

## *Appearance of Tengwar Elfica*

As it was mentioned before, Tengwar Elfica is inspired by the Tengwar character chart included in Appendix E of The Lord of the Rings. One could say that the calligraphy used by Tolkien in this document is ornamental type, but not cursive type.

Elfica takes these calligraphic characteristics, which are indeed very different to those of the inscription of the ring, for example, where the cursive characters are handwriting style, which are joined to each other if they are part of the same word. The characters of this last type are not very suitable for reproduction in the screen of a computer (low resolution) and especially if a small size is to be used.

For many it will be perhaps an initial disillusion the fact that the characters of the font, that look so good in printed samples, look rather bad on computer screen. For those who don't have any experience with fonts, I'd like to note that the screen of a normal computer has low resolution and decorative fonts, as Elfica and in general all other Tengwar fonts, cannot be represented satisfactorily for sizes smaller than, let us say, 20 points. The printers have much better definition, so that the printed Tengwar characters still keep their correct form at small sizes. Although the low resolution of monitors is an important limitation (there are simply too few pixels to represent a glyph if this selected size is small), a very important effort has been made in this new version of Elfica to improve the appearance of the characters at low resolutions. The appearance of the glyphs on the screen has been optimized for reduced sizes up to of 10 points (using 100% zoom in the application).

In order to see the appearance of Elfica Font a document has been created in pdf format taking as example the text Namarië.

The image shows the word 'Namarië' rendered in the Tengwar Elfica font. The characters are highly stylized and calligraphic, with decorative flourishes and small crown-like symbols above the 'n' and 'm'. The 'a' is a simple circle, 'r' is a vertical line with a hook, 'i' is a vertical line with a dot, and 'ë' is a vertical line with a hook and a dot.

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