

Ogham alphabet

The present day Ogham alphabet is composed of 15 consonants and 5 vowels plus 5 more special characters for foreign sounds. By present day I mean since about 500 AD. The base alphabet is arranged in 4 groups of 5

B L F S N
H D T C Q
M G Ng Z R
A O U E I

This is an expanded version of a 12 consonant and 5 vowel original which has been adapted to the Gaelic language. F, S, H and C are the Gaelic equivalents of W, Sh, S and K. The 3 consonants added were Q, G and Ng.

The 12 consonant version is arranged in 4 groups of 3 around the Zodiac circle with each group of 3 being associated with one of the four elements. Reading counterclockwise in the order of the Zodiac...

E - Air - puffs and breathings
B L W

A - Water - purls and flows
Sh N S

O - Fire - snaps and clicks
D T K

I - Earth - grinds and hums
M Z R

U - Center

