

A font behind the font

A house font rarely covers every character a document has to draw. Without a second font behind it, a character it has no glyph for comes out as the empty box below, and a reader is left guessing.

A chain hands that character to the next font instead, so the line is set in as many fonts as it takes and every mark is drawn.

The house font alone: what it has no glyph for, it cannot draw.

✓ Paid · ☐ Priority · ☐ Weather hold · ☐ Refused

The house font, with a second one behind it.

✓ Paid · ★ Priority · ☂ Weather hold · ✕ Refused

The line above is cut into 7 stretches, drawn by two fonts: IBM Plex Sans, then DejaVu Sans. The words are in the first; the marks it lacks are in the second.

Mark	Status	Drawn by
✓	Paid	IBMPlexSans
★	Priority	DejaVuSans
☂	Weather hold	DejaVuSans
✕	Refused	DejaVuSans