All of these samples show 8.5/10.5 Sabon for the alphabetic type, and the three styles of Chinese type most common in scholarly publishing: Ming, Kai and Fang Song. Ming is the standard style for printed Chinese (and Japanese, where it is called ‘Mincho’). Ming characters tend to be larger and spaced more closely than Kai and Fang Song at the same nominal size, and I generally add tracking—though not below; I also adjust the baseline for the East Asian type, as this varies between fonts, and often the relative size. Ming is available in many more weights. Kai and Fang Song can be more attractive, but are less appropriate in some circumstances, for example, for reconstructing archaic characters. Many sinological works cite Japanese sources, and I can offer Japanese typefaces corresponding to all three—but note that Fang Song is not often used for Japanese. I generally recommend traditional characters as more universal, but I offer simplified characters (mainland China) in various weights and encodings. For small type sizes I usually recommend Ming or Fang Song, as Kai’s broader strokes are more likely to fill in complex characters; I always urge checking samples when considering sizes smaller than 8 points, as Chinese is harder to read at small sizes than alphabetic text, and less likely to survive offset lithography.

Medium Ming


Medium Kai


Fang Song Medium


I will be glad to answer any questions I can,

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