

Dajnko-Metelko Libertinus

by [Daniel Bunčič](#)

The font [Dajnko-Metelko Libertinus](#) is based on *Libertinus Serif* and can therefore easily be combined with the [Libertinus fonts](#).

Like [Dajnko-Metelko DejaVu](#), this 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 $\eta < \text{ц}$, $\varphi < \text{ч}$, $\omega < \text{ш}$, $\Psi < \text{ш}$, and $\text{æ} < \text{ж}$).

Modern	Dajnko	Metelko	SS
C c	Ĉ ĉ	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/)	E e	€ € U+0404, U+0454 (€ €)	Ě ě
E e (/ə/)	E e	Ʒ ʒ U+01A7, U+01A8 (Ʒ ʒ)	Ě ě
H h	H h	Ĥ ĥ U+1E28, U+1E29 (Ĥ ĥ)	Ć ć
Lj lj	L l	Ł ł U+013B, U+013C (Ł ł)	Ľ ľ
Nj nj	Ŋ ŋ U+014A, U+014B (Ŋ ŋ)	Ŋ ŋ U+0145, U+0146 (Ŋ ŋ)	Ň ň
O o (/ɔ/)	O o	Ø ø U+00D8, U+00F8 (Ø ø)	Ô ô
Š š	Ÿ ŷ U+0194, U+0263 (Ÿ ŷ) 8 8 U+0222, U+0223 (8 8)	Ů ů U+0428, U+0448 (Ů ů)	Š š
Šč šč	8ϕ 8ϕ	Ψ ψ U+0429, U+0449 (Ψ ψ)	Ś ś
Z z	Z z	Ʒ ʒ U+0417, U+0437 (Ʒ ʒ)	Z z
Ž ž	X x	Æ æ U+0416, U+0436 (Æ æ)	Ž ž

To ensure that your text will still look appropriate (e.g. “særŋe” or “reϕz”) or at least similar to the intended output (e.g. “nøž” for “nøæ” or “danamŋe” for “danaωne”) wherever 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 “s”), or **03** (for later *dajnčica* with “ŋ”) 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. “ω”/“s”/“ŋ” 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 Libertinus* with “ŷ” (for Dajnko’s “ŋ”), “8” (for Dajnko’s earlier “8”), or “ш” (for Metelko’s “ω”), etc., so that people who do not have the font or copy-paste from your pdf do not get “šercě” instead of “særŋe” or “ôrec” instead of “ørzĥ” for “ørzĥ”.

Samples

1. Metelčica

Kozičena inž volk

Koza gre iz hléva na pašo, inž zaprétí svøji kozičeni, vrat ne odprétz, dokler je nazaj ne bo. Kóme odide, æe tærka volk na vrata, po koziže meketá, in kozičeno kliče odprét. Ale kozičena se spomna máternaga povelá, poluka skoza bæzen, in zagleda volká. Tebæ ne bom odpirala nè, mu reče: deszravno koziži glas posnemaš, te vènder po tvøji podobz poznam, in véim, da sz volk, inž le po mojim mesz hrepeniš.

Blagar mu, kdor ràd slúwa; kdor po svøji tærma, po svøjim nágnenaz inž poæelénaz ravná, se pogubí.

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

2. Early Dajničica

Stara miš ino njene mlade

Stara miš je svoje mlade opomenula, Ÿi dolgo Ÿejo xivéti, se naj maŸk ogiblejo. Kda pa je enkrat maŸka nj k' sebi vabila, ino jim dobrega zernja obeŸala dati, so mlade misi na svoje matere opomín pozabile, ino k' maŸki sle; kak hitro pa so tam bile, je jè maŸka pojéla.

Tota fabula vyŸí: Keri na dobre opomíne pozabijo, so sami na svoji nesreŸi krivi.

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

3. Later Dajničica

Na nedúxno mladost

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Čyte me hlapčiji!
Čyte me deklji!
Vi mi snaxni ste,
Kakti cvetjiče. | 3. Vaša dyšna snaga
Še je bole draga,
Kak pa zlato vso,
Kero glešta kdo. |
| 2. Zlosti še ne znate,
Čisto serce mate,
No v' neduxnosti
Še xivíte vsi. | 4. Anjelskem vnoxéstvi,
Boxjem veličéstvi
Ste spodobni vi
Vu neduxnosti. |
| 5. Blaxeni, veséli
VeŸni mír iméli
Bote v' Bogi vi
Vu neduxnosti. | |

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

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Version 1.1 – 26 February 2007

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Version history

Version 1.0 (30 January 2026):

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