

Daredevil Furniture: Tips & Tricks to Keep Your Composure



The goal to keep in mind while working: build towards a rectangular form.

Setting type on an angle:

The grid provided in the box is a helpful tool in planning your approach. Choose a line to set type along and use the line's length to determine the measure for setting your type. The surrounding triangles are moved away to accommodate your line, then replaced to surround the line of type. Because of the angles, you may need to have different lengths of slugs or leads top and bottom. You also may need to fill in smaller angles created with small wood furniture, angle quads, or em quads—choose the best option for stability. I've had good results utilizing half-inch foam core to fill larger areas, or create a wedge by staggering two point leads.



Setting type on a circle:

The two acrylic circles used together are the right fit for 18 point type. You can set in a composing stick and transfer, or just carefully set between the circles. Either way, tweezers are helpful in keeping the type pushed together. (Always be cautious to avoid damaging the type, steering clear of the face entirely.) Note that the fit is tight, so adding some type at the top, then the bottom, and back and forth is a good approach. Sorts wider than an em will be probably be too tight. Larger sizes of type can be set using the small wood half circles, and adjustments to fit can be made using one point leads as needed. Typically use less word spacing than in straight line composition as the curve splays out the type.

Experiment to create other combinations, such as:

- Two half circles + smaller plexi ring + 18 point type
(insert one point lead between half circles to help squeeze)
- Two half circles + larger plexi ring + 42 point type
(insert slug between half circles to help squeeze)



Setting diagonal type within a circle:

Type can be set as seen in the illustration above by cutting slugs to fit the width of the circle, as snug as possible. Type should be set snug with brasses and coppers as needed. Two wood half circles should hold everything in place.