

Love-Art[®]

THE ART OF
Calligraphy

INTRODUCTION

Calligraphy can be beautiful and adds creative flair to any handwritten project. Calligraphy is an analog skill that offers a much needed respite in our digital world.

This booklet is designed to help you get started with Calligraphy. It is a helpful introduction into the basic techniques, terms and styles of Calligraphy.

Calligraphy takes a lot of practice and patience please do not try to do everything that is shown in this booklet at once, make sure you learn the basics before advancing through the booklet.

If you can find a Calligraphy class in your area this would add to your skill level and the teachers will also be able to show you where you might be going wrong and how to correct it, it's also great to belong to a group where like minded people can share your passion, plus, it's always easier to learn with others.

BRIEF HISTORY

Calligraphy, the art of beautiful handwriting. The term may derive from the Greek words for "beauty" (kallos) and "to write" (graphein). It implies a sure knowledge of the correct form of letters - i.e., the conventional signs by which language can be communicated - and the skill to make them with such ordering of the various parts and harmony of proportions that the experienced, knowledgeable eye will recognize such composition as a work of art.

In the Middle East and East Asia, calligraphy by long and exacting tradition is considered a major art, equal to sculpture or painting. In Western culture the plainer Greek- and Latin-derived alphabets and the spread of literacy have tended to make handwriting in principle an art that anyone can practice. Nonetheless, after the introduction of printing in Europe in the mid-15th century, a clear distinction arose between handwriting and more elaborate forms of scripts and lettering.

It has often been assumed that the printing process ended the manuscript tradition. This is not quite true: for example, most of the surviving books of hours (lavish private devotional manuscript books) date from the period after the introduction of printing. Furthermore, certain types of publications, such as musical scores, scientific notation, and other specialized or small-audience works, continued to be handwritten well into the 19th century. Printing and handwriting began to influence each other: for example, modern advertising continues to incorporate calligraphy.

ESSENTIAL LEARNING

1.) *There are distinctive parts of the nib and pen and you should know them.*

Before you even begin, you need know what what you're dealing with.

The nib (fig 1) and the feed (fig 1b), have distinctive parts, and knowing the lingo can be extremely helpful when, later on, you're trying to figure out the exact tool you need.

2.) *How you hold the pen matters.* Unlike regular writing, where you can basically just pick up an implement and go, calligraphy requires a special method of holding and wielding your pen.

Holding your pen is critical to your letterforms, hold your pen at a 45 degree angle for optimal line drawing and hold the pen so the end of the nib is flush to (evenly in contact with) the surface of the paper - this is the only position in which the pen will produce smooth, even strokes. This might feel a little strange at first, but honestly, it works (fig 2).

3.) *The stroke is key.* Consider your average hand-written note – do you focus more on the word itself, or all of the individual parts of each letter? In calligraphy, at least at first, you'll be doing the latter. Letters are composed of multiple strokes, and practicing those strokes is how you'll become proficient.

Warm up first, to get ink flowing evenly, firstly move the pen side to side and then do a whole page of just strokes (see next page), even before you form a letter or even a word, practice making lines – eventually, you'll get there.

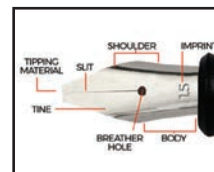


fig 1.

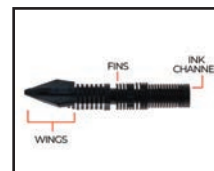


fig 1b.

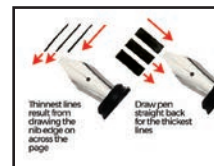
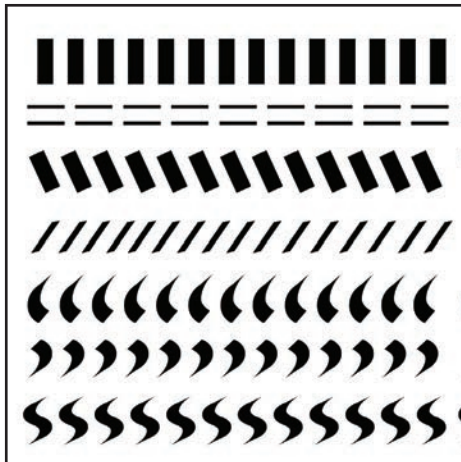


fig 2.

PRACTICE, PRACTICE!

Master the basics first.

We know you want to jump straight in and start lettering your first wedding invites or envelopes but nibs and inks are tricky little tools that take some getting used to, your first attempts will look shaky and scraggly and inconsistent. As boring as it seems your letterforms will be made out of these strokes and shapes, mastering these shapes will make creating your letterforms so much easier... honest! Use the practice sheet on the next page to trace over, we suggest that practicing for 45 minutes twice a week will see your lettering improve really quickly.



The thickest lines are produced by pulling straight back with the pen, thinner lines can be produced by drawing the nib edge on across the page. When writing ensure that the pen is angled at around 45° to the paper.

MORE PRACTICE!

Letters!

So you've got the strokes and basics sorted, good, now it's time to move onto the letterforms, again practice, practice, practice is the key to good lettering, don't attempt to write whole sentences yet, get to grips with each letter individually follow the guides on the letters below and remember to bring all the practice from the last page into this.



STYLES

Uncial is a majuscule script (written entirely in capital letters) commonly used from the 4th to 8th centuries AD by Latin and Greek scribes. Uncial letters were used to write Greek, Latin, and Gothic.

Early uncial script is likely to have developed from late Old Roman cursive. Early forms are characterized by broad single stroke letters using simple round forms taking advantage of the new parchment and vellum surfaces, as opposed to the angular, multiple stroke letters, which are more suited for rougher surfaces, such as Papyrus.



STYLES

Gothic Script. Blackletter (sometimes black letter), also known as Gothic script, Gothic minuscule, or Textura, was a script used throughout Western Europe from approximately 1150 to well into the 17th century. It continued to be used for the Danish language until 1875, and was used for the German language until the 20th century.

SHOPPING LIST

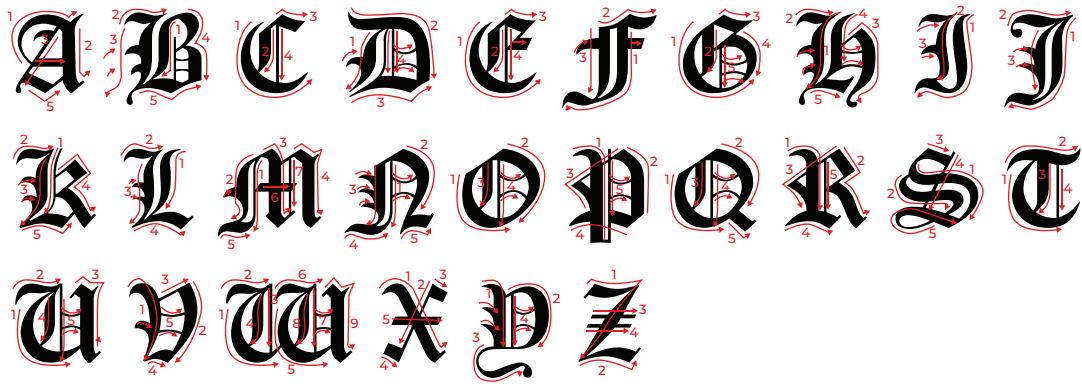
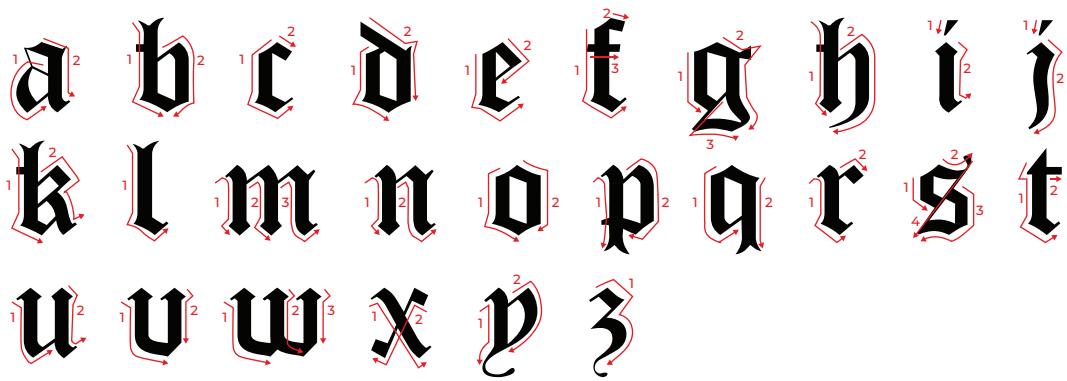
Time for more supplies

Okay, so you have made your first steps into the big wide world of Calligraphy. Don't be put off if you haven't got it just right yet, it takes time and practice. When you feel you have mastered the Calligraphy pens you could go on to learn to use dip in nibs, gouache paint for colour work and better paper that would look good when framed? There are many other styles of Calligraphy that you could go on to learn, why not join a Calligraphy group on social media or even better, join a Calligraphy group that's local to you?

Below are a few items that might help finish your style.

Paper - for practice, a smooth photocopying paper or lined paper is adequate - for finished art, a nice smooth card that would be suitable for framing, maybe even an antique finish

- Medium Pencil - for drawing guidelines
- Pencil Sharpener
- 30cm Ruler
- Eraser



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