

The 'Whisper mark' is an artistic project that focuses on creating a balance to the much overused exclamation mark.



Why?

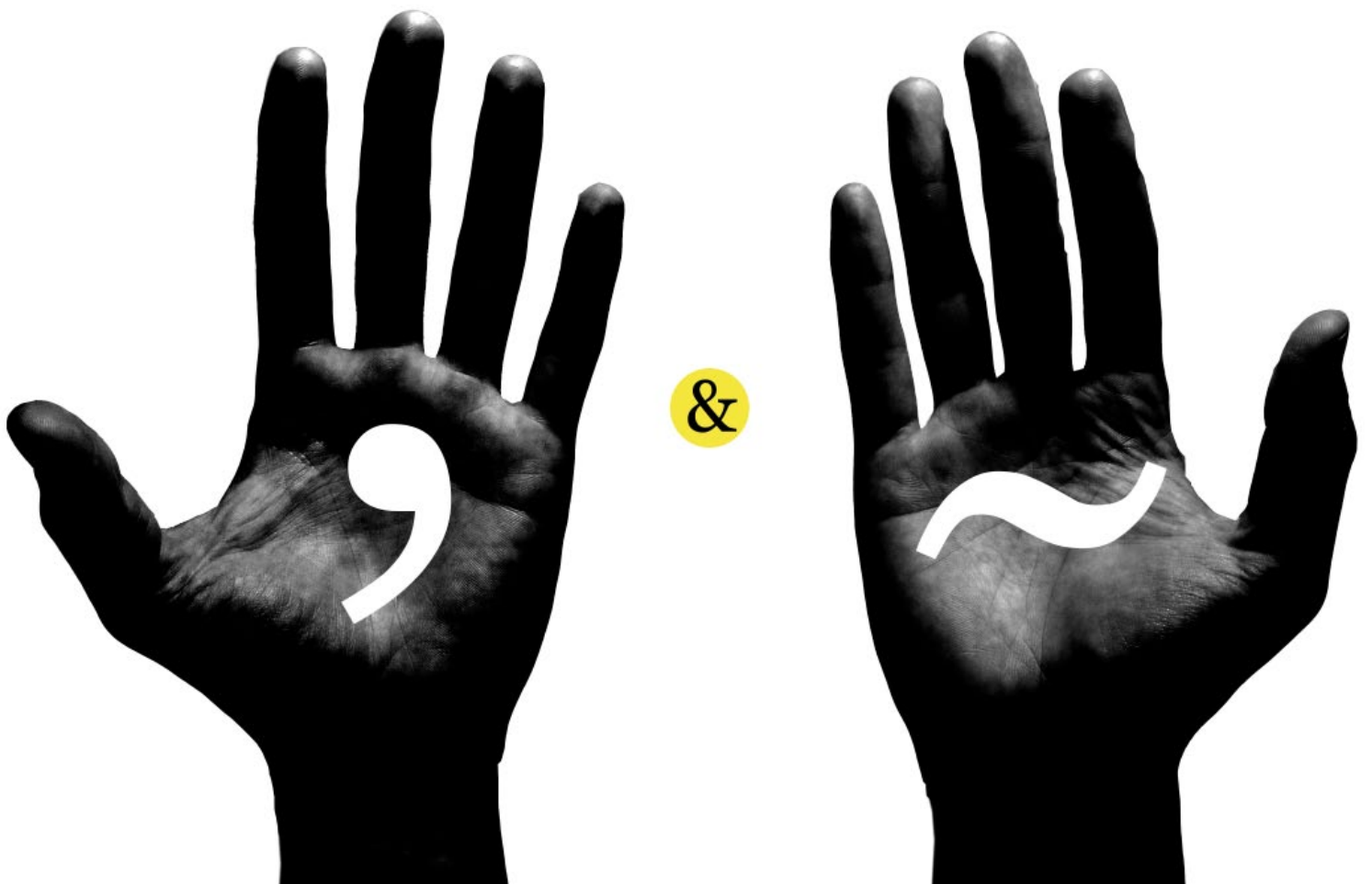
The creation of the whisper mark shall give people the opportunity for an intimate and quiet, and therefore more peaceful, way of communication in contradiction to constant shouting.

The origin of the project was my idea that arose while I was reading a book. Every other sentence seemed to be written with ‘he whispered’, ‘she said quietly’ etc., but when the characters were shouting it was simply enough to put an exclamation mark. I put the book aside and thought: ‘Why there is no whisper mark?!’ Then I thought of an art project that would focus on designing and introducing a new punctuation mark, the WHISPER MARK. Words that are whispered can be the most powerful ones. When we share an observation, a deeply hidden emotion or when we admit that we made a mistake, thereby showing our weak side to a person we trust, we whisper. The WHISPER MARK is a tool that enables better and fuller communication because it widens our emotional spectrum and ways of expressing thoughts in writing. It helps in developing intimate, more sensitive spheres of understanding in writing about difficult matters. It is also a balance to the overused exclamation mark. The WHISPER MARK fills the gap in punctuation by allowing writers to easily mark a part of text that is to be interpreted as spoken softly. This way the author of the text and the reader obtain full communication of expressions that have intimate spirit, but still can use phrases that describe the expression very precisely such as: whispered, muttered, hissed, said quietly, etc. Just as the exclamation mark functions as an indicator of a sentence with a higher immediacy, e.g., emotions like excitement and anxiety, WHISPER MARKS indicates emotions such as uncertainty, intimacy and softness.



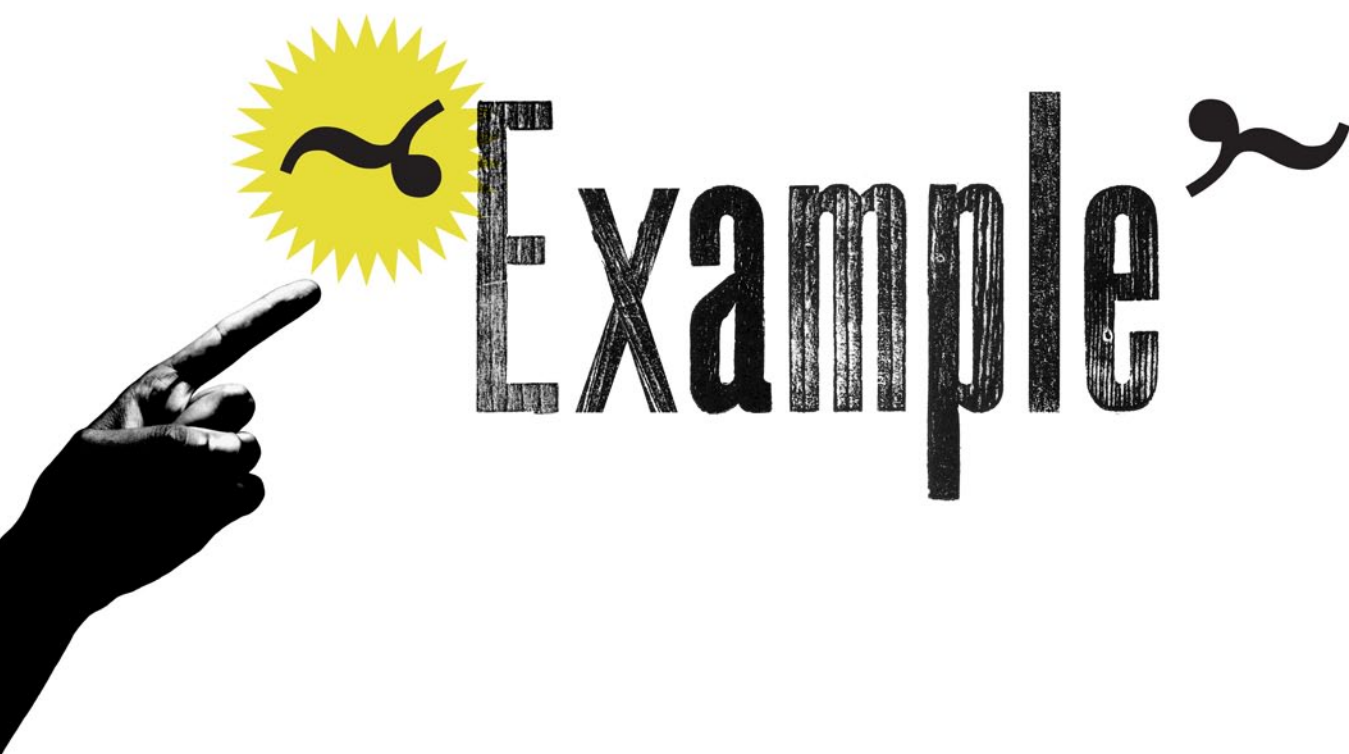
This is the basic graphic form of Whisper mark.

It's made of an apostrophe and a tilde.

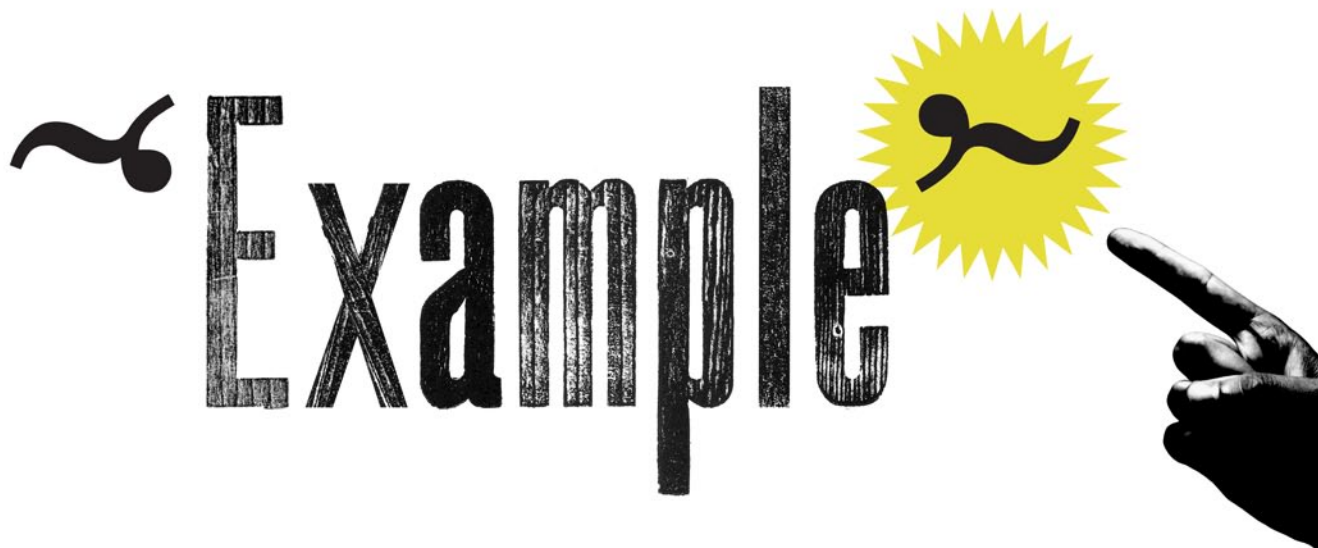


Whisper mark takes alternate positions
at the beginning or end of
a sentence or phrase.

At the beginning
of whispered sentence
you should use:



At the end
of whispered sentence
you should use:



WHISPER MARK DEFINITION

The whisper mark is a graphical representation or character used in written do describe the manner of articulation (quiet, indistinct speech, whisper). The whisper mark is also intended to convey emotions and underline intimacy which describes or refers to. Considering the emotional burden of expression, it resembles the exclamation and question marks, unfinished sentences, the pause. There are two graphic representations of the whisper mark:



[character 1] – used in the beginning of a whispered passage,

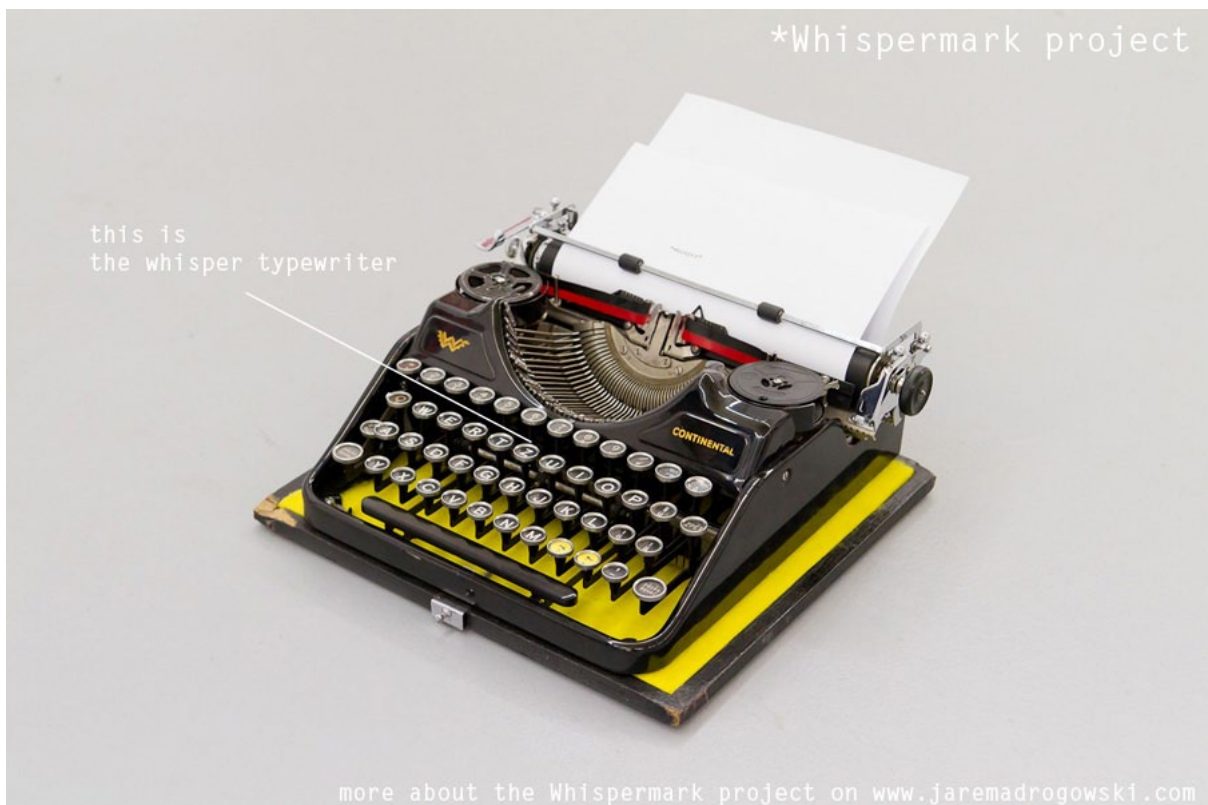


[character 2] – used in the end of a whispered passage

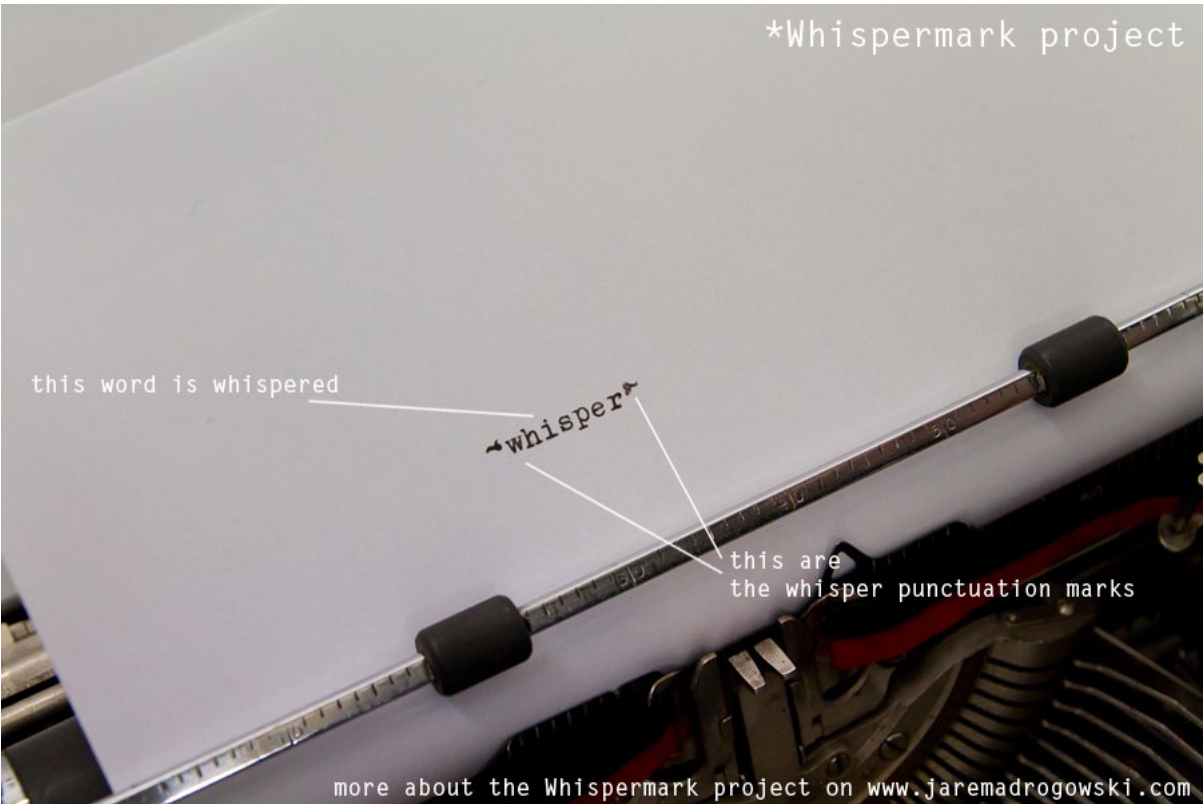
In written text, the whisper mark can be used together with all punctuation marks. The following rules govern its use:

1. [Character 1]– the opening mark – always directly precedes the first word to be whispered; where this word is put in brackets or quote marks, the whisper mark is written directly after the opening bracket or quotation mark. It is also put after the coma, semicolon, colon, hyphen or ellipsis preceding the first word to be whispered.
2. [Character 2] – the closing mark – is put after the full stop or above it wherever possible.
3. [Character 2] is used after the exclamation and question marks or ellipsis.
4. [Character 2] is use before the semicolon, dash or bracket.

exhibition examples



‘Whisper Typewriter’





installation at the Venice Biennale 2011

~there is no reason~

J. D. [unclear]

~there is a reason~

J. D. [unclear]