

Title: Duployan Letter Kk representative glyph change

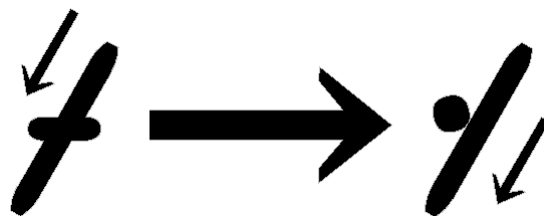
Source: Van Anderson

Action: For consideration by UTC

1. **Introduction.** Identification of distinct characters for encoding is an imprecise art that sometimes requires a large corpus of source material to make an informed decision. When it comes time to develop an allocation for a script, the choice of which glyphs constitute a unique character, and which constitute simple allographic variation of each other has to be made despite inconclusive evidence. This necessarily results in a conservative determination of what constitutes a distinct character, as a previously unidentified character can always be added at a later time, but an erroneously disunified character can never be removed from an allocation. The process for encoding the Duployan script was developed on the basis of source texts consisting largely of normative standards by the promulgators of shorthand systems and supporting pedagogical texts by those same authors. The lack of typographic tradition inherent to stenographic systems, coupled with the private and unpublished nature of the vast majority of texts necessarily will hide the nature of some glyphs, and it is only by continued study of more recently discovered works that the nature of some characters can be definitively determined.
2. **Allographs of Duployan Letter Kk.** Recently published research by David Robertson, PhD, concerning a corpus of native-authored interior Salish texts in Chinuk Pipa (Chinook Duployan) has uncovered what appears to be contrastive usage of two glyphs that were previously seen in allographic distribution for the Duployan Letter Kk (U+1BC14) - namely the dotted K and the slashed K. At this time, the conclusive evidence has not yet been gathered or thoroughly analysed from an encoding standpoint, such that a formal character proposal can be drawn for a new disunified slashed K. It is clear, however, that the dotted form is used consistently by authors of both native and European background, at many different times, to represent a glottalized velar stop, which is found in

the Chinuk Wawa (Chinook Jargon), and not generally for uvular stops, which are found in the interior Salish languages, but not in Chinook Wawa. The alternate glyph - the slashed K - seems to be used by some users, including J.M.R. LeJeune, to indicate any of the alternate K sounds, including the glottalized velar and uvular stops, in free variation with the dotted K, while native authors appear to show preference towards exclusively using the slashed form for a uvular stop. Further investigation of these native-authored texts is being undertaken in order to definitively show distinct usage, such that a disunified Duployan Letter Q can be encoded.

3. **Current representative glyph.** The current representative glyph for Duployan Letter Kk is the slashed K. This glyph form was seen as acceptable for the representative glyph because it was seen in the LeJeune texts in allographic variation with the more normative dotted K; however, it was chosen for the representative glyph because it showed the greatest visual distinction with another distinct letter - Duployan Letter hL (U+1BC16) - which happens to be nearly indistinguishable from Kk when written in isolation, i.e. in the Unicode code charts.
4. **Conclusion.** Given the new evidence, it does not appear intellectually defensible to use the slashed K as the representative glyph for Duployan Letter Kk (U+1BC14). With the Duployan allocation awaiting publication in the next version of the Unicode standard, I believe that changing the representative glyph will cause no confusion to the user community, and will result in a more accurate and useful code chart. Therefore, I request a change in representative glyph for U+1BC14, Duployan Letter Kk as follows:



Documentation

The second, related exception are those letters bearing diacritic marks. These letters, like the dotting of an *i* in the English alphabet, force the writer to lift the pen in order to make the diacritic. This mark can be a tick to the side, as (16) shows:

(16)	(a)	/	l	+tick =	∕	l
	(b)	—	t	+tick =	⊥	δ
	(c)	/ ⁴⁶	k	+tick =	∕	k' ⁴⁷
	(d)	∩	f	+tick =	∩	if
	(e)	∪	s	+tick =	∪	is
	(f))	n	+tick =)	ŋ

⁴⁶ The shorthand letter for *k* is written downward, as are the instances of *k*, *k'* and *q* following.

⁴⁷ The letter *k'* tends to signal what are known from other sources to be /k'/ or /q'/, as in *k'aw* 'to tie' (compare /k'áw/) and *k'o* 'to arrive' (compare /q'ú?/) (both comparisons are from CTGR Chinuk Wawa Language Program 2011).

The other possible diacritic mark is a short slash all the way through a straight-line letter. This mark can indicate a completely distinct sound, as in the rare *q* in (17):

(17)	/	k	+slash =	∕	q
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