DRAKON Visual Language

Tutorial. Part 3: Simple recipes of beauty
Metre

What is “metre”?  
In poetry, metre is the basic rhythmic structure of a verse.

What is “metre” in graphics?  
The rule that prescribes to have the same distance between any two neighboring elements.
Metre: the same distance between neighboring elements

Live a day

Wake up

Work

Go to bed

End
Metre: the same distance between neighboring elements
Metre: the same distance between neighboring elements

Knight at a crossroad

Where to go?

To the left
   - You will find nothing

Straight ahead
   - You will lose your horse

To the right
   - You will lose your life

End
Metre: the same distance between neighboring elements

Knight at a crossroad

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End

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Straight ahead

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Metre: the same distance between neighboring elements

Awkward move

Make a sudden turn at the table

Did you drop the cup?

Yes

Did the cup break?

No

Pick up the cup from the floor

Clean the floor

End

Yes

Collect the fragments
This distance is greater because of the “No” text
Metre is good because

- It brings style into the diagram
- It creates visually pleasant order

Metre is an easy way to make the diagram look professional
What is “rhythm”? The arrangement of musical sounds in time.

What is “rhythm” on a DRAKON chart? The rule that prescribes increased distance between silhouette branches.
Rhythm

What is “rhythm”? The arrangement of musical sounds in time.

What is “rhythm” on a DRAKON chart? The rule that prescribes increased distance between silhouette branches.

The arrangement of branches in space
Rhythm is 2-3 times greater than metre
Rhythm is 2-3 times greater than metre
Rhythm

• Clearly separates branches.
• When there is rhythm,

just a quick glance on the DRAKON chart is enough to see the branches.
The same width of icons on a skewer

Why do all icons on a skewer have to be of the same width?

- The skewer looks like a single entity
- No icons pop out. The variation of width does not distract the reader
Live a day
Wake up
Work
Go to bed
End
Only the icons that are part of the algorithm should be of the same width.

The widths of the header and the “End” icon should not be aligned with other icons.
The same width of icons on a skewer

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The same width of icons on a skewer

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The same width of icons on a skewer

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Air

is empty space between the text and
the border of the icon

Add the beaten egg
and milk

Add the beaten egg
and milk
There should be enough air, but not too much
Оптимальное количество воздуха

1. Затереть черный перец в пищевом комбайне
2. Добавить взбитое яйцо и молоко

- Недостаточно воздуха. Мало воздуха.
- Избыток воздуха.
- Прямо хватает.
Common fate

What is “common fate”? An obvious interconnection between two or more icons on different skewers.
The “Show screen” icons have a common fate

- Logon
  - Request password
  - Password correct?
    - Yes: Create session, Show "Welcome" screen
    - No: Show "Access denied" screen
- End
Common fate

When do icons have a common fate?

- When they perform the same or similar action,
- but have a difference that depends on the skewer
Icons with a common fate are aligned by the top edge

1. Logon
2. Request password
3. Password correct?
   - No
   - Yes: Create session
4. Show "Welcome" screen
5. Show "Access denied" screen
6. End
Summary

Beauty techniques on DRAKON charts:

- metre
- rhythm
- same width
- air
- common fate
Summary

Beauty techniques on DRAKON charts:

- **metre:** the same distance between neighboring elements
- **rhythm:** an increased distance between silhouette branches
- **same width:** the same width of icons on a skewer
- **air:** enough space between the text and the border
- **common fate:** vertical alignment of interrelated icons
The diagrams on the slides were made with DRAKON Editor

http://drakon-editor.sourceforge.net/

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