

Pentel®

CREATIVE
Handlettering
CLASSES

FOR EVERYONE



Introduction

Hand lettering has become a trend that appeals equally to people of all ages. The modern world of today is full of short notes, quickly written and hard to read. Hand lettering should remind us of what is important about writing, and links it with contemporary sayings and style elements. Writing becomes an art form. Anyone can learn hand lettering. There's nothing complicated about it; it's not about neat writing, but more about drawing letters. Of course, it requires a certain amount of time, self-confidence and patience.

In this hand lettering guide, we'll take you on a journey that will teach you about the „magic of handwriting“. We show you that letters are, more than just ABC, what is the best way to hold your hand with which writing technique, and what the sequence is when drawing the strokes for lettering. Our practice pages are full of ways to test and demonstrate what you have learnt on dotted paper.

So you can get started straight away, we recommend the perfect companion for hand lettering: the Pentel Brush Sign Pen. The Brush Sign Pen appeals thanks to its flexible writing tip, and is equally suitable for newcomers to hand lettering and for more experienced hand letterers. Available in 12 colours, it offers plenty of choice for colourful letterings. Try it and see!

We hope you enjoy your hand lettering – the modern version of calligraphy!





More than just ABC

Before you start drawing,
you should know the basics about the letters.

1. The components of the letters for hand lettering

The letters for hand lettering consist basically of simple, recurring forms. Depending on the writing style, they can be extremely rounded, or straight, or unembellished.

We suggest you practise evenly shaped curves and straight lines to warm up. Please ensure that your curves are all the same height and width, and drawn with the same amount of pressure on the pen. Your practice curves and lines should be drawn parallel and of equal distance to each other.

More experienced hand letterers will develop their own individual style based on the curved and straight lines practised here.



2. Important terms in hand lettering

The cap line

indicates where capital letters end

The x-line

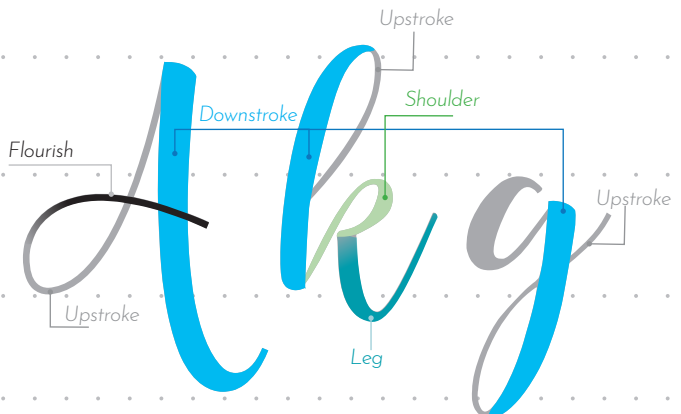
gives the height of lower case letters

The baseline

is the line the letters stand on

The descender

indicates where letters like g, p and q end



The writing technique

3. The hand position

To achieve a calm overall look to your lettering, always hold the pen at the same angle. Move your arm and wrist to write the letters. Try a variety of angles to find the most comfortable position. Practise a range of curves in this position.

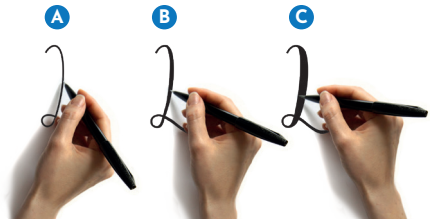


The angle of the pen in your hand will determine the thickness of the letters later on:

- A** vertical position -> gentle pressure for thin lines
- B** pen at a 45° angle -> moderate pressure for medium lines, **C** horizontal position -> lots of pressure for thick lines.

Remember:

The greater the pressure, the thicker the line.



4. How do I guide the pen?

Take up the pen at the angle that suits you – and don't change it. Lay your hand on the table and tense the arm from your elbow to your fingers. Keep your hand in this position; your wrist should be immobile. Start drawing now by moving your tensed arm over the paper. Make sure that the movement comes from your hand rather than your fingers, as otherwise the lines will be uneven.

This rigid movement will help you to achieve uniform line thicknesses, transitions, angles and a consistent letter style when lettering.





5. How do I draw the letters?

The sequence used to position the lines is essential in lettering. Your pen should follow the direction of the arrow. Practice a new sequence several times. Be sure to follow the direction of the arrows, because letters drawn in the opposite direction will not look natural. You will see an easy way to draw the letters instinctively on the practice pages. The different line thicknesses are the result of hand movements and the amount of pressure used.

6. How do I draw letters that look elegant?

For elegant, classic lettering we recommend cursive letters at a slight angle. Make sure you keep your pen at the same angle, as otherwise your letters will quickly look shaky, be hard to read and less elegant.

7. How do I join up the letters?

If you want to join letters together, use an upstroke and end the letter with it. Known as a connector, this will join one letter to the next one. For an even writing style, ensure that your connectors are also at the same angle as the letters and of the same length.

Practise the connectors with simple words such as minimum.



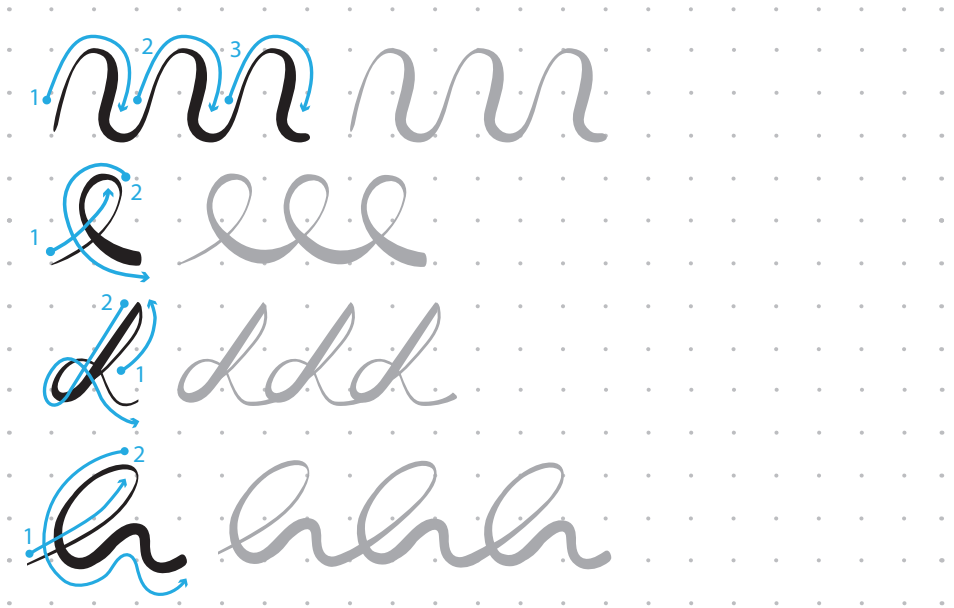
Basic strokes

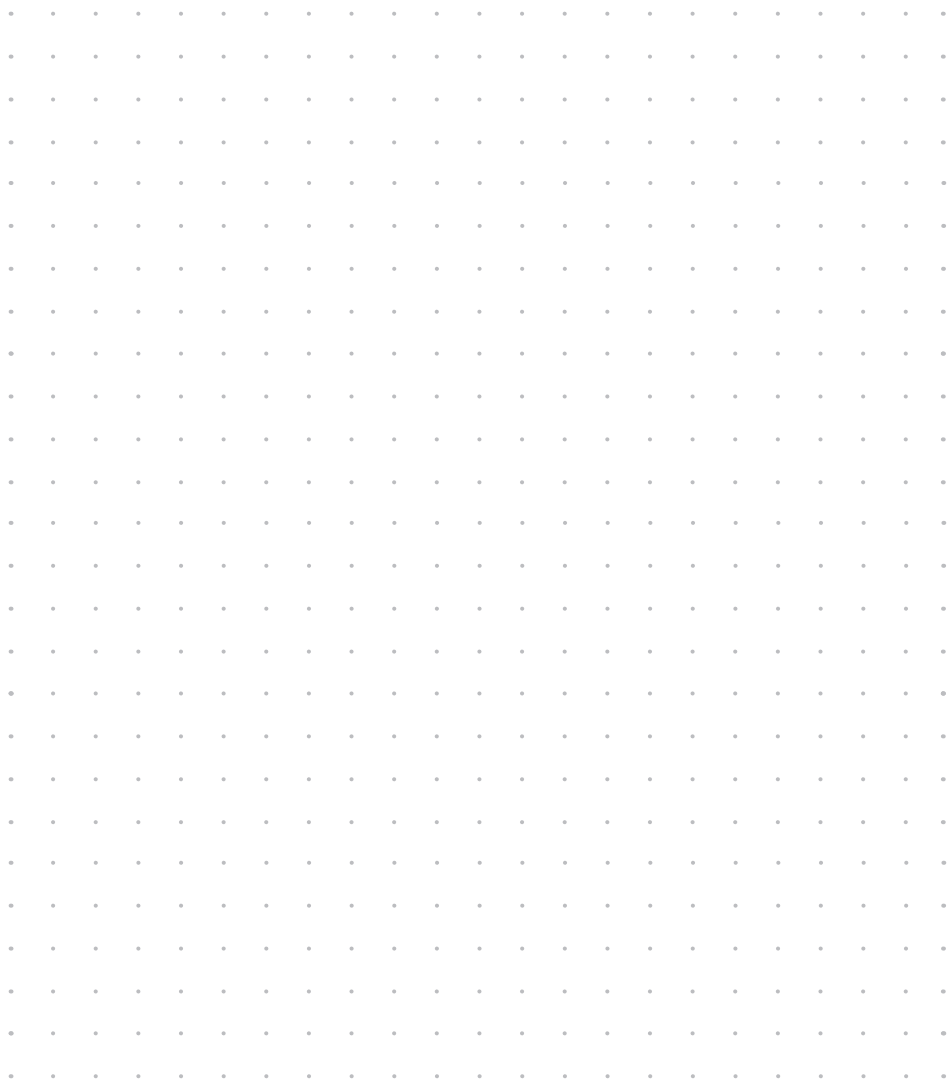
When practising your letters, follow the indicated sequence for the lines.

Practise your upstrokes and downstrokes:



Practise combinations of upstrokes and downstrokes:





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a a a

B B B

b b b

C C C

c c c

D D D

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