

# Dajnko-Metelko DeJaVu

by [Daniel Bunčič](#)

The font [Dajnko-Metelko DeJaVu](#) is based on *DeJaVu Serif Condensed* and can therefore easily be combined with other condensed fonts of the [DeJaVu series](#), including [VecVideo](#).

The font contains the characters necessary for writing Slovene in the **Dajnko alphabet** (*dajnčica*, used between 1824 and 1839 mainly in Styria/Štajerska) and in the **Metelko alphabet** (*metelčica*, used between 1825 and 1833 mainly in Carniola/Kranjska).

Most of the special letters introduced by Peter Dajnko and Franc Serafin Metelko do not have their own Unicode positions (see the [first proposal of 2011](#), the [second proposal of 2022](#), and the [UTC minutes of April 2023](#), according to which the process is stalled until enough evidence of actual use cases is provided). In this font, I therefore assigned those letters that cannot directly be written with an existing Unicode character to letters that look at least similar. Some of these letters are Cyrillic, which is appropriate because both Dajnko and Metelko did indeed borrow some of their letters from the Cyrillic alphabet (at least  $\eta < \updownarrow$ ,  $\updownarrow < \updownarrow$ ,  $\updownarrow < \updownarrow$ ,  $\updownarrow < \updownarrow$ , and  $\updownarrow < \updownarrow$ ).

Modern	Dajnko	Metelko	SS
C c	С с	Ŋ ŋ U+0220, U+019E (Ŋ ŋ)	C c
Č č	Ч ч U+A78D, U+0265 (Ч ч)	Ч ч U+A78D, U+0265 (Ч ч)	Č č
E e (/e/)	Е е	Є є U+0404, U+0454 (Є є)	Ě ě
E e (/ə/)	Е е	Ɔ ɔ U+01A7, U+01A8 (Ɔ ɔ)	Ě ě
H h	Н н	Н н U+1E28, U+1E29 (Н н)	Ć ć
Lj lj	Л л	Л л U+013B, U+013C (Л л)	Ľ ľ
Nj nj	Њ њ U+014A, U+014B (Њ њ)	Њ њ U+0145, U+0146 (Њ њ)	Ň ň
O o (/ɔ/)	О о	Ø ø U+00D8, U+00F8 (Ø ø)	Ô ô
Š š	Ш ш U+0194, U+0263 (Ш ш) 8 8 U+0222, U+0223 (8 8)	У у U+0428, U+0448 (У у)	Š š
Šč šč	Шч шч	У у U+0429, U+0449 (У у)	Š š
Z z	З з	З з U+0417, U+0437 (З з)	Z z
Ž ž	Х х	Æ æ U+0416, U+0436 (Æ æ)	Ž ž

To ensure that your text will still look appropriate (e.g. “særŋe” or “reųz”) or at least similar to the intended output (e.g. “nøʒ” for “nøæ” or “danawŋe” for “danawne”) whenever this font is not available, **always use the Unicode letters** indicated in the table above. For individual words it might be easiest to use a character chart like [BabelMap](#) or the one provided by your text processor or operating system (note that the font also contains [combining diacritics](#)), or even to copy-paste the letters needed from this pdf.

For **longer texts**, you can enter the necessary characters using a comprehensive keyboard layout (e.g. [my keyboards](#) for Windows) or assign your own keyboard shortcuts in your text processor. Alternatively, you can activate the OpenType function **Stylistic Set 01** (for *metelčica*), **02** (for early *dajnčica* with “8”), and **03** (for later *dajnčica* with “š”) and enter the characters given in the last column of the table above (all of which can be [typed with a normal Slovene computer keyboard](#)). The Stylistic Sets will let you see the intended letter shapes, e.g. “w”/“8”/“š” when you enter “š” or “n”/“ŋ” when you enter “ň”. However, before you make your text available to others, be sure to find & replace every “š” in *Dajnko-Metelko DeJaVu* with “š” (for Dajnko’s “š”), “8” (for Dajnko’s earlier “8”), or “ŋ” (for Metelko’s “w”), etc., so that people who do not have the font or copy-paste from your pdf do not get “šercě” instead of “særŋe” or “ôřec” instead of “ørzų” for “ørzų”.

## Samples

### 1. Metelčica

#### Kozičena inž volk

Koza gre iz hléva na pašo, inž zapratí svøji kozičenz, vrat ne odprétz, dokler je nazaj ne bo. Kóme odide, æe tærka volk na vrata, po kozje meketá, in kozičeno kliče odprét. Ale kozičena se spomnz máternzga povelá, poluka skoze bžzen, in zagleda volká. Tebz ne bom odpirala nè, mu reče: deszravno kozji glas posnemaš, te vènder po tvøji podobe poznam, in véim, da sz volk, inž le po mojim mese hrepeniš.

Blagz mu, kdor ràd slúša; kdor po svøji tarmz, po svøjim nágnenz inž poæelénz ravná, se pogubí.

(Metelko, Franz Seraphin. 1825. *Lehrgebäude der Slowenifchen Sprache im Königreiche Illyrien und in den benachbarten Provinzen*. Laibach: Leopold Eger. [282-283](#))

### 2. Early Dajncica

#### Stara miš ino ñene mlade

Stara miš je svoje mlade opomenula, ñi dugo ñejo xivéti, se naj mačk ogiblejo. Kda pà je enkrat mačka ñe k' sebi vabila, ino jim dobrega zernja obeçalá dati, so mlade miši na svoje matere opomín pozabile, ino k' mački šle; kak hitro pà so tam bile, je jè mačka pojéla.

Tota fabula vyúí: Keri na dobre opomíne pozabijo, so sami na svoji nesreči krivi.

(Dainko, Peter. 1824. *Lehrbuch der Windifchen Sprache: Ein Verfuch zur gründlichen Erlernung derselben für Deutsche, zur vollkommeneren Kenntniß für Slowenen*. Grätz: Johann Andreas Kienreich. [311](#))

### 3. Later Dajncica

#### Na nedúxno mladost

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Čyte me hlapúíi!<br>Čyte me deklíi!<br>Vi mi snaxni ste,<br>Kakti cvetjiče.    | 3. Vaxa dyxna snaga<br>Xe je bole draga,<br>Kak pa zlato vso,<br>Kero glešta kdo. |
| 2. Zlosti xe ne znate,<br>Čisto serce mate,<br>No v' neduxnosti<br>Xe xivíte vsi. | 4. Anželskem vnoxéstvi,<br>Boxjem veliústvi<br>Ste spodobni vi<br>Vu neduxnosti.  |
| 5. Blaxeni, veséli<br>Veuni mír iméli<br>Bote v' Bogi vi<br>Vu neduxnosti.        |   |

(Dainko, Peter. 1827. *Posvetne pesmi med slovenskim narodom na Štajerskem*. Radgona: v' Alojz Wajcinger'ovemi knjigari. [34-35](#).)

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## Version history

Version 1.0 (16 October 2025):

- font created from *DejaVu Serif Condensed* by adding the Dajenko and Metelko glyphs, deleting characters not necessary for writing 19th-century Slovene, and adding the OpenType features SS01-SS03