

ဝဟ်ဝဟ်မိဒ်ဖုဒ်

“BAYBAYING SUKAT” TYPEFACE GUIDE & LICENSE

1 What is Baybayin?

BAYBAYIN, a Tagalog word that literally means “to spell”, is a native 13th century writing script of the Tagalog-speaking regions of the Philippines. Originally carved into bamboo bark and palm leaves with pointed tools, the writing system is an “*abugida*” or syllabary script in which consonants are used as the base character, and vowels are added through notation around it. These consonant-vowel units create syllables, like its parent Brahmic or Indic scripts prevalent in Southeast Asia.

<p>ᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅ ᜆᜅ ᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅ ᜆᜅ ᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅ ᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅ</p>	<p>Panunumpa ng Katapatan sa Watawat ng Pilipinas</p>
<p>ᜆᜅᜆᜅ ᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅ</p>	Ako ay Pilipino
<p>ᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅ ᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅ</p>	Buong katapatang nanunumpa
<p>ᜆᜅ ᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅ ᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅ</p>	Sa watawat ng Pilipinas
<p>ᜆᜅᜆᜅ ᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅ ᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅ</p>	At sa bansang kanyang sinasagisag
<p>ᜆᜅ ᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅ ᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅ</p>	Na may dangal, katarungan at kalayaan
<p>ᜆᜅ ᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅ ᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅ</p>	Na pinakikilos ng sambayanang
<p>ᜆᜅᜆᜅ-ᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅ</p>	Maka-Diyos,
<p>ᜆᜅᜆᜅ-ᜆᜅᜆᜅ</p>	Maka-tao,
<p>ᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅ ᜆᜅᜆᜅ</p>	Makakalikasan, at
<p>ᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅᜆᜅ</p>	Makabansa.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Philippine Flag in Baybayin abugida and in Latin alphabet.

Baybayin is not the only native script in the Philippines. As an archipelago consisting of almost 8,000 islands, the country has a rich culture that is host to many unique dialects and writing systems, such as *Buhid*, *Hanunuo*, *Kulitan*, *Palaw'an*, and *Tagbanwa*. However, its recent popularity has seen its use as an umbrella term for all indigenous scripts of the Philippines, the same way Tagalog is often used to refer to the national language despite being just one of its many dialects.

2 Writing in Baybayin

Baybayin follows a set of general rules and conventions. Here are some key points to keep in mind...

2.1 Directionality: Left-to-Right

Baybayin is written and read horizontally from left to right:



2.2 Syllabic Characters: Abugida

As an *abugida* script, Baybayin makes use of combinations of characters and notations to form completed glyphs that represent syllables rather than individual letters:



Each glyph can correspond to a combination of a consonant sound and a vowel sound. Whenever a consonant is written without any notations, it is assumed to be accompanied by the “~a” vowel sound.

2.3 Consonants & Vowels: B17

There are 3 vowel characters:



And 14 consonant characters:



These are the 17 traditional base characters of the Baybayin script, commonly referred to as “B17”.

2.4 Character Notation: Kudlit & Pamudpod

Baybayin employs vowel notations to represent different vowel sounds. These are diacritical marks in the form of small ticks called *kudlit*, which are placed above or below a character, modifying the inherent “~a” vowel sound.

There are three types of notations...

2.4.1 VOWEL NOTATION

A *kudlit* (̣) placed above a consonant character modifies the vowel sound to “~e” or “~i”:

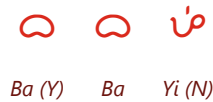


A *kudlit* (̤) placed below a consonant character modifies the vowel sound to “~o” or “~u”:



2.4.2 TERMINAL CONSONANTS

Traditionally, there are no terminal consonants written at the end of syllables in Baybayin. In other words, syllables were not written with ending consonant sounds. Readers would just mentally imply them:



This of course made Baybayin difficult to learn, especially for foreigners that did not have the contextual or cultural familiarity needed to read some of the words. Thus, vowel suppression was introduced in the 16th century.

2.4.3 VOWEL SUPPRESSION

A *krus-kudlit* (+) placed below a consonant, or a *pamudpod* (,) placed at the lower-right corner of a consonant suppresses the inherent “~a” vowel sound of a character (the same way the Sanskrit *virama* does in its own script):



With vowel suppression, terminal consonants can be written out explicitly:



Users of vowel suppression refer to their version of Baybayin as “B17+”.

2.4.4 OTHER CHARACTER NOTATIONS

There are other character notations being used or proposed by various local groups and individuals in the Baybayin community. These are generally either from unique writing eccentricities of authors in historical documents, or new ideas by contemporary artists and academics who aim to mold Baybayin for more efficient modern usage.

3.3 Babaying Sukat – Numbers, Punctuation, and Other Special Characters

The following numbers, punctuation, and special characters were included, as they are usually visible on standard QWERTY keyboards:

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 ~ ☺ # ₱ % ^ & * _ + - × / = () [] { } < > ; : ' " , . ÷ | \| ! ?

3.4 Unicode Supported

The **Baybaying Sukat** typeface supports the Baybayin block of the Tagalog Official Unicode Consortium Code Chart of the Unicode Standard, Version 15. This means the font can be used with a Baybayin keyboard.

4 Baybaying Sukat Fonts

There are two fonts in the **Baybaying Sukat** typeface:

1. Baybaying Sukat **Baguhan**
2. Baybaying Sukat **Bihasa**

Both are available in OpenType Font (OTF) and TrueType Font (TTF) format.

4.1 Baybaying Sukat BAGUHAN

The **Baguhan** font is intended for beginners who are new or are still learning Baybayin. It uses a decorative feature called “Ligatures” which allows applications like Microsoft Word to automatically recognize character pairings when typed next to each other. For example, typing the character “L” (𑄆) and the character for “i” (𑄃) together automatically replaces both characters with the joined character for “Li” (𑄆𑄃).



This makes it so that typing syllables using the Latin alphabet is more likely to produce the equivalent glyphs in Baybayin. Note however that this is not intended as a fool-proof substitute for learning the fundamentals. It is only meant to help users learn faster by closing the gap between typing with the Latin alphabet and with the Baybayin *abugida*.

Not all applications support Ligatures. For such applications, as well as for users who are already familiar with Baybayin, the alternative font **Bihasa** has been made available.

4.2 Baybaying Sukat BIHASA

The **Bihasa** font does not have Ligatures enabled, so it doesn't automatically convert letter pairings. It is intended for users who are already familiar with typing in Baybayin and don't rely on the automatic conversion provided by Ligatures.

To use the **Bihasa** font properly on a QWERTY keyboard, users must be aware of the following typing mechanics:

- Use consonant characters to produce the Baybayin glyph with its “~a” syllable.
 - E.g.: Typing [L] produces the “La” (𑄆) character.
- Use lower-case [n] for the “Na” (𑄆) character.
- Use upper-case [N] for the “Nga” (𑄆) character.
- Use lower-case vowels [e], [i], [o], [u] to add vowel notations to consonants.
 - E.g.: Typing [Le], [Li], [Lo], [Lu] produces the “Le” (𑄆), “Li” (𑄆), “Lo” (𑄆), “Lu” (𑄆) glyphs respectively.
- Use upper-case vowels [E], [I], [O], [U] to type vowel characters (𑄆 𑄆 𑄆 𑄆) instead of vowel notations.
- Use the [j] or [l] character after consonants to insert a vowel suppressor or virama.
 - E.g.: Typing [Lj] produces the “L” (𑄆) glyph.
 - E.g.: Typing [Ll] produces the “L” (𑄆) glyph.

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