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This document requests a change to the recommended behavior of initial Ra in Newa. The current recommendation from [L2/12-003R](#) states that the behavior of the initial RA is similar to Devanagari, but the rendering is opposite:

6. 𑑖 RA The default shape when initial is the half form 𑑖𑑦. When initial in non-Newar words, it is written as 𑑖 *repha* <𑑖 RA, 𑑖 VIRAMA, 𑑖 ZWJ>. The behavior of initial RA is similar to Devanagari 𑑖 RA, but the rendering is opposite: the default shape corresponds to the ‘eyelash repha’, while the representation with ZWJ corresponds to the normal Devanagari *repha*. Non-initial RA is rendered as 𑑖: 𑑖 *pra*, 𑑖 *thra*; there are no *vattu* variants.

Based on feedback from the user community there is an expectation that the rendering behavior should be the same as Devanagari, not opposite. Therefore the default shape would be the hook repha while the representation with ZWJ would correspond to the half form or eyelash repha.

With the current recommended behavior:

𑑖 𑑖 𑑖 𑑖

<RA, VIRAMA, ZWJ, KA>

<RA, VIRAMA, KA>

<RA, VIRAMA, ZWJ, YA>

<RA, VIRAMA, YA>

With the requested behavior that matches Devanagari:

𑑖 𑑖 𑑖 𑑖

<RA, VIRAMA, KA>

<RA, VIRAMA, ZWJ, KA>

<RA, VIRAMA, YA>

<RA, VIRAMA, ZWJ, YA>