Ascender Line — Ascender — Cross Bar — Shoulder

X-Height

Baseline

Letterings

Tail

Stem — Loop — Descender

Ascender Line: A line marking the topmost point of your letters

X-Height: The height of a lowercase x, used to represent the height of the main body of a lowercase letter, the midpoint of an uppercase letter, or ascending lowercase letter

Baseline: The imaginary line upon which the letters appear to rest

Stem: The main vertical stroke of a letterform

Ascender: A letter that extends past the x-height to reach the ascender line

Descender: The part of a letter that descends below the baseline

Cross Bar: The horizontal stroke that intersects a letter

Shoulder: The downward curving stroke of a lowercase h, m, or n

Loop: An exaggerated swash added to a letter's tail, cross bar, entry stroke, or exit stroke

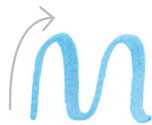**Tail:** A decorative, curved descender

Basic Strokes

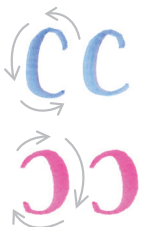|	
	Downstrokes: Press hard and use full pressure to create a thick line moving in a downward direction.
	Upstrokes: Use only the tip of the brush pen with very little pressure to create a thin line moving in an upward direction.
	Changing Pen Pressure: Change pen pressure halfway through the stroke to join upstrokes and downstrokes.
	Drawing Curves: Curves have two pressure transitions. Practice drawing curves clockwise and counter clockwise, alternating beginning with upstrokes and downstrokes.
	Loops & Tails: Press hard and use full pressure to create a thick line moving in a downward direction.

Consistency

Consistency is one of the most important principles in hand lettering. It can help with legibility and elevate lettering from an amateur level.

Tips to Create Consistent Lettering:

- **Kerning:** Pay attention to the spacing in between letters.
- **Stroke Width:** Focus on making all upstrokes an equal thin width and all downstrokes an equal thick width.
- **Slant:** Keep the angle of your letters the same.
- **Letter Size:** Keep the letter sizing consistent for the x-height, ascenders, and descenders.

Lettering Styles

SERIF

Serif: A small line or stroke attached to the end of a larger stroke in a letter

SANS SERIF

Sans Serif: A minimalistic letter or typeface without serifs

script

Script: Handwriting with connected letters, typically in cursive or calligraphy

PRO TIP!

Hold your brush pen at a 45° angle to easily achieve thin upstrokes and thick downstrokes. This will keep the lettering smooth, and prevent your marker from fraying!

Where is the tip of your marker pointing?

Make sure the tip is pointing toward the left or right edge of the paper, never straight up toward the ceiling.

Brush Lettering

Warm Up Strokes

Practice the Alphabet

Aa Aa   Bb Bb

Cc Cc   Dd Dd

Ee Ee   Ff Ff

Tombow
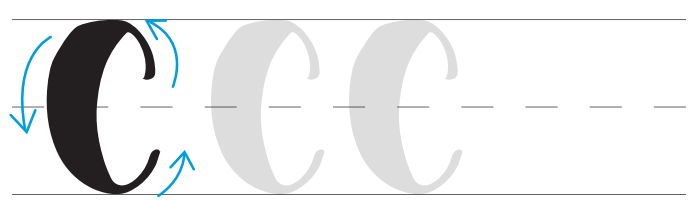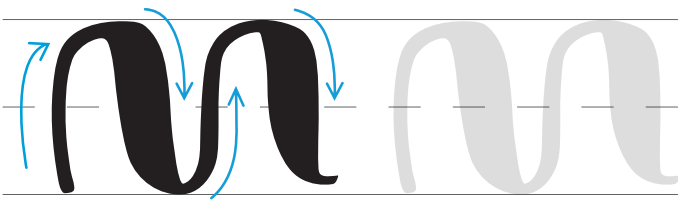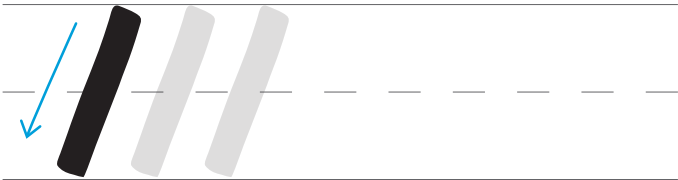
Gg Gg

Hh Hh

Ii Ii

Jj Jj

Kk Kk

Ll Ll

Mm Mm

Nn Nn

Oo Oo

Pp Pp

Qq Qq

Rr Rr

Ss Ss

Tt Tt

Uu Uu Vv Vv

Ww Ww Xx Xx

Yy Yy Zz Zz

Try Putting It All Together!

Tombow

FAUX
calligraphy

Step 1:
Draw
Monoline Letter

Step 2:
Outline
Downstrokes

Step 3:
Fill in
Downstrokes

$A \rightarrow A \rightarrow A$

$B \rightarrow B \rightarrow B$

$C \rightarrow C \rightarrow C$

$D \rightarrow D \rightarrow D$

$E \rightarrow E \rightarrow E$

$F \rightarrow F \rightarrow F$

$G \rightarrow G \rightarrow G$

$H \rightarrow H \rightarrow H$

$I \rightarrow I \rightarrow I$

$J \rightarrow J \rightarrow J$

$K \rightarrow K \rightarrow K$

$L \rightarrow L \rightarrow L$

$M \rightarrow M \rightarrow M$

$N \rightarrow N \rightarrow N$

$O \rightarrow O \rightarrow O$

$P \rightarrow P \rightarrow P$

Q → Q → **Q**   R → R → **R**

S → S → **S**   T → T → **T**

U → U → **U**   V → V → V

W → W → **W**   X → X → **X**

Y → Y → **Y**   Z → Z → **Z**

Practice Faux Calligraphy

A B C D E F G

H I J K L M N

O P Q R S T U

V W X Y Z

Blending

Dual Brush Pen water-based ink mixes like watercolor! Blend colors together using the techniques below.

Direct Blending Step-by-Step

Step 1:
Use a Dual Brush Pen to letter your word. For this example, use 703.
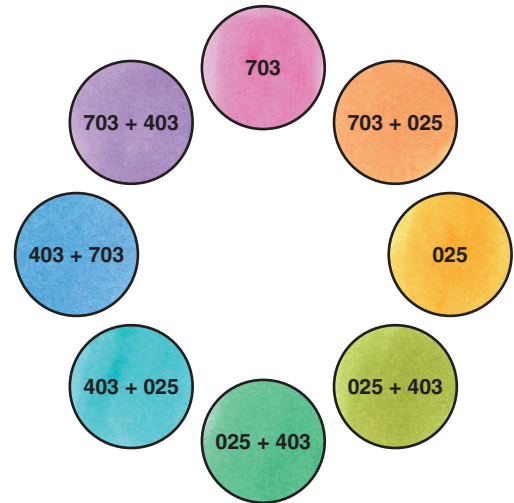
Step 2:
Apply a second color (025) to the bottom of your letters, working one letter at a time.
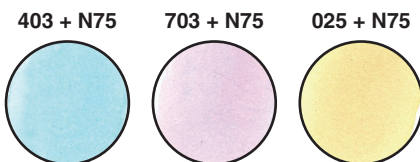
Step 3:
With the Colorless Blender Dual Brush Pen (N00), pull the secondary color up the letter to blend.

PRO TIP!

Paper Matters: To create seamless blends, use smooth mixed media paper for best results.

Marker Nibs Self-Clean: Dual Brush Pens self-clean, so you will not ruin the brush tips by mixing colors and blending. Scribble ink on a scrap sheet of paper after blending to clean the tip and return back to its original color.

Blending Colors

703
703 + 025
025
025 + 403
025 + 403
403 + 025
403 + 703
703 + 403

With just three Dual Brush Pen colors, see all the colors you can create! Make sure to clean your brush or Colorless Blender between mixing colors to avoid muddy colors.

- **Mixing 703 + 025:** Can create warmer color ranges from pinks, reds, oranges, and yellows.
- **Mixing 025 + 403:** Can create warm and cool color ranges from yellows, greens, and teals.
- **Mixing 403 + 703:** Can create cool color ranges from teals, blues, purples, and pinks.

403 + N75   703 + N75   025 + N75

Blending with N75 can create a softer hue for each color.

403 + N00   703 + N00   025 + N00
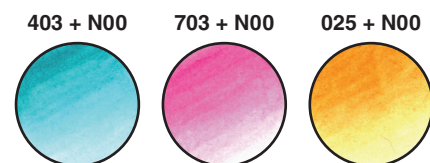
You can also use the Colorless Blender (N00) to blend out each color, creating a color gradient that fades to white.

Tombow

flourishes

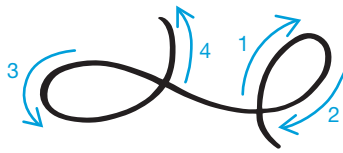Add decorative loops and swashes to your letters to create visual interest. Experiment and have fun!
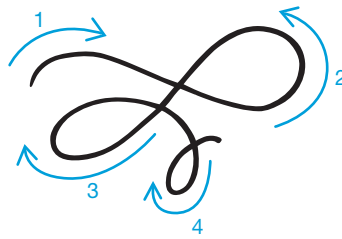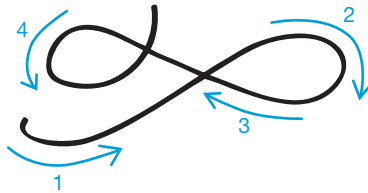
Adding Flourishes Step-by-Step

Tombow
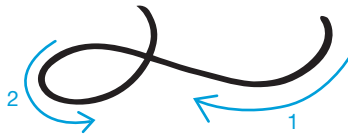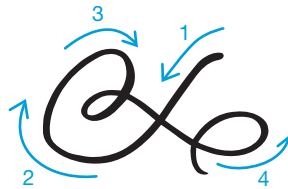
shadows

Add shadows to your lettering to create some depth and dimension. Experiment and have fun!

Finding the Light Source

Shadows are cast by a light source, therefore the positioning of the light source will determine where the shadow should be.

How to Find the Light Source:

- **Imagine a Light Source:** It might help to draw an icon for the light source next to your lettering as a reference. It can be as simple as a circle with some lines, such as the example to the right.
- **Adding the Shadow:** Once you've found the light source, draw in the shadow. Stay consistent with placement on each letter form.

Light Source from Above Left

Light Source from Below Right

Shadow Techniques to Try!

Brush Pen Shadow

Letter your word with a colored Dual Brush Pen. With the gray Dual Brush Pen, use the brush tip to apply the shadow. The thick lines will give your lettering a softer look.

Brush Pen Spaced Shadow

Letter your word with a colored Dual Brush Pen. Use a different Dual Brush Pen color to apply the shadow, leaving a small space between the letter and shadow to create a dimensional effect.

Outlined Shadow

Letter your word with a colored Dual Brush Pen. With the Fudenosuke Brush Pen, outline around the entire letter, using the bullet tip. Add an outline to the side with the shadow.

Empty Shadow

Letter your word with a colored Dual Brush Pen. Using the bullet tip of the MONO Twin Permanent Marker, outline your lettering, and add an outline of the shadow too.

Monoline

Letter your word with a colored Dual Brush Pen. Use the Fudenosuke Brush Pen to apply the shadow on the lettering. Thin lines give subtle dimension.

Monoline Spaced Shadow

Letter your word with a colored Dual Brush Pen. Use the bullet tip to apply the shadow, leaving a small space between the letter and shadow. Thin lines give subtle dimension.

illustrations

Add illustrations and embellishments to your lettering to create flair and interest.

Drawing Banners

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	**PRO TIP!**

PRO TIP!
Give your banners more depth by adding shadows! Add a stroke of color where the shadow is darkest. Blend out with the Colorless Blender.

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5

Drawing Flowers

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3

Step 4	Step 5	Step 6

PRO TIP!
Add shading and line details to make your illustration pop! Add a stroke of color in the center of the flower. Blend out toward the outer edge with the Colorless Blender. Overlay line strokes on the petals once ink has dried.
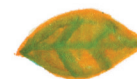
Leaves and Stems

Step 1	Step 1
Step 2	Step 2
Step 3	Step 3

Stars and Dots