



IWATA CORPORATION
Company Profile

Corporate Philosophy – Three Corporate Principles

Founded in 1920 as Iwata Matrix Co., Ltd., Iwata Corporation is rooted in the tradition of metal type. Through the decades, we have passed through the era of phototypesetting into the digital age, incorporating emerging technologies to create Japanese fonts of the very highest elegance dignity etc.

Our predecessors established three principles that continue to guide our type design today:

- Excellent readability that is easy on the eyes
- Beautiful and elegant appearance
- Uniform expression based on set rules that avoids self-indulgence

Following these principles, Iwata has developed fonts to ever higher degrees of perfection through the years. Our most recent innovation is the development of an entirely new category: the world's first UD fonts (based on the universal design concept), which are easier for the middle-aged and seniors to read. These new fonts have received strong public support.

Iwata Corporation is a comprehensive font manufacturer that combines tradition with the spirit of innovation.



Corporate Data

Company Name IWATA CORPORATION

Establishment 1920

Capital 40 million yen

President Akira Mizuno

Work Contents

Retail Fonts, OEM Fonts, Custom Fonts

Corporate Fonts, Convert Font Formats, Consulting

Web

www.iwatafont.co.jp (in Japanese)

www.iwatafont.com/en/ (in English)

Head Office

Address

Takisei Bldg 3-2-9 Iwamotocho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0032 Japan

Yamagata Office

Address

2-7-8 Higashi-honcho, Tendo, Yamagata 994-0026 Japan

Main Customer

Panasonic Corporation, NEC Corporation, Fujitsu Limited, Sony Corporation, NEC Nexsolutions, Ltd., NEC Solution Innovators, Ltd., Canon Inc., TOSHIBA CORPORATION, CASIO COMPUTER CO., LTD., Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, EAST Co., Ltd., Nikon Corporation, Dainippon Printing Co., Ltd., TOPPAN PRINTING CO., LTD., NTT COMWARE CORPORATION, Mitsumura Tosho Publishing Co., LTD., Fontworks Inc., Media Technology Japan Co., Ltd., IBM Japan, Ltd., Canon IT Solutions Inc., SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD., CELSYS, Inc., LIM Corporation Ltd., The Hokkaido Shimbun Press, SANKEI LIVING SHIMBUN Inc., The Yomiuri Shimbun, The Asahi Shimbun Company, The Chunichi Shimbun, The Nishinippon Shimbun, OITA GODO SHIMBUN INC., The Kobe Shimbun, The Chugoku Shimbun, The Kyoto Shimbun Newspaper Co., Ltd., and others

Corporate History

Foundation to 1920s

- 1920** In November, Hyakuzo Iwata founded Iwata Matrix Co., Ltd. in Kyobashi Kobiki-cho of Tokyo and began production of matrix.
- 1932** Received orders of over one million matrices in total from Manchurian State. Most printed materials in Manchurian State were pressed with letters formed by matrices made by Iwata Matrix Co.
- 1947** Built its new factory in Omori, Tokyo and hired more employees. In October, got incorporated as Iwata Matrix Works Corporation.
- 1950** In March, introduced two Benton engravers made by Tsugami Works, for the first time as a Japanese matrix foundry.
- 1966** Developed the original form of Iwata textbook typeface in reference to notices from the Ministry of Education. It was designated as the standard type in the industry.
- 1969** Began manufacturing and selling molds for letters and special types used for office equipment, accounting machines, adders and kanji teletypewriters, and iron types for western typewriters, etc.
- 1979** Developed fonts for digital text based on the original Benton typefaces, for which the Company received an order of a set of 48-dot Gothic JIS code fonts from Hitachi, Ltd. (design laboratory of Central Research Laboratory). This marked our first digital data sales.
- 1988** In April, by spinning off its Digital Font Division, established Iwata Engineering Corporation in Tendo, Yamagata. The Company introduced Ikarus typography software made by URW (Germany) and started producing outline fonts and dotted fonts.
- 2001** Iwata Engineering Corporation and Iwata Matrix Works merged to form a new company, Iwata Corporation.
- 2006** Jointly developed Iwata UD (universal design) Font with Panasonic Corporation from the viewpoint of universal design. The font is used for text on all Panasonic products as its corporate font. Iwata also released the font under the name of Iwata UD Font, making it the first commercially available universal design font in the world.
- 2014** The Company joined as a partner the Adobe-Google joint development project of an open source Pan-CJK font family, Source Han Sans, and contributed to the extension of glyphs. In 2017, Source Han Serif was developed.
- 2020** 100th anniversary