

One file, many weights

Roboto Variable carries two axes: wght from 100 to 900 and wdth from 75 to 100. Each line below is the same file embedded at a different point on those axes - the shapes in between are computed, not looked up.

wght 100	Hamburgetfonstiv 0123
wght 200	Hamburgetfonstiv 0123
wght 300	Hamburgetfonstiv 0123
wght 400	Hamburgetfonstiv 0123
wght 500	Hamburgetfonstiv 0123
wght 600	Hamburgetfonstiv 0123
wght 700	Hamburgetfonstiv 0123
wght 800	Hamburgetfonstiv 0123
wght 900	Hamburgetfonstiv 0123

Values the family does not ship

The nine steps above are the named instances. These two are not: they lie between them, and a static family has nothing to offer there.

wght 150	Hamburgetfonstiv 0123
wght 450	Hamburgetfonstiv 0123

A second axis, and both at once

wdth narrows the letters without thinning the strokes. Combined with wght it gives a grid of shapes rather than a list of files.

width 100	Hamburgetfonstiv 0123
width 87	Hamburgetfonstiv 0123
width 75	Hamburgetfonstiv 0123
wght 700 width 75	Hamburgetfonstiv 0123

Named instances

A named instance is a point the designer thought worth naming - what a static family would ship as a separate file. -instance takes the name the font itself gives it, which is the name a font menu would show. Passing a name the font does not have is an error that lists the ones it does.

Thin	Hamburgetonstiv 0123
Light	Hamburgetonstiv 0123
Regular	Hamburgetonstiv 0123
Medium	Hamburgetonstiv 0123
Bold	Hamburgetonstiv 0123
Black	Hamburgetonstiv 0123
Condensed Light	Hamburgetonstiv 0123
Condensed Bold	Hamburgetonstiv 0123

Starting from a name and moving on

-axes overrides single axes of the instance it starts from, so "Bold, but narrower" is one call rather than a lookup by hand.

-instance Bold -axes {width 80} **Hamburgetonstiv 0123**

The widths move with the weight

The same string measured at three weights. If the advances came from the default instance the three numbers would be equal, the line breaker would break in the wrong place and the table columns would come out too narrow.

Instance	Width at 13 pt
wght 100	45.57 mm
wght 400	46.80 mm
wght 900	47.78 mm