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# Help! – The Typesetting Area



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#### Willi Egger

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# Height-Width Relation in Books and Paper



- Relation *height : width* means the relation of a spread
- Common proportions:

- 21:34 (1:1.168) (Golden Section)
- $-1:1.414(1:\sqrt{2})$
- ...



### **Paper Sizes**

- Old papersizes 3 : 4
- Modern formats (Europe) 1 : 1.414 (DIN size)
- Folding a 3 : 4 sheet results alternating in 2 : 3, 3 : 4, 2 : 3 . . .
- Folding DIN size sheet keeps the relation 1 : 1.414.
- Take care folding a sheet of paper changes the grain direction!



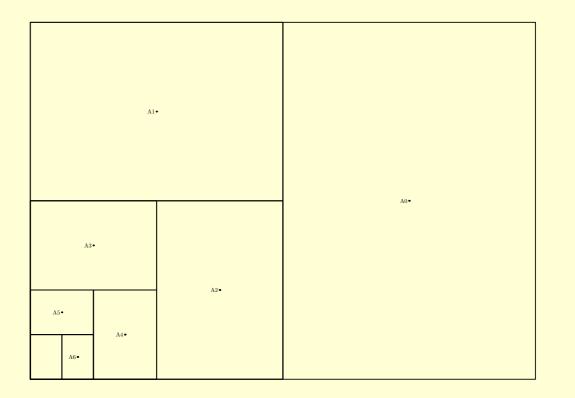
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# Cutting DIN Paper from A<sub>0</sub> to A<sub>6</sub>





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### **Choosing the Size of Paper for a Document**

- The size is depending on the use of the document
- Books for reading in the hands must be tall. Relations in the spread could be: 21 : 34 or 2 : 3. Very tall books: 1 : 1.732 (1 : √3) or 3 : 5.
  "Bad" is the relation 3 : 4, "unacceptable" is 1 : 1.414 e.g. A<sub>5</sub>.



• Large books, laid open on a table are nice with 3 : 4.



### Length of a Text-Row

Average Length of a Text-Row

- German: 8 to 12 words
- English: 40 to **70** characters

#### How to Correct or Influence the Length

- Adapt fontsize, interlinespacing
- Two columns layout



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# The Harmonically Placed Typesetting Area

Hand writings from the Middle Ages

- Page relation 2 : 3
- White-space 1 : 1 : 2 : 3, no columns
- The typesetting area proportions are of the Golden Section

Described by Jan Tschichold

#### Late Middle Ages: handwritings and incunabula

- Page relation 2 : 3
- The height of the typesetting area is equal to the with of the page
- White-space 2 : 3 : 4 : 6





In order to prepare this typesetting area by drawing it, the spread must be 3 : 4. This is the "Writers-canon" described by Jan Tschichold.

#### Printed work of the Middle Ages

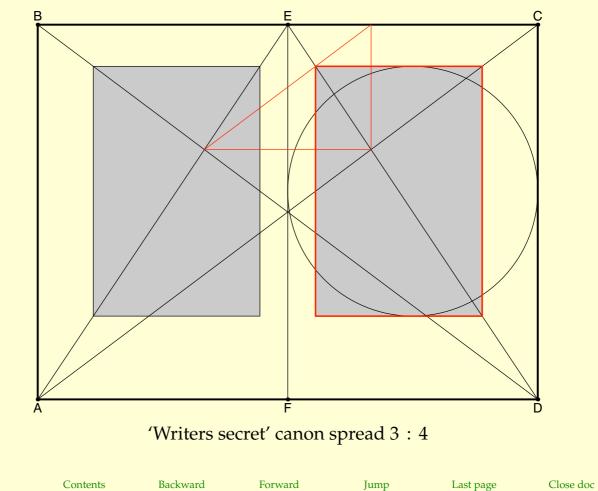
- Gutenberg (printer) und Schöffer (calligrapher)
- "Printers secret" solved by Raúl Rosarivo.

The typesetting are is determined by:

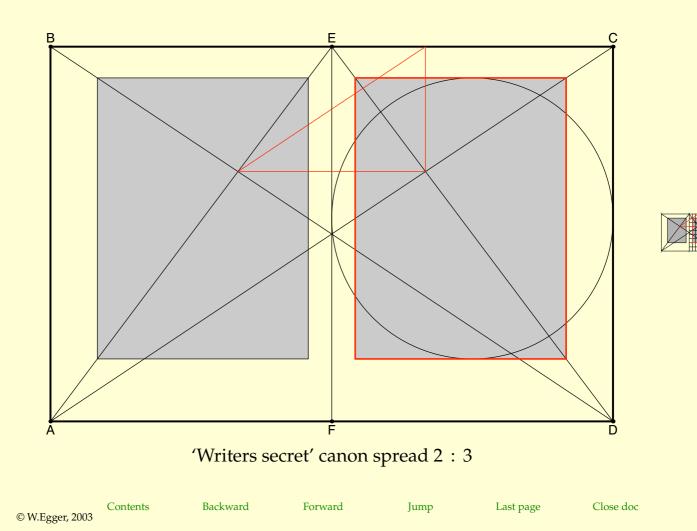
- dividing the height and the with of the page in 9 parts.
- Determination of the typesetting area with placing the diagonals over the page and the spread.
- This method is also described by Johan A. van der Graaf.

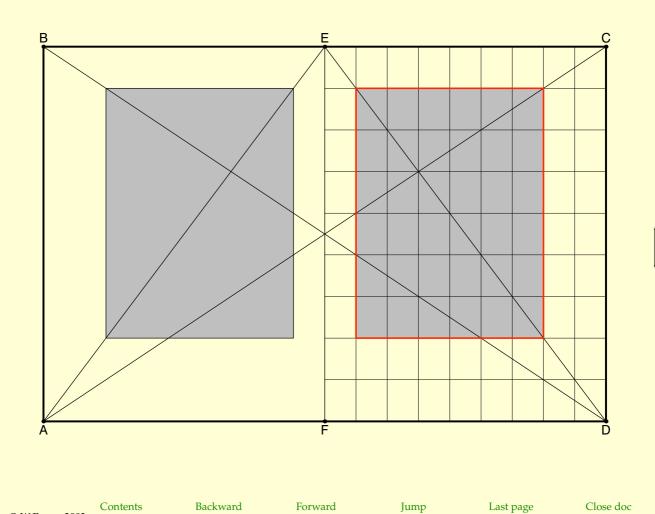




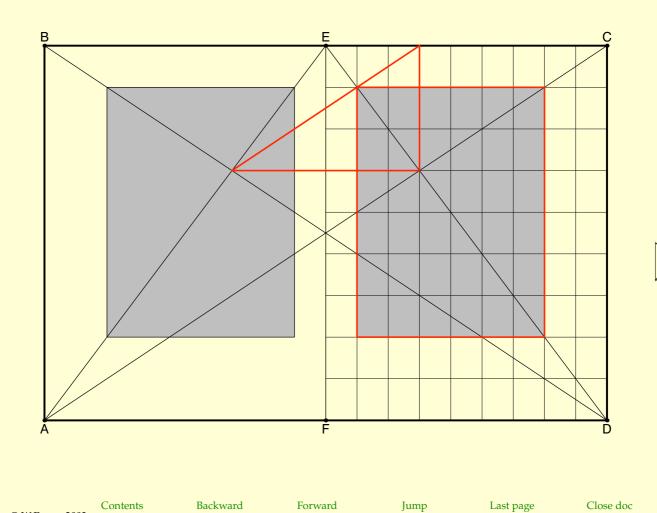














#### **The Proof of Construction**

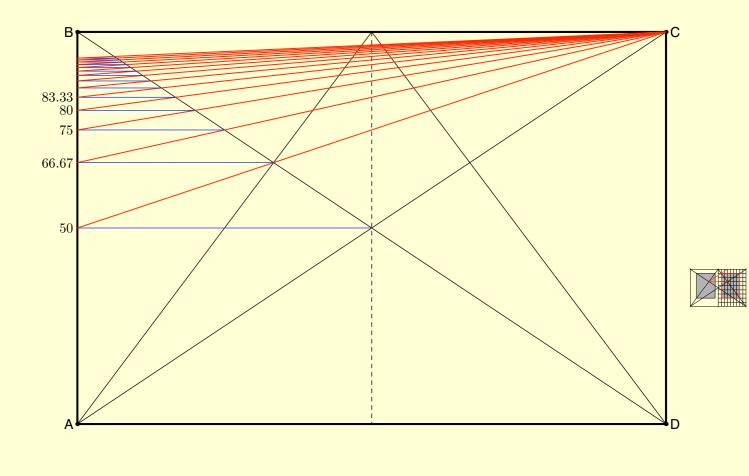
- Villard's graph:
  - Canon for harmonious divisions by Villard de Honnecourt, architect in the 13<sup>th</sup> century
  - Goldenheim, Lichtfield en Dietrich (GLaD-construction)
  - With this technique it is possible to divide a given distance in as many equal parts as required.



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### Canon 9 on a Sheet Sized 21 : 34

#### **Calculation Output in Tabular Form**

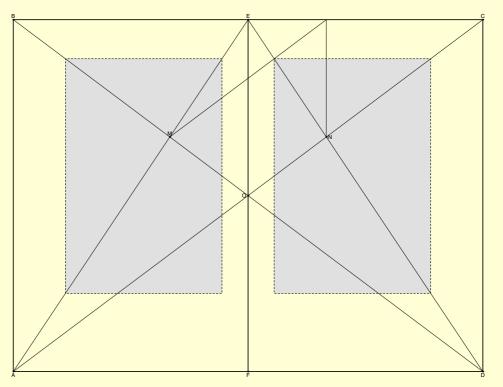
Data for the setup of the layout Relation between height and width of paper 21 : 34 Kanon 9 Paper height (A - D) 80 mm Paper length (A - B) 130 mm Inner margin 7 mm Top margin 9 mm Outer margin 14 mm Lower margin 18 mm Height typesetting area 53 mm Width typesetting area 43 mm

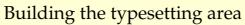


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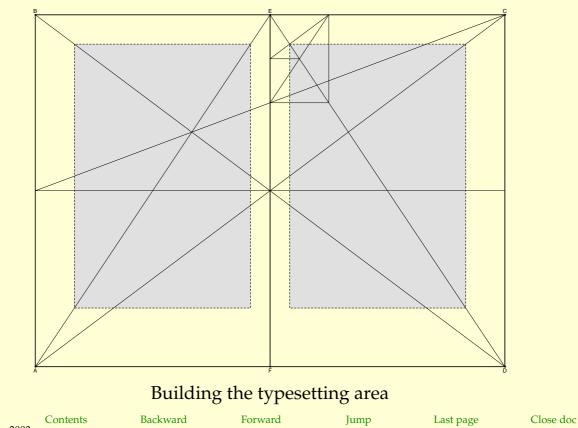


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Canon 12 on a Sheet Sized 3 : 4





Neas epicopus fenën. Nicolao uoleterrano pehonotario regio. 5, p. d. Nimum mihi credis nicolae amantifime. fi unis exclitteris quas raptum & inconfulte feribo fequendă orthographiam putas, minime ego is fun qui fiue menda feribam labor & erro maxime circa un flurano litterarum Nolim auctore me decipiaris etratami e x. ppolito di xerim hoc ateg illud ita feriben dum eft quierito meliores & qui exteriar tradant. De pronotaria tu certum eft quia non debet afpirari non dico nune rationem. qa ex tradatu gafparini quem nume traificribi facio ut ad termită: plenus rem intelliges Vale ex noua ciuitate ui, kal. Maias. Mille fimo quadrungentefino quinquisțefino quarto.

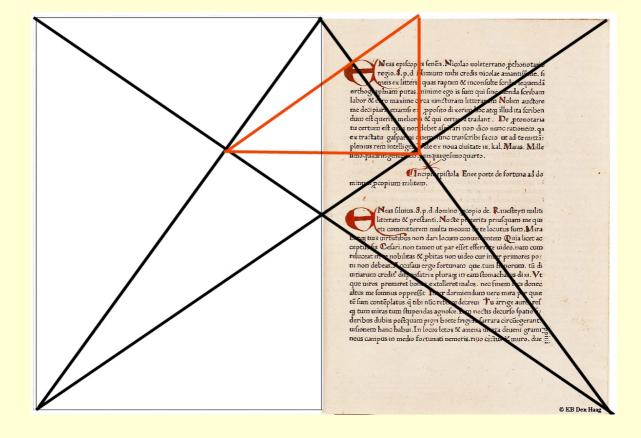
Incipit epifola Ence poete de fortuna ad do minum poopium mulitem.

Neas filuius. 9. p. d. domino poopio de. Rauefteyn militi litterato & preflanti. No éte preterita prusfyuarn me qui barq tus urituïtifuis non dar locum conuceinetme Qui liceta e ceptus fis Ocfari.non tamen ut par effet effern te uideo, nam cum reluczat m te nobilizas & pbitas uon uideo cur inter primores po/ m non debeas. Accufau ergo fortunarn que, tum honorum, tú di unitarum credit difpenfatra plurag in eam formachatus dixi. Ve que unos premeret bonos extolleret males, neo finem fect donec altus me fomnus opprefit Inter dormiendum uero mra per que té fum contéplatus, q ibu hois referre decreu. Tu arnge aures rel que unos premeret bonos extolleret males, neo finem fect donec altus me fomnus opprefit Inter dormiendum uero mra per que té fum contéplatus, q ibu nöreferre decreu. Tu arnge aures rel q tum miras tum flupendas agnofoe. Iam nofus decurlo fpatio fit deribus dubis pofiquam pign boete frigida farrara circútegerant. utionem hanc habu. In locos letos & amena uireta deueni gramterg neus campus in medio fortunati nemoris.ruo cicitus & muro, due g

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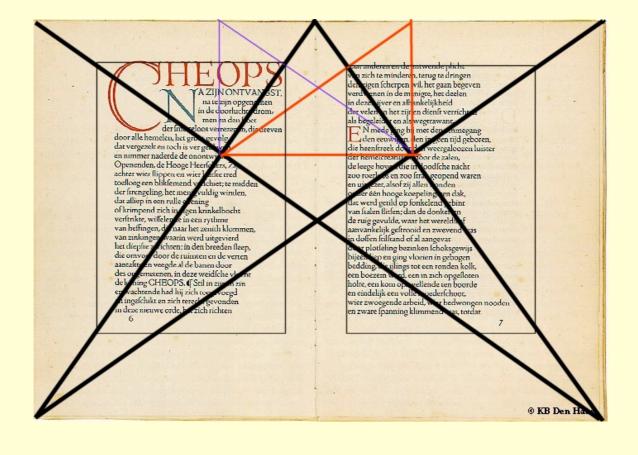
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AZINONTVA na te zijn opgenomen in de doorluchte drom, men en den froet der fmetteloos verrezenen, die dreven door alle hemelen, het groot gevolg, dat vergezelt en toch is ver gebleven en nummer naderde de onontwijde. Openenden, de Hooge Heerfchers, Zij, achter wier llippen en wier laatfre tred toelloeg een blikfemend verschiet; te midden der ftrengeling, het menigvuldig winden, dat affiep in een rulle effening of krimpend zich in eigen krinkelbocht verftrikte, wilfelende in een rythme van heffingen, die naar het zenith klommen, van zinkingen, waarin werd uitgevierd het diepfte zwichten; in den breeden fleep, die omvoer door de ruimten en de verten aantalite en veegde al de banen door des ongemetenen, in deze weidsche vlucht de koning CHEOPS. CStil in zijnen zin en wachtende had hij zich toegevoegd en ingefchikt en zich terecht gevonden in deze nieuwe orde, het zich richten 6

naar anderen en de ontwende plicht van zich te minderen, terug te dringen den eigen fcherpen wil, het gaan begeven verdwenen in de menigte, het deelen in dezen ijver en afhankelijkheid der velen en het zijnen dienft verrichten als begeleider en als wegtrawant. N mede ging hij met den ommegang den eeuwigen, den in geen tijd geboren, die heenstreek door den weergaloozen luister der hemelereaturen, door de zalen, de leege hoven, die in doodfche nächt 200 roerloos en 200 ftrak geopend waren en uitgezet, alsof zij allen fronden onder één hooge koepeling, een dak, dat werd getild op fonkelend gebint van stalen flitfen; dan de donkerten de ruig gevulde, waar het wereldfrof aanvankelijk geftrooid en zwevend was in doffen frilfrand of al aangevar door plotfeling bezinken Ichoksgewijs bijeen liep en ging vloeien in gebogen bedding, die ijlings tot een ronden kolk, een boezem werd, een in zich opgefloten holte, een kom opzwellende ten boorde en eindelijk een volle moederfchoor, wier zwoegende arbeid, wier bedwongen nooden en zware fpanning klimmend was, totdat

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#### **Inner White-space**

- The inner margin gets smaller once the book is bound.
- The extent of this effect depends on the thickness of the paper, the thickness of the book and the binding technique.
- A correct inner margin in a book is optically equal to the left (right) margin.



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### Conclusion

- If the typesetting area must be equally high than the width of the page, then the relation in the paper is 3 : 4 and therefore in the page 2 : 3.
- The construction method of the typesetting area shown by van van der Graaf and Rosarivo (Tschichold) can be applied to any size of paper sheets.
- You are not bound to divide the width and height in 9 or 12 parts.
- You will receive a harmonious typesetting area compared to the page, if the typesetting area is linked to the diagonals of the paper and sheet.



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#### Literature

- Philip Taylor. Book Design for T<sub>E</sub>XUsers. MAPS 19, 19 22, 28 36. 1997
- J. Tschichold. Ausgewählte Aufsätze über Fragen der Gestalt des Buches und der Typographie. Birkäuser Verlag Basel. 2. Auflage. ISBN-3-7643-1946-1. 1987.



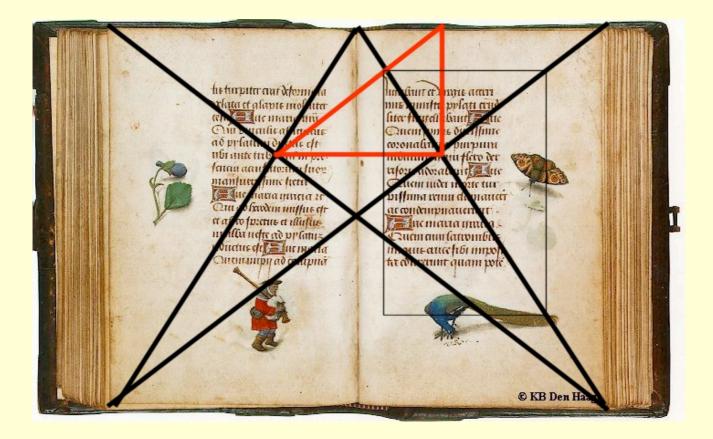
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