

“Junicode-1 AF Edition”

Junicode 1 American Futharch Edition by Eirik Westcoat

Version 1.0 — February 11, 2025

Release Notes

Who Should Use This Font?

- You like my American Futharch runes, and wish to type them with their ideal shapes.
- You like runes in general, and prefer my modified shapes here over what is in the official Junicode.
- If you are neither of those, I recommend using an official Junicode release instead.
- If you somehow got this package without seeing my American Futharch runes previously, I recommend reviewing my website:
<<https://americanfutharch.com/>>.

What This Is:

- The Junicode font is a free and open-source font for medievalists developed by Peter S. Baker.
- It caught my attention because it has what I consider to be the best set of runes among any rune fonts—and especially that it had runes in regular, italic, bold, and bold-italic styles. However, I preferred different shapes for some runes, particularly for my American Futharch rune row.
- Therefore, I made this modified version that implements my preferred shapes.
- The original Junicode was released under an Open Font License, and accordingly, I have made my modifications and release this edition under that same Open Font License.

Summary of My Changes:

- My main changes were primarily to bring certain rune shapes in line with their ideals in the American Futharch (Gem, Genre, Ooze, Ull). The other changes (Man, Gar) were opportunistic matters of largely personal preference. The three added private-use characters are also American Futharch related.
- My edition was created by modifying Junicode version 1.003 (November 5, 2021), downloaded from <<https://github.com/psb1558/Junicode-font/releases/tag/v1.003>>. Yes, I know it's an outdated version. (See below.)
- I have included the documentation from that release in this package, but only my modified .ttf font files, not any of the original font files from that package.

- I used the FontForge application to read .ttf files in the official package, to make my desired changes to certain characters, and to export modified fonts back to .ttf files.
- This font family will appear as “**Junicode-1 AF Edition**” in the font-selection menus of your applications. This allows it to be installed alongside a regular, official edition of Junicode, so that you can use either as desired at the same time.

General Notes and Known Issues:

- I have not attempted to preserve the original character widths on several of these, so switching your text over to this will cause it to reflow slightly.
- The official Junicode font comes with a number of special style sets and alternate character options, such as Iceland vs. Old English versions of the Thorn letter (þ), mirrored runes, and many others. *My process for creating this font has broken these features, and so they don't work in my release.* I won't be fixing this. I recommend using official Junicode releases along side of this if you need those various special features.
- The following pages describe the characters I have changed or added, across all four styles (regular, italic, bold, bold-italic). These are the only characters I have changed in the font.
- If you find issues or errors with the characters I've changed or added, let me know, and I may fix them. Problems with other characters will not be addressed, and you should look to official Junicode releases to see if they are addressed there.

N.B.: I'm aware that there is a Version 2 of Junicode, which is more complete and advanced in many ways. But I am a novice in using font creation programs, and I don't wish to have font work take up lots of my time. So I modified Version 1 of Junicode—much simpler for me with only 4 styles (regular, italic, bold, and bold-italic), and sufficient for my needs at this time. Junicode Version 2 is available here:

- Specimen page: <https://psb1558.github.io/Junicode-font/>.
- Download page: <https://github.com/psb1558/Junicode-font>.
- It does not yet have an implementation for alternate rune shapes (other than mirrored runes), let alone the specific ones I prefer. Hence my creation of this American Futharch edition of version 1.

Finally, please pardon the rambling, overly-detailed nature of this document. It's my first font release, and hopefully also my last font release. :)

Enjoy!

Descriptions and Examples of Changed Glyphs

U+16D7 Runic Letter Mannaz Man M

[Used for the Man rune of the American Futharch]

Original:  AF Edition: 

- In the original, the “cross pieces” of the rune sat slightly below the top of the verticals in both the regular and italic versions.
- The change is moving them to the tops of the verticals, but only in regular and italic.
- In bold and bold-italic, the cross pieces were already at the top of the verticals, so no modifications were made to the glyph in bold or bold-italic.

U+16E5 Runic Letter Stan

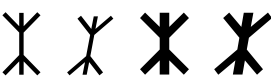
[Used for the Gem rune of the American Futharch]

Original:  AF Edition: 

- In the original, there are interior twigs, and the cross pieces are slightly below the top and above the bottom of the verticals.
- The change is to remove all the interior twigs and make the remaining twigs flush against the top and bottom of the verticals.

U+16EF Runic Tvimadur Symbol

[Used for the Genre rune of the American Futharch]

Original:  AF Edition: 

- In the original, the rune has curved twigs.
- The change is making the twigs straight instead of curved.

Descriptions and Examples of Changed Glyphs

U+16A2 Runic Letter Uruz Ur U

[Used for the Ooze rune of the American Futharch]

Original:  AF Edition: 

- In the original, the rune has two strokes.
- The change is making it a three-stroke rune.

U+16A3 Runic Letter Yr

[Used for the Ull rune of the American Futharch]

Original:  AF Edition: 

- In the original, the outer part has two strokes.
- The change is making the outer part a three-stroke rune.
- This is exactly like the above, but with an interior floating twig added.

U+16B8 Runic Letter Gar

[Not used by the American Futharch]

Original:  AF Edition: 

- In the original, what is typically the Gebo rune has two “carrots” on either side of the center.
- The change is putting an entire, well-spaced “diamond” around the center.

Additional Glyphs

- The Unicode standard specifies some “private use” areas, where nothing will ever be officially allocated, and in which font developers may put whatever they fancy.
- That means that such characters don’t have an existence out of a particular font, and that other fonts might use those code points for completely different characters. So you can only type these following characters using this Junicode-1 AF Edition font package.
- I have put three special “Grail Rune” characters into the private use area. I give the code points for them, but the names of them are not official in any way. Each has regular, italic, bold, and bold-italic forms as shown.
- Currently, I have released no documentation about the role of these special rune-stave forms in the American Futharch system. That will change eventually.
- Your computer system will have some mechanism that would allow you to enter or find “EE31” and so forth in the font in order to type the characters.

U+EE31 American Futharch Grail Rune Cup/Chalice

[A bind rune to represent Óðrœrir, the Stirrer of Poetry]



U+EE32 American Futharch Grail Rune Gem/Stone

[A modified Stan/Gem rune to represent Hrungrnir’s Heart]



U+EE33 American Futharch Grail Rune Ash/Spear

[A bind rune to represent Óðinn’s spear Gungnir and the World-Tree]

