

Chinese Typesetting in iOS 13

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This document contains a presentation of selected Chinese fonts suitable for installation under iOS 13, along with brief descriptions and download URLs*. Some URLs presented here link to fonts that are free to use for all purposes, some link to fonts that free to use for non-commercial purposes only, and some link to fonts that are commercially available only.

When tuned to the Chinese locale, iOS loads the PingFang font (six weights, simplified and traditional characters), and lets face it, it is not a terribly exciting font to work with if you are doing Chinese layout:

PingFang SC Ultralight

苹方简体

PingFang SC Thin

苹方简体

PingFang SC Light

苹方简体

PingFang SC Regular

苹方简体

PingFang SC Medium

苹方简体

PingFang SC Semibold

苹方简体

While the difference between the Medium weight and the Semibold weight is almost indiscernable, this font does not come with a heavy weight for the really fat headings. If you need to typeset a really fat heading the PingFang font simply won't do.

**In order to install the font files linked to in this paper, you need a third party app. I recommend [iFont](#), but there are also other apps that do essentially the same. In this paper I presume that the reader will be familiar with how to install fonts using such third party apps. In addition, I strongly recommend using the app [Unicode Pro](#) to view the glyphs contained in each font. You can also use the Kangxi Radicals lookup method within the Unicode Pro app as an input method for characters for which there is no pinyin, or for which you do not know the pinyin.*

Source Han Sans

The Source Han Sans font is practically indiscernible from the PingFang font. It contains sans-serif gothic typefaces for Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, Japanese and Korean created by Adobe and Google. This font comes in seven weights, contains 27,558 Chinese characters, and the bold and the heavy weights are ideal for headings:

Source Han Sans SC Extralight

思源黑体

Source Han Sans SC Light

思源黑体

Source Han Sans SC Normal

思源黑体

Source Han Sans Regular

思源黑体

Source Han Sans SC Medium

思源黑体

Source Han Sans SC Bold

思源黑体

Source Han Sans SC Heavy

思源宋体

Source Han Sans information page on Wikipedia:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Source_Han_Sans

Source Han Sans download page on Github:

- <https://github.com/be5invis/source-han-sans-ttf/releases>

Remember that there is one file for each weight. HW = halfwidth SC = Simplified Chinese TC = Traditional Chinese K = Korean. I believe the files without letter designation (at the top of the list) are for Japanese. For Chinese typesetting, download and install all files marked with SC and TC.

Source Han Serif

The Source Han Serif font (also made by Adobe and Google) also contains 27,558 Chinese characters, and comes as the name shows with serifs, also in seven weights, including both simplified and traditional characters. Again, the bold and the heavy weights of this font are ideal for headings:

Source Han Serif SC ExtraLight

思源宋体

Source Han Serif SC Light

思源宋体

Source Han Serif SC Regular

思源宋体

Source Han Serif SC Medium

思源宋体

Source Han Serif SC Semibold

思源宋体

Source Han Serif SC Bold

思源宋体

Source Han Serif SC Heavy

思源宋体

Source Han Serif information page on Wikipedia:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Source_Han_Serif

Source Han Serif download page on Github:

- <https://github.com/junmer/source-han-serif-ttf/tree/master/SubsetTTF/CN>

Remember that there is one file for each weight.

HanWang Fonts

The HanWang Font Series (王漢宗字体) were 42 fonts originally released in 2004 by Wang Hanzong (王漢宗), a professor at National Taiwan University. Not all of these 42 fonts adhered strictly to present-day UNIHAN encoding, some in my eyes look a tad too avant-garde, some do not contain all that many Chinese characters, and some again were copyrighted by third parties. The six HanWang fonts listed here are period typefaces suitable for a variety of Chinese textual purposes. Each font comes in only one weight and contains about 13,500 traditional Chinese characters. These HanWang fonts are free to use for non-commercial purposes only. [Download links in blue](#). The poem in the font samples is 《靜夜思》by Li Bai 李白 (701 AD-762 AD).

漢王仿宋體WCL06

床前明月光
疑是地上霜
舉頭望明月
低頭思故鄉

漢王隸書繁

床前明月光
疑是地上霜
舉頭望明月
低頭思故鄉

漢王仿宋繁

床前明月光
疑是地上霜
舉頭望明月
低頭思故鄉

漢王顏楷繁

床前明月光
疑是地上霜
舉頭望明月
低頭思故鄉

漢王粗鋼體WCL07

床前明月光
疑是地上霜
舉頭望明月
低頭思故鄉

漢王行書繁

床前明月光
疑是地上霜
舉頭望明月
低頭思故鄉

Hanyi Senty font family

The Hanyi Senty font family consists of fonts of vastly different styles, character repertoire and beauty. Here follows a presentation of the 29 Hanyi Senty fonts that I personally find to be the most aesthetical, arranged by descending character repertoire order, ranging from 22230 characters for the largest font to a mere 9800 characters for the smallest ones. The Hanyi Senty fonts are free to use for non-commercial purposes only. [Download links in blue:](#)

[汉仪新蒂赵孟頫体](#) Hanyi Senty Zhao Calligraphy

(22230 glyphs)

卻說兩村忙回頭看時，不是別人，乃是當日同僚一案參革的號張如圭者。他本系此地人，革後家居，今打聽得都中奏准起復舊員之信，他便四下里尋情找門路，忽遇見兩村，故忙道喜。二人見了禮，張如圭便將此信告訴兩村，兩村自是歡喜，忙忙的敘了兩句，遂作別各自回家。冷子興聽得此言，便忙獻計，令兩村央煩林如海，轉向都中去央煩賈政。兩村領其意，作別回至館中，忙尋邸報看真確了。

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汉仪新蒂春游体 Hanyi Senty Spring Trip

(10000 glyphs)

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汉仪新蒂糖果体 Hanyi Senty Candy Handwriting

(10000 glyphs)

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二人見了禮，張如圭便將此信告訴雨村，雨村自是歡喜，忙忙的敘了兩句，遂作別各自回家。

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The FangZheng New Kai font is a thoroughly elegant and timeless typeface, consisting of two separate fonts, where the basic font *FangZheng New Kai Extended GB18030 Z03* covers around 27,558 traditional and simplified Chinese characters and a second font of equal design, *FangZheng New Kai Extended(SIP)*, covers an additional 42,711 characters. In between them, these two fonts thus cover 70,269 Chinese characters in a uniform and beautiful typeface. This font comes as close as it is conceivably possible to get to how Chinese characters should ideally look.

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Licensing:

A commercial license for this font set cost 50,000 RMB per year. Contact Founder-type (方正字庫) at telephone (+86) 400 651 6763 for more information. The [Foundertype official app](#) provides limited versions of this and other fonts for a very reasonable price.

Font Plus is an app for iOS 13 by Foundertype (方正字庫) where Chinese fonts may be previewed, purchased, downloaded and installed on the iOS system from within the app. Not all the fonts viewable through the app are for sale through the app. Fonts in the app typically contain a little more than 7000 Chinese characters, and each typeface is typically divided into two fonts; one simplified character version and one traditional character version.



花園明朝體 Hanazono

The Hanazono fonts is the only decent freeware font set which is able to show the entire CJK character repertoire in UNICODE - 89,233 Chinese characters. The Hanazono fonts also contains its fair share of glyphs covering other languages, and the font set altogether contains a staggering 107,518 glyphs. The font is split into two files due to system limitations: HanaMin A and HanaMin B. The typeface style is a serified Minchō, suitable for newspaper body text in both Japanese and Chinese, simplified and traditional characters.

In iOS 13, you absolutely need to download the app [Unicode Pro](#) in order to get an overview over, and fully understand, what the Hanazono font set is and what it can do:

