STUDIO HELPER

SELF-INITIATED CONCEPT · 2026

Marginalia · an instrument for the second pass

A book is written once and read twice.

The second reading argues with the first, and that argument has always lived in the margin — in a different hand, and for six hundred years in a different ink.



Marginalia

Rule 240 · 6061-T6 anodised · twelve marks cut at the measure

01 THE SYSTEM

The margin is the instrument.

Medieval scribes left the red to a second worker. The rubricator came after the text was set down and added headings, corrections and objections in minium — a red lead so characteristic of the work that the small paintings beside it took their name from the pigment.

The rule restores that division of labour. It registers on the page edge, holds the measure, and keeps the second pass out of the first one's way.

MEASURE	486 units · 96 mm margin column
RULE	240 × 26 × 6 mm · anodised aluminium
DETENT	every 16 mm, registered on the fore-edge
INK	minium, second pass only — never the first



02 ANATOMY

Four parts, one extrusion.

Everything the rule does, it does with its section. The plate carries the notation, the lip finds the page, the window holds the line being read, and the chamfer keeps the whole thing off the paper.



PLATE	6 mm · brushed, then anodised
LIP	2.2 mm · folded 90°, registers the edge
WINDOW	62 × 15 mm · 1 mm glass, seated in a rebate
APERTURES	twelve marks, cut through · one bridged

03 THE NOTATION

Twelve arguments a reader can make.

One stroke weight, one grid. Each mark is cut through the rule, printed on the page and set in this interface from the same geometry, so the mark you cut is the mark you print.

THE NOTATION · HOVER OR PRESS





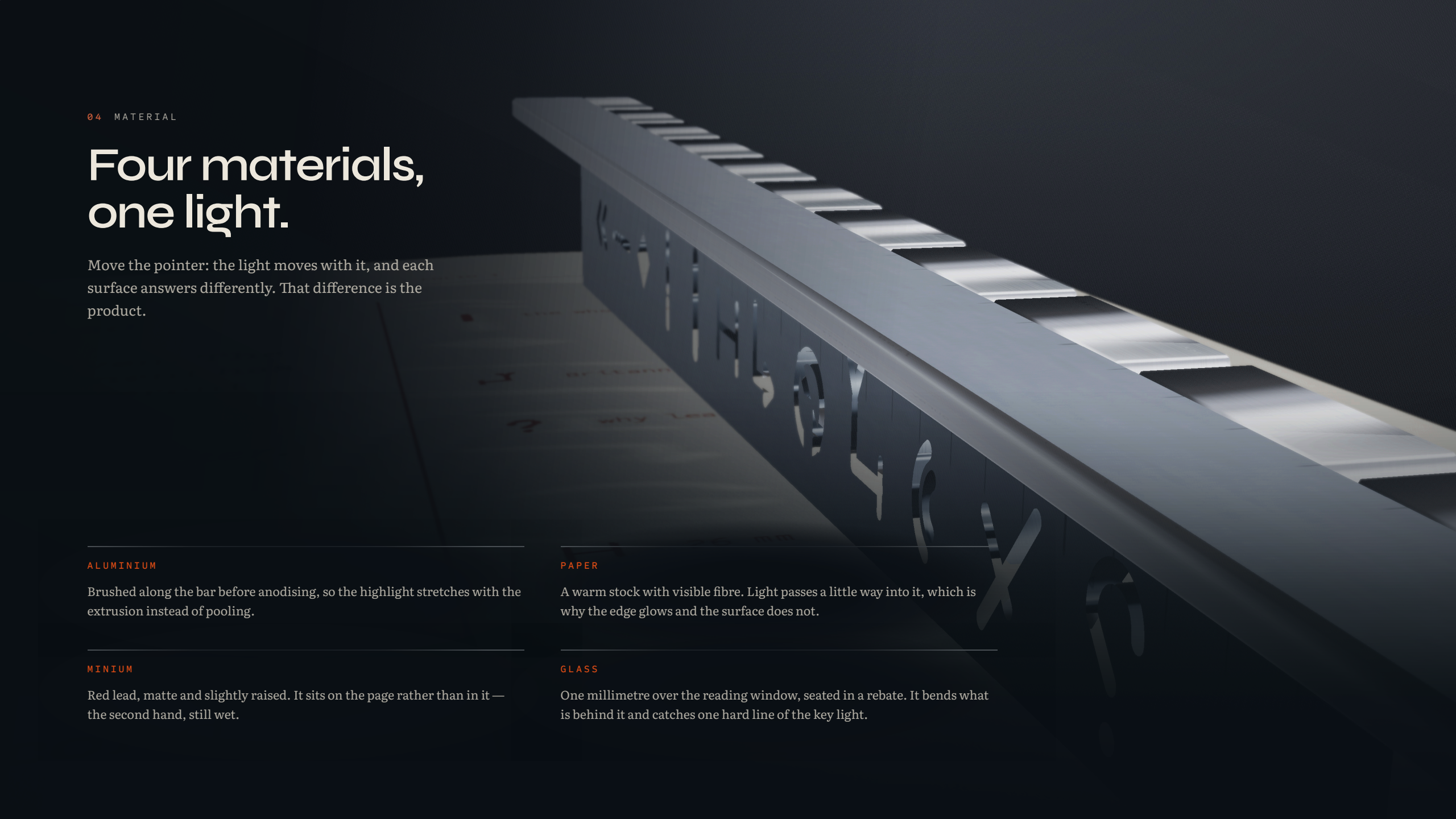
Twelve marks

One stroke weight, one grid, three states: cut, inked, set.

04 MATERIAL

Four materials, one light.

Move the pointer: the light moves with it, and each surface answers differently. That difference is the product.



ALUMINIUM

Brushed along the bar before anodising, so the highlight stretches with the extrusion instead of pooling.

PAPER

A warm stock with visible fibre. Light passes a little way into it, which is why the edge glows and the surface does not.

MINIUM

Red lead, matte and slightly raised. It sits on the page rather than in it — the second hand, still wet.

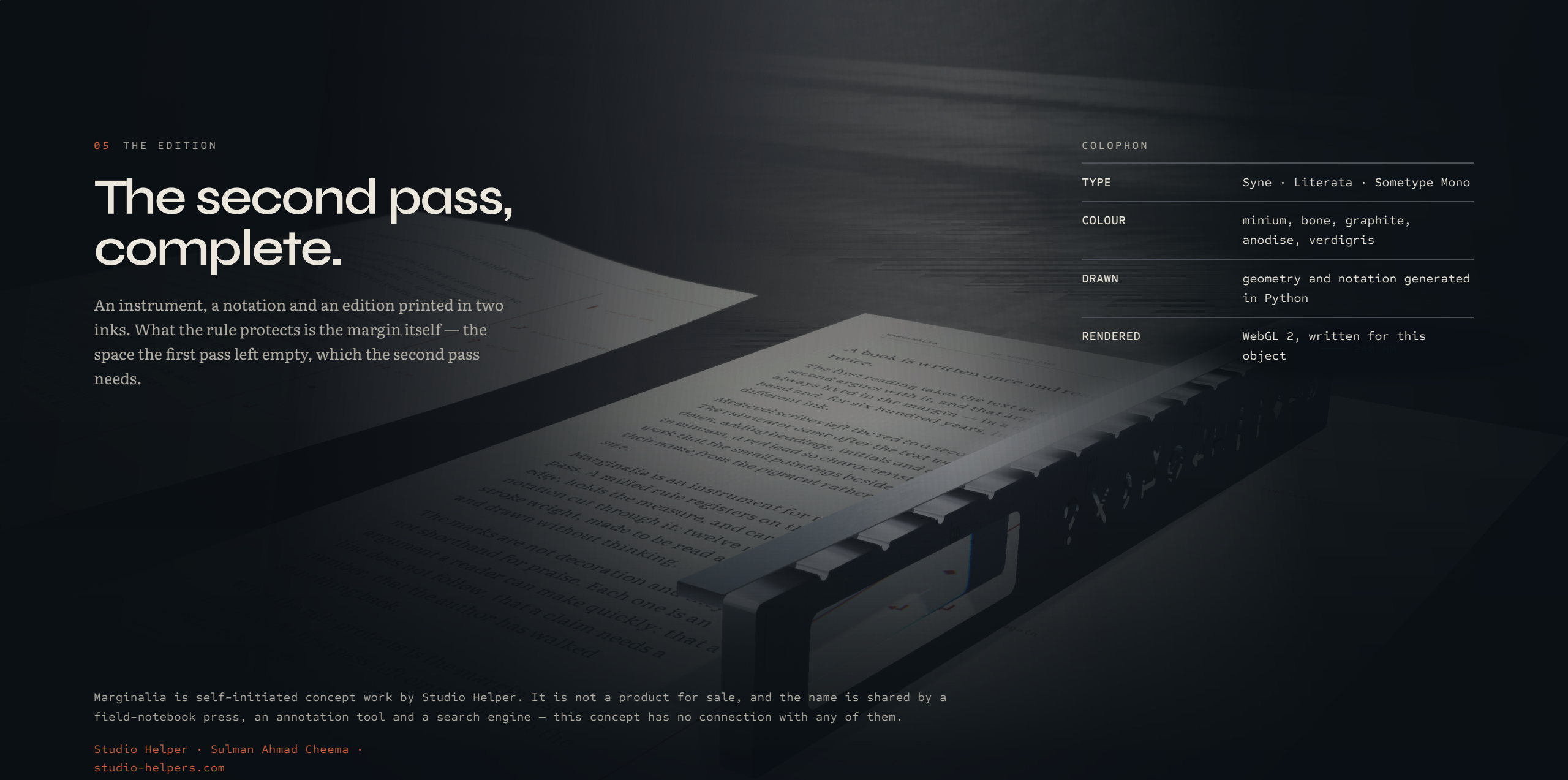
GLASS

One millimetre over the reading window, seated in a rebate. It bends what is behind it and catches one hard line of the key light.

05 THE EDITION

The second pass, complete.

An instrument, a notation and an edition printed in two inks. What the rule protects is the margin itself — the space the first pass left empty, which the second pass needs.



COLOPHON

TYPE	Syne · Literata · Sometype Mono
COLOUR	minium, bone, graphite, anodise, verdigris
DRAWN	geometry and notation generated in Python
RENDERED	WebGL 2, written for this object

Marginalia is self-initiated concept work by Studio Helper. It is not a product for sale, and the name is shared by a field-notebook press, an annotation tool and a search engine — this concept has no connection with any of them.

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