

Genjimon fonts, v0.1

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1 Genjimon

The *Genjimon* (lit. “Genji crests”) are a set of 54 abstract visual designs associated with Japanese culture. They are used as chapter numbers in the Heien Period classic *The Tale of Genji*, which dates from the turn of the 11th Century; they are also used in an incense-appreciation game that was popular in that era. Much later, Edo Period “floating world” (*ukiyo-e*) woodblock prints (from the 18th and 19th Centuries) were sometimes produced in series corresponding to the Genji chapters; the actual subject matter of the prints might be only remotely connected to the book. The Genjimon often appeared on the prints, and collectors use them to identify the prints within the series.

In the incense game,¹ players experience five samples of incense, some of which might be the same, and must guess which of the samples go together. They indicate their guesses in writing using Genjimon. In the crest, the vertical bars represent the five incense samples; bars joined horizontally or in T-shapes are the same incense, but bars crossing each other are not. For instance, this crest



means that (reading from the left) the first, third, and fourth samples are the same as each other, but are different from the second and fifth, which are the same as each other.

These kinds of patterns, formed by putting n distinguishable things into n indistinguishable bins, have some mathematical interest. The number of such

¹I am describing a form that may be more recent than the Heien Period.

patterns for n things is called the n -th Bell number; in the case $n = 5$, it is 52. As well as incense patterns, Bell numbers correspond to the possible rhyme schemes for an n -line poem. The pictures themselves are called “Murasaki diagrams” in mathematics, after the author of the *Tale of Genji*. Another interesting question is the number of *non-crossing* Murasaki diagrams for n things. Not every pattern of incense can be expressed without the lines crossing each other; the number that can, for n samples, turns out to be equal to the n -th Catalan number.

Readers may have noticed that I said there are 54 glyphs, but I also said only 52 different patterns are possible. In fact, there are two duplicated patterns, each represented by two different but combinatorially equivalent glyphs in the traditional set. One of the duplicate pairs is easy to recognize; the other is much harder.

Is there any structure in the chapter sequence of crests? Is there any connection or similarity to the sequence of hexagrams of the I Ching?

2 About the fonts

This package contains four TrueType fonts (illustrated on the following pages) for printing the Genjimon in four different styles. The glyphs are mapped, in Genji chapter order, to ASCII codes 65 to 91 (A to Z followed by []), and 97 to 123 (a to z plus {}). The intention is to make them easy to type. As far as I know, there is no standard encoding for the Genjimon; in the bigger project from which these are spun off, I’m actually putting them in the Unicode Private Use Area at code points uf17c1 to uf17f6, but if they’re going to be in a font by themselves, it makes sense to me to map them into the ASCII range.

The fonts are written in the Metafont language, intended to be processed by MetaType1 to create Postscript files and then by FontForge to further clean up the Postscript and generate TrueType output (which seems to be what the largest number of nonprofessional users want). If you actually want Postscript or OpenType as the final form, it should be easy to edit the FontForge script to produce that; but don’t just skip FontForge, because the output of MetaType1 is *not* well-behaved; the clean-up steps are necessary. I’m not enthusiastic about writing up a lengthy description of how to compile the fonts; just run the Makefile, make sure you have anything it complains about needing, and it should probably work.

As mentioned, these fonts are a spin-off from another project of mine. I am providing them as a separate package because I think many people may find them interesting outside the context of the larger project; but I don't plan to spend a lot of time supporting or documenting them beyond this. What you see is basically what you get.

These are released under the GNU General Public License, version 3, with font-embedding clarification. See the file named LICENSE and note the following addition:

As a special exception, if you create a document which uses this font, and embed this font or unaltered portions of this font into the document, this font does not by itself cause the resulting document to be covered by the GNU General Public License. This exception does not however invalidate any other reasons why the document might be covered by the GNU General Public License. If you modify this font, you may extend this exception to your version of the font, but you are not obligated to do so. If you do not wish to do so, delete this exception statement from your version.

The license means (and this paragraph is a general summary, not overriding the binding terms of the license) that you may use the fonts at no charge; you may modify them; you may distribute them with or without modifications; but if you distribute them in binary form, you must make the source code available. Furthermore (this is where font-embedding becomes relevant) embedding the font, for instance in a PDF file, does not automatically trigger the source-distribution requirement.

I would like to emphasize that I do take the source-distribution requirement seriously. I am particularly concerned about the large number of “free” font Web sites that *sell* fonts of dubious legality (some free, some shareware, some simply pirated commercial) in large collections without credit to the original authors, representing themselves as the source of the fonts and never mentioning any possibility that users might end up owing shareware fees on top of the money they already paid for the “free” TrueType files. I don't care about making money from these fonts, but I do want credit for my work, and I don't want others to make money from these fonts without giving me credit, nor do I want to support the general corrupt business of the free-fonts Web sites. Hence the choice of the GPL. The not-really-free Web sites I object to

are not set up to distribute source code, so this license means that if they file off the serial numbers and distribute my work as bare TrueType files, it will be very clear that they are acting illegally, and I can sue them. However, it'll still be possible for good-faith actors to share the fonts without needing further licensing arrangements.

I'd love to hear from users of these fonts, especially if you think of something interesting or unusual to do with them.

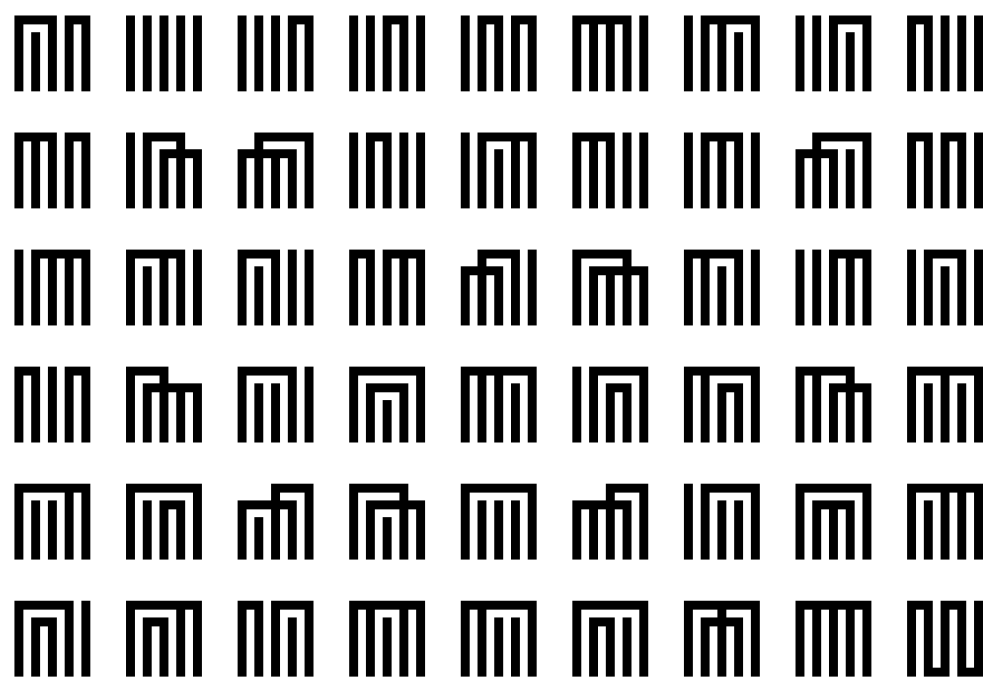
Matthew Skala

<http://ansuz.sooke.bc.ca/>

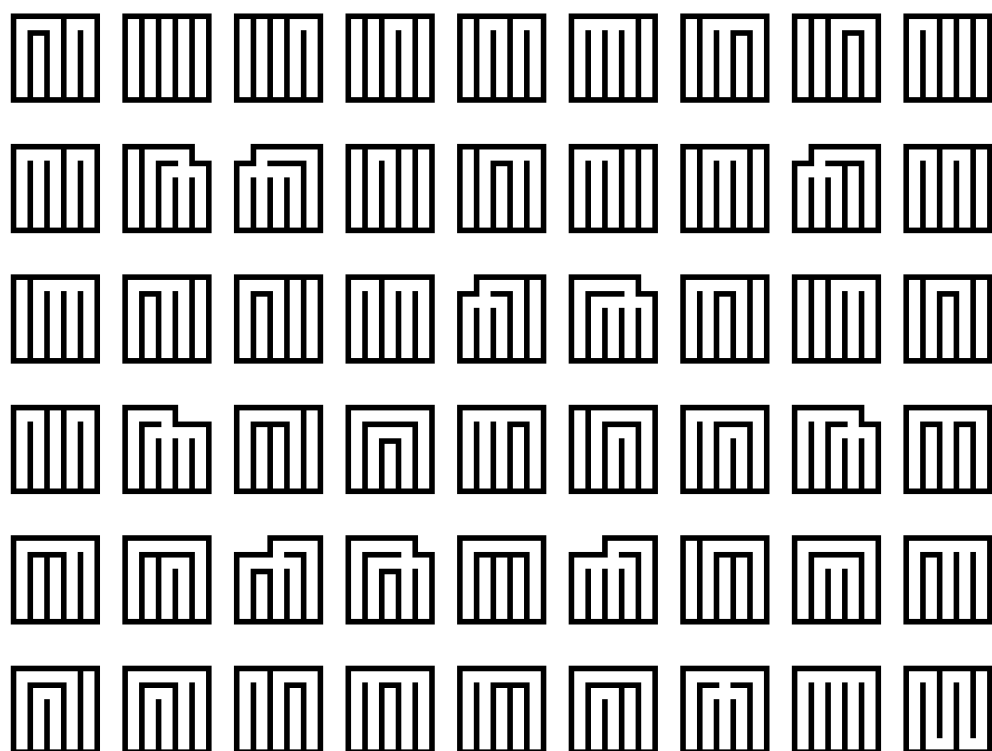
<mailto:mskala@ansuz.sooke.bc.ca>

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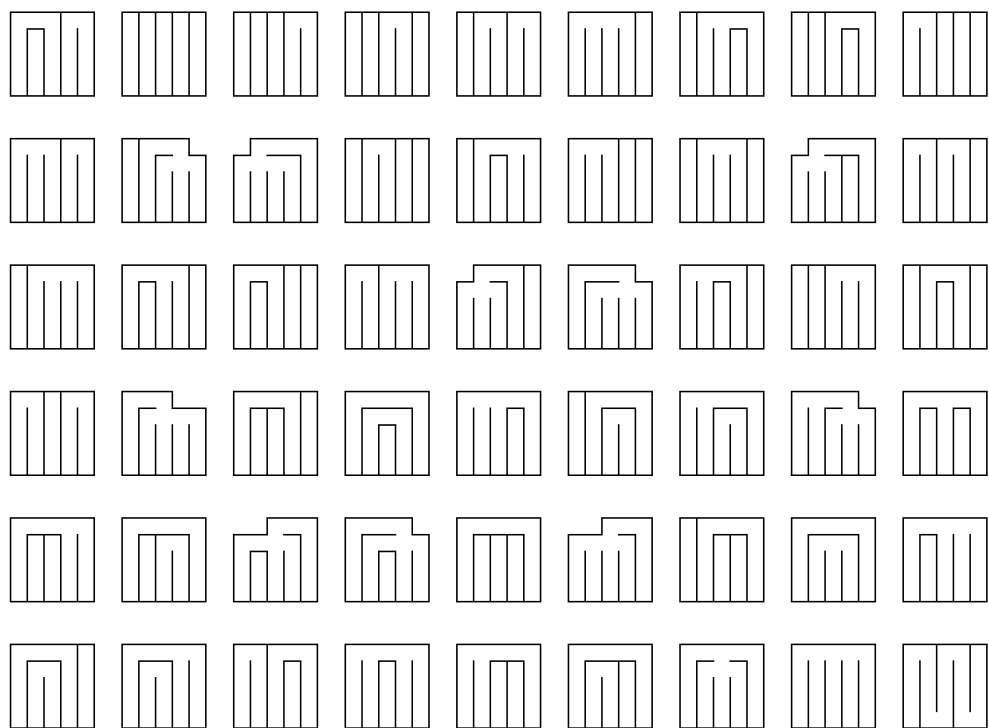
3 Genjimon Medium



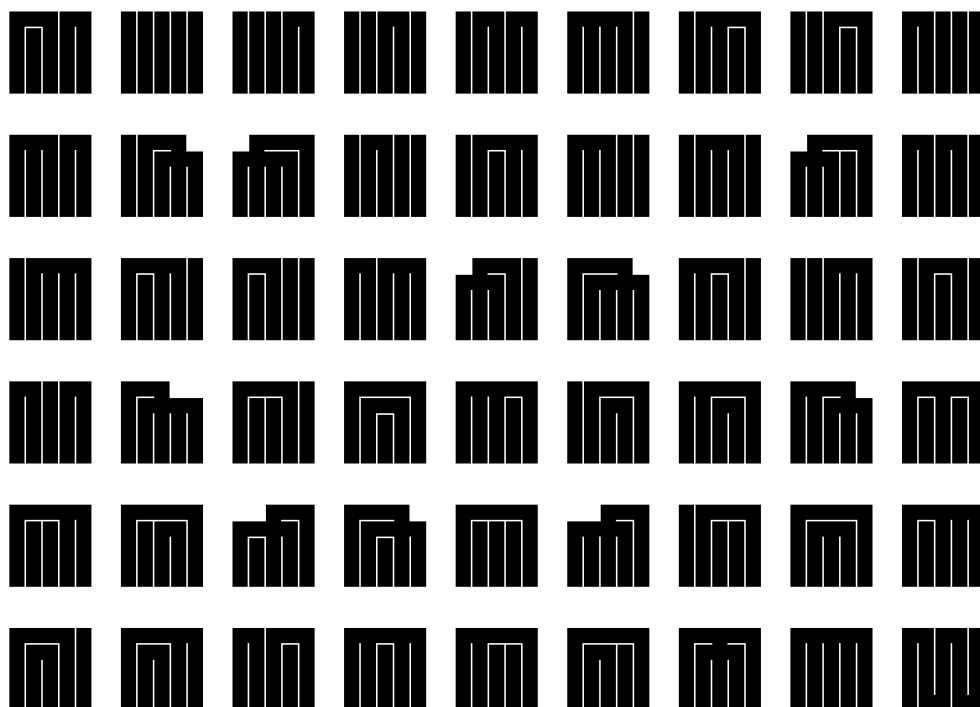
4 Genjimon Reverse



5 Genjimon White



6 Genjimon Black



7 Encoding table

dec	hex	key	mon	chapter
65	41	A	𐄀𐄀	#1 Kiritsubo
66	42	B	𐄀𐄀𐄀	#2 Hahakigi
67	43	C	𐄀𐄀	#3 Utsusemi
68	44	D	𐄀𐄀	#4 Yuugao
69	45	E	𐄀𐄀	#5 Wakamurasaki
70	46	F	𐄀𐄀	#6 Suetsumuhana
71	47	G	𐄀𐄀	#7 Momiji no Ga
72	48	H	𐄀𐄀	#8 Hana no En
73	49	I	𐄀𐄀𐄀	#9 Aoi
74	4a	J	𐄀𐄀	#10 Sakaki
75	4b	K	𐄀𐄀	#11 Hana Chiru Sato
76	4c	L	𐄀𐄀	#12 Suma
77	4d	M	𐄀𐄀𐄀	#13 Akashi
78	4e	N	𐄀𐄀	#14 Miotsukushi
79	4f	O	𐄀𐄀	#15 Yomogyuu
80	50	P	𐄀𐄀	#16 Sekiya
81	51	Q	𐄀𐄀	#17 Eawase
82	52	R	𐄀𐄀	#18 Matsukaze
83	53	S	𐄀𐄀	#19 Usugumo
84	54	T	𐄀𐄀	#20 Asagao
85	55	U	𐄀𐄀	#21 Otome
86	56	V	𐄀𐄀	#22 Tamakazura
87	57	W	𐄀𐄀	#23 Hatsune
88	58	X	𐄀𐄀	#24 Kochou
89	59	Y	𐄀𐄀	#25 Hotaru
90	5a	Z	𐄀𐄀	#26 Tokonatsu
91	5b	[𐄀𐄀	#27 Kagaribi

dec	hex	key	mon	chapter
97	61	a	𐄀𐄀	#28 Nowaki
98	62	b	𐄀𐄁	#29 Miyuki
99	63	c	𐄀𐄂	#30 Fujibakama
100	64	d	𐄀𐄃	#31 Makibashira
101	65	e	𐄀𐄄	#32 Umegae
102	66	f	𐄀𐄅	#33 Fuji no Uraba
103	67	g	𐄀𐄆	#34 Wakana no Jou
104	68	h	𐄀𐄇	#35 Wakana no Ge
105	69	i	𐄀𐄈	#36 Kashiwagi
106	6a	j	𐄀𐄉	#37 Yokobue
107	6b	k	𐄀𐄊	#38 Suzumushi
108	6c	l	𐄀𐄋	#39 Yuugiri
109	6d	m	𐄀𐄌	#40 Minori
110	6e	n	𐄀𐄍	#41 Maboroshi
111	6f	o	𐄀𐄎	#42 Ninounomiya
112	70	p	𐄀𐄏	#43 Koubai
113	71	q	𐄀𐄐	#44 Takegawa
114	72	r	𐄀𐄑	#45 Hashihime
115	73	s	𐄀𐄒	#46 Shii ga Moto
116	74	t	𐄀𐄓	#47 Agemaki
117	75	u	𐄀𐄔	#48 Sawarabi
118	76	v	𐄀𐄕	#49 Yadorigi
119	77	w	𐄀𐄖	#50 Azumaya
120	78	x	𐄀𐄗	#51 Ukifune
121	79	y	𐄀𐄘	#52 Kagerou
122	7a	z	𐄀𐄙	#53 Tenarai
123	7b	{	𐄀𐄚	#54 Yumi no Ukihashi