen quality jugs a very big box sailed up th

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3 hour sprint result: Left: Original Jura. Right: Generated Medium style from the new Master. Refined spacing and proportions

	original	new
250		thin
300	light	light
400	book	regular
500	medium	medium
600	semibold	semibold
700		**bold**
800		**ultrabold**
900		**black**

3 hour sprint result: Left: Original Jura. Right: New proposed styles

randgloves

adhesion

interpolate

eurostyle

3 hour sprint result: Left: Original Jura. Right: New refined styles

Conclusions 07-29-2016. Roadmap

1. Draw light master (update d, etc, revise spacing)
2. Draw Bold master with larger x-height
3. Interpolate in-between instances, apply metrics transformations
4. Total number of weights: 7