



exercise 3: figure/ground counterspace

counterspace is another figure–ground variation that forces you to look for visual interest in the spaces *between* characters. by inverting the traditional colors of figure and ground, you as the viewer to see the space between characters as figure instead of passive ground.

design problem

in this problem, the issue of ambiguity is a bit less—even if it is still there. your primary goal is to identify characters whose shapes create other more interesting shapes when turned into figures. this is accomplished by placing a black box behind two white characters so that the intervening space becomes its own shape.

parameters

- > use a maximum of two letterforms, but each must retain some significant individual identity
- > the characters should maintain their standard orientation although you may adjust the spacing between the letters
- > the figure that is created should only include the outermost edge facing the other letter; i.e. no counters within the letters and no space beyond the shared edge
- > your compositions will be like the last project, 6x6 inches centered on an 8x8 sheet.

considerations

> In this exercise, the most important thing will be to look for typefaces that afford the most interesting reciprocal shapes. A T and an L, for example, create a subtle shape that can work although it may lack the visual interest of more complex shapes. similarly, an uppercase I, L, B, E, F, D, H, N, M, K and a lowercase h positioned on the right hand side yield practically the same shape—meaning that their choice is meaningless. pick letters whose characteristics are essential to the creation of an interesting counter.

due at the beginning of class tuesday 09/15