

**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.



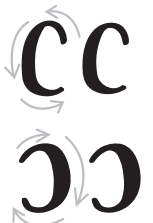
### Upstrokes:

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!

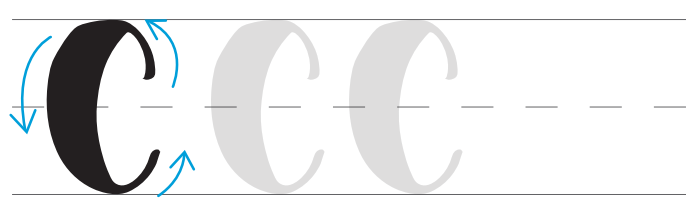
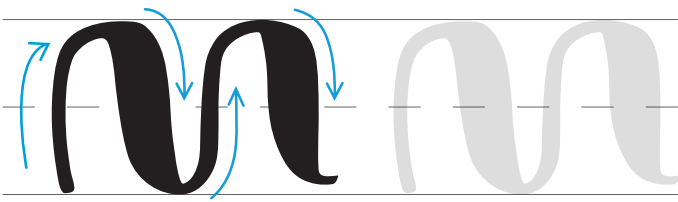
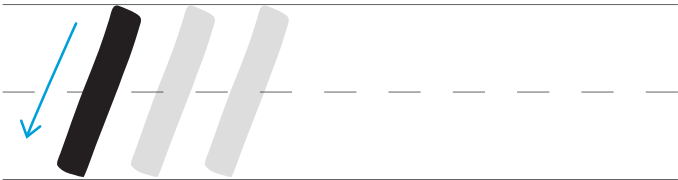
Hold your brush pen at a 45° angle to easily achieve thin upstrokes and thick downstrokes. This will keep the lettering smooth, and prevent your marker from fraying!

### 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



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

Put It All Together!

Blank handwriting practice lines for independent practice.

# FAUX calligraphy



**Step 1:**  
Draw a  
Monoline Letter



**Step 2:**  
Outline the  
Downstrokes



**Step 3:**  
Fill in the  
Downstrokes

A → A → A

B → B → B

C → C → C

D → D → D

E → E → E

F → F → F

G → G → G

H → H → H

I → I → I

Q → Q → Q

K → K → K

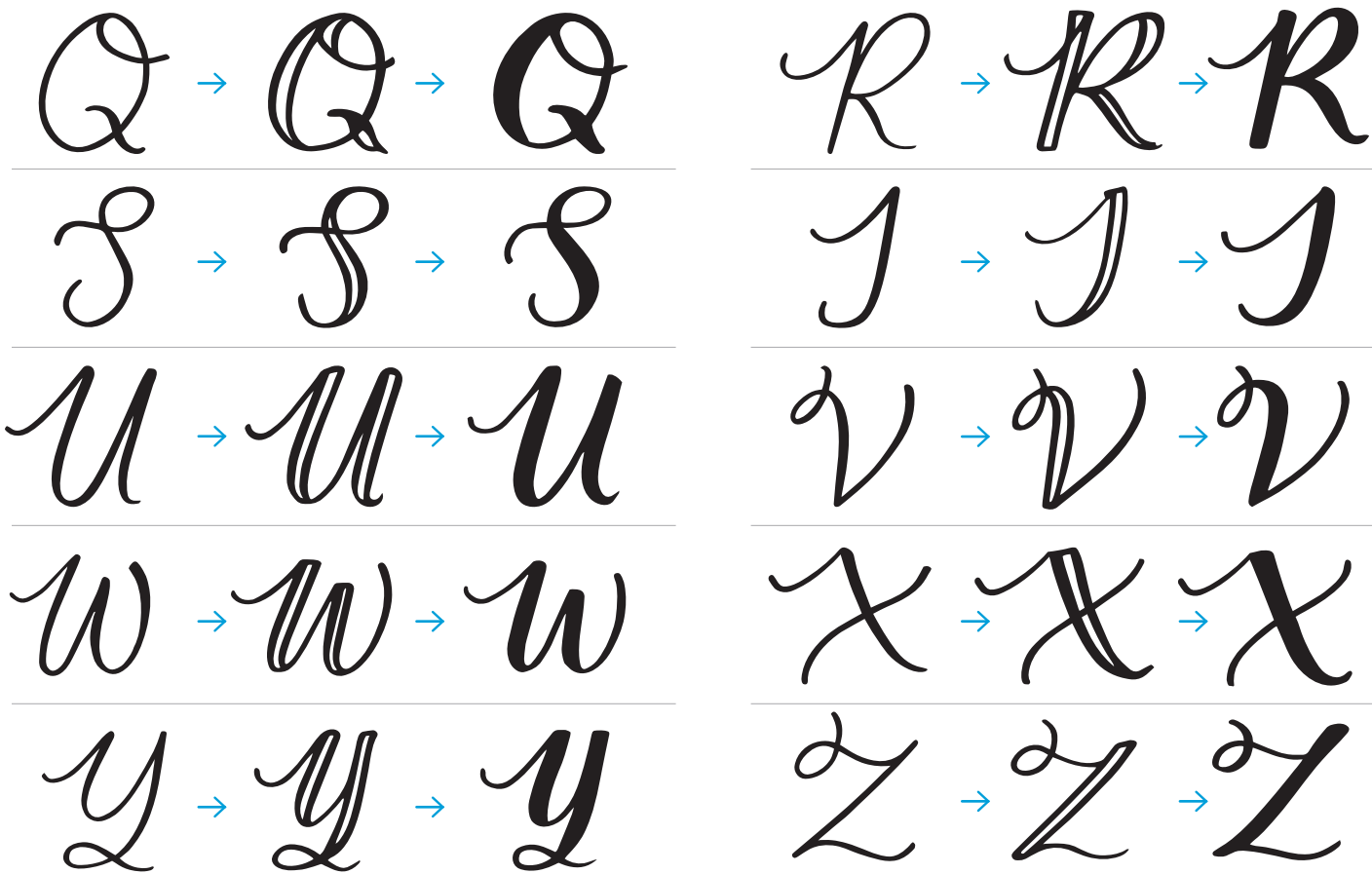
L → L → L

M → M → M

N → N → N

O → O → O

P → P → P



Practice Faux Calligraphy



# 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 light colored Dual Brush Pen (N75) to letter your word.



**Step 2:**

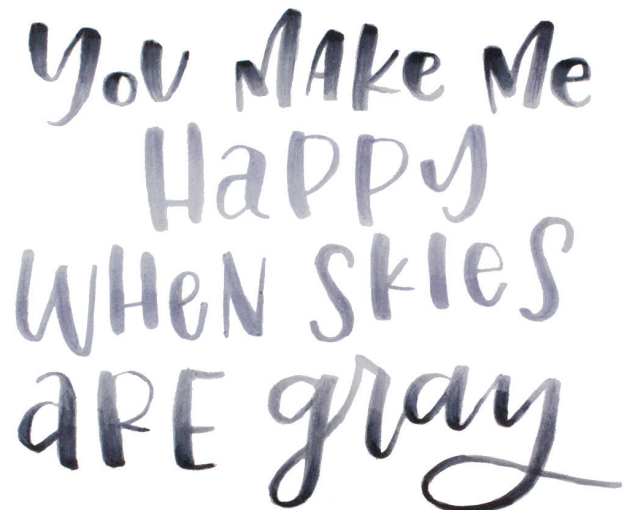
Apply a darker color (N25) to the bottom of your letters, working one letter at a time.



**Step 3:**

With your light colored Dual Brush Pen (N75), pull the darker color up the letter to blend.

## Blending Examples



**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.

Step 1

Step 2

Step 3

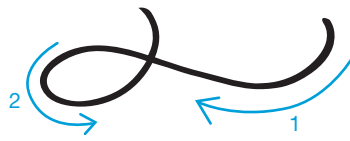


# Flourishes

Add decorative loops and swashes to your letters to create visual interest. Experiment and have fun!

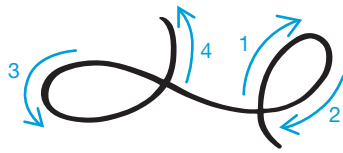
## Adding Flourishes Step-by-Step

pretty



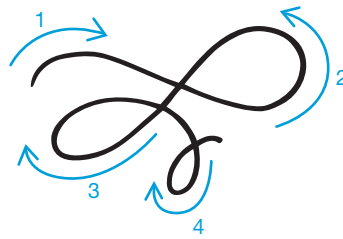
pretty

love



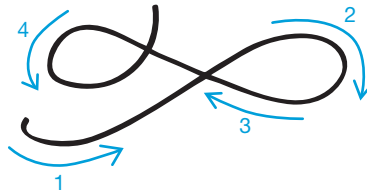
love

hug



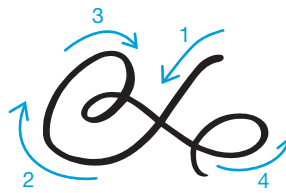
hug

butter



butter

butter





# 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!

Pen

### Brush Pen Shadow

Letter your word with the black 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

### Brush Pen Spaced Shadow

Letter your word with the black Dual Brush Pen. With the gray Dual Brush Pen, use the brush tip to apply the shadow, leaving a small space between the letter and shadow. The thick lines will give your lettering a softer look.

line

### Outlined Shadow

Letter your word with the gray Dual Brush Pen. Add shadows using the brush tip of the black Dual Brush Pen. Use the bullet tip to outline the entire letter.

Empty

### Empty Shadow

Letter your word with the gray Dual Brush Pen. Using the bullet tip of the black Dual Brush Pen, outline your lettering, and add an outline of the shadow too.

shadow

### Monoline

Letter your word with the gray Dual Brush Pen. With the black Dual Brush Pen, use the bullet tip to apply the shadow on the gray lettering. Thin lines give subtle dimension.

space

### Monoline Spaced Shadow

Letter your word with the black 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.



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

### Drawing Banners

Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



#### PRO TIP!

Give your banners more depth by adding shadows! Add a stroke of color where the shadow is darkest.

Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



Step 5



### Drawing Flowers

Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 1



Step 1



### Leaves and Stems



### Stars and Dots

