

Creating drop capitals using side floats

A drop capital is a large sized letter, word or text. Normally, the drop cap applies to the first letter of a paragraph.

In XSL FO drop capitals effect created using side floats.

[XSL FO Recommendation, Chapter 6.10.2 "fo:float"](#)

In this test you can see both graphic and textual drop caps created with `fo:float` that has `float="start"`.

Floats dimensions derived from its content width/height, accompanying text should wrap around floating block. Drop capital in this paragraph implemented using side float that contains `fo:block` with single big letter "F". Floats dimensions derived from its content width/height, accompanying text should wrap around floating block. Drop capital in this paragraph implemented using side float that contains `fo:block` with single big letter "F".

Textual drop cap created with the following code:

```
<fo:block margin="0pt" padding="6pt">
  <fo:float float="start">
    <fo:block margin="0pt"
              color="red"
              text-depth="0pt"
              font-size="62pt"
              line-height="40pt"
              font-weight="bold"
              font-family="Courier">F</fo:block>
  </fo:float>
  loats dimensions derived from its content width/height...
</fo:block>
```

Floats dimensions derived from its content width/height, accompanying text should wrap around floating block. Drop capital in this paragraph implemented using side float that contains `fo:block` with gif image depicting letter "F". Floats dimensions derived from its content width/height, accompanying text should wrap around floating block. Drop capital in this paragraph implemented using side float that contains `fo:block` with gif image depicting letter "F".

Graphical drop cap created with the following code:

```
<fo:block margin="0pt" padding="6pt">
  <fo:float float="start">
    <fo:block>
      <fo:external-graphic src="url('Images/f-cap.gif')"/>
    </fo:block>
  </fo:float>
  loats dimensions derived from its content width/height...
</fo:block>
```