

7.11 Gothic

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Gothic: U+10330–U+1034F

The Gothic script was invented in the fourth century by the Gothic bishop, Wulfila (311–383 CE), to provide his people with a written language and a means of reading his translation of the Bible. The chief manuscript is the *Codex argenteus* ‘the Silver Book’, kept at Uppsala, which is partly written in gold on purple parchment. Gothic was an East Germanic language; this branch of Germanic has died out. Wulfila appears to have used the Greek script as a source for the Gothic, as can be seen from the basic alphabetical order. Some of the character shapes, however, suggest Runic or Latin influence.

Diacritics. The tenth letter U+10339 **I** GOTHIC LETTER EIS is used with U+0308 COMBINING DIAERESIS when word-initial, when syllable-initial after a vowel, and in compounds with a verb as second member: **SYG ƆAMELIƆ IST IN ESƆIIN ƆƆRANƆETAƆ** *swe gameliþ ist in esaiin praufetau* ‘as is written in Isaiah the prophet’. To indicate contractions or omitted letters, U+0305 COMBINING OVERLINE is used.

Numerals. Gothic letters, like other early Western alphabets, can have numeric value; two of the characters have only a numeric value, and are not used alphabetically. To indicate numeric use of a letter, it is either flanked on either side by U+00B7 MIDDLE DOT, or it is followed by both U+0304 COMBINING MACRON and U+0331 COMBINING MACRON BELOW; so •**Ɔ**• or **Ɔ** means ‘5’

Punctuation. Gothic manuscripts are written in *scriptio continua*, with no space between words. Sentences and major phrases are often separated by U+0020 SPACE, U+00B7 MIDDLE DOT, or U+003A COLON.

Bibliography.

Ebbinghaus, Ernst. 1996. “The Gothic alphabet”, in Peter T. Daniels and William Bright, eds. *The world’s writing systems*. New York; Oxford: Oxford University Press. ISBN 0-19-507993-0

TABLE XX - Row 03: GOTHIC

	033	034
0	Ɑ	Ɱ
1	Ɐ	Ɒ
2	ⱱ	Ⱳ
3	ⱳ	ⱴ
4	ⱶ	ⱷ
5	ⱹ	ⱺ
6	ⱼ	ⱋ
7	ⱍ	ⱎ
8	ⱐ	ⱑ
9	ⱒ	ⱓ
A	ⱕ	ⱖ
B	ⱗ	
C	ⱙ	
D	ⱛ	
E	ⱝ	
F	ⱟ	

G = 00
P = 01

TABLE XX - Row 03: GOTHIC

dec	hex	Name	dec	hex	Name
000	00	GOTHIC LETTER AHSÄ			
001	01	GOTHIC LETTER BAIRKAN			
002	02	GOTHIC LETTER GIBA			
003	03	GOTHIC LETTER DAGS			
004	04	GOTHIC LETTER AIHVUS			
005	05	GOTHIC LETTER QAIRTHRA			
006	06	GOTHIC LETTER IUJA			
007	07	GOTHIC LETTER HAGL			
008	08	GOTHIC LETTER THIUTH			
009	09	GOTHIC LETTER EIS			
010	0A	GOTHIC LETTER KUSMA			
011	0B	GOTHIC LETTER LAGUS			
012	0C	GOTHIC LETTER MANNA			
013	0D	GOTHIC LETTER NAUTHS			
014	0E	GOTHIC LETTER JER			
015	0F	GOTHIC LETTER URUS			
016	10	GOTHIC LETTER PAIRTHRA			
017	11	GOTHIC LETTER NINETY			
018	12	GOTHIC LETTER RAIDÄ			
019	13	GOTHIC LETTER SAUIL			
020	14	GOTHIC LETTER TEIWS			
021	15	GOTHIC LETTER WINJA			
022	16	GOTHIC LETTER FAIHU			
023	17	GOTHIC LETTER IGGWS			
024	18	GOTHIC LETTER HWAIR			
025	19	GOTHIC LETTER OTHAL			
026	1A	GOTHIC LETTER NINE HUNDRED			
027	1B	(This position shall not be used)			
028	1C	(This position shall not be used)			
029	1D	(This position shall not be used)			
030	1E	(This position shall not be used)			
031	1F	(This position shall not be used)			

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