

welcome to

*fake calligraphy
basics*

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fake calligraphy

introduction

Welcome to Fake Calligraphy

Fake calligraphy, also known as fauxlligraphy or fake lettering, is a hand lettering style that is fairly simple to achieve if you follow some basic guidelines. You do not need any special pens, and you can just use whatever you have available, e.g. fineliners, gel pens, paint markers, or even a pencil.

How does Fake Calligraphy work?

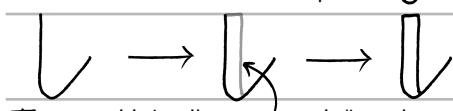
When you do brush lettering, the *flexible nib of the brush marker* will create thin upstrokes and thick downstrokes as you write. With fake calligraphy you need to create, or fake, the thick downstrokes. This is done by writing your letter in monoline (the line has one thickness), and then adding in a second line to create the fake thicker downstroke.

Once you have your word planned out in pencil, you can outline it in fineliner or gel pen, and then either leave it open or colour it in with colours. If you want to create a true fake calligraphy appearance, then colour it in using the same colour as the outline, e.g. black outline filled in with black pen.

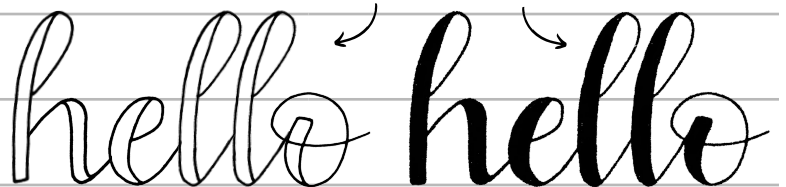
Here's an example...

To create the 'i', start with a basic 'i' shape..

Here's an example of how a word would look in two different fake calligraphy styles... 'hollow' and filled in with black



Then add in the second line to create a thick downstroke, and add the dot



A lot of people start off doing fake calligraphy before they attempt brush lettering, so don't feel bad if this sounds like you.. there is a big misconception that fake calligraphy is a less worthwhile style of writing, and that you would only do it because you can't do 'real' calligraphy. This is complete nonsense as fake calligraphy is it's own style of lettering and has several advantages over 'real' brush lettering, such as:

- **No special skills required**, and you can write in this style almost immediately without much practice
- Great way to **get comfortable with lettering** before moving on to brush lettering
- **No special pens** or fancy equipment required (see recommended product list below)
- Perfect for writing with **paint markers** onto gift bags, glasses, mirror, wood, or any tricky surfaces
- You can **adjust the size and spacing** of your letters in pencil before you commit to ink - not so easy to do this with a brush marker
- Perfect for **headings** in journals, assignments, etc.
- You can **customise your writing**, e.g. leave the letters 'hollow', colour them in with different colours, or use a solid colour for a true fake brush lettered style
- You can write **big letters** with this style, e.g. when you want to make a sign, or paint words onto walls

What pens do I need..?

Unlike brush lettering or modern calligraphy, you don't need any special pens for fake calligraphy. Here's a list of suitable pens that I'd recommend:

Pencil	Clutch pencil, or normal pencil (between HB and 2B... H pencils can be too scratchy)
Eraser	Good quality eraser, e.g. Faber Castell kneadable eraser, Pentel Clic eraser. Any eraser will do, but hard cheap ones are difficult to work with and can damage your paper
Ruler	Clear ruler is better so that you can see your work through it
Fine Liners	Various sizes and colours, preferably waterproof and archival ink, e.g. Pigma Microns, Faber Castell Pitt Artist Pens, Unipin Fine Lines, Copic Multiliners or Tombow MONO Drawing Pens. Its good to have a range of sizes, e.g. 01, 05, 08
Gel Pens	WHITE - Uniball Signo white, Gelly Roll white (size 10 or 08... 05 is too fine for most people) SILVER & GOLD - Uniball Signo <i>broad</i> silver or gold
Paint Markers	SILVER & GOLD - Artline or Pilot paint markers (size F.. EF is horrible and leaks a lot) BLACK, WHITE & COLOUR - Pilot Pintor or Posca paint markers, oil based Sharpies
Paper / Card	Marker or layout paper, Bristol card or any smooth paper or cardstock is ideal so that your colours stand out beautifully. Recommended brands would be Tombow, Canson, Rhodia, Clairefontaine. But you can just use ordinary lined or plain paper to practice on

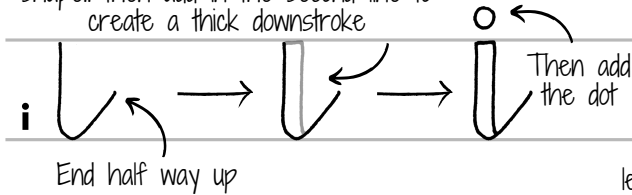
the lowercase alphabet

a step by step guide

Welcome to the Lowercase Alphabet!

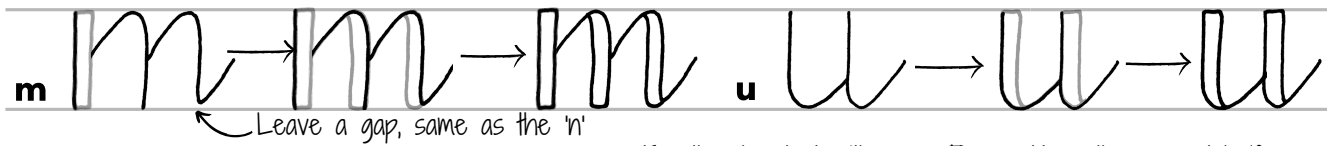
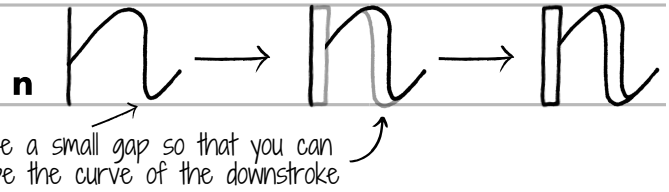
I have broken the fake calligraphy lowercase alphabet into groups that have similar strokes so that you are not continuously jumping between letters that are formed completely differently. We'll start with some easy letters and then move on to more difficult ones.

To create the 'i', start with a basic 'i' shape.. then add in the second line to create a thick downstroke



To create the 'n', start with a basic 'n' shape...

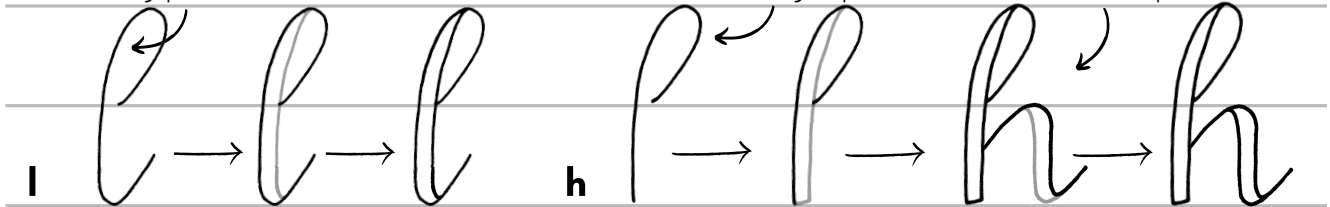
...then add in the second line to create a fake downstroke



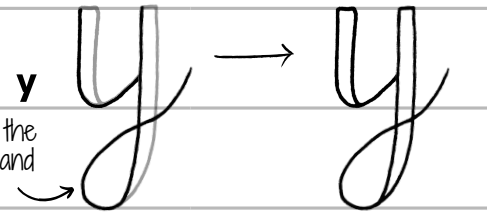
Leave a gap for the downstroke

For the 'h' start with the ascending loop

Then add on the second half - this is the same shape as the 'n'

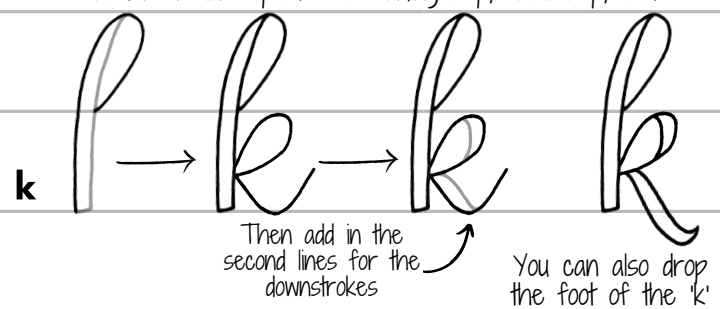
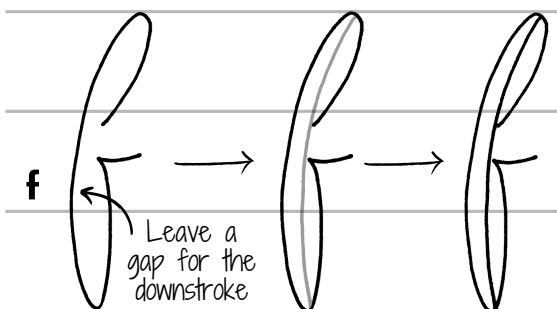


To create a 'y' use the first half of the 'u' and then add a 'j' tail



The 'f' is the same as a normal cursive 'f'

Form the 'k' in 3 parts... ascending loop, small loop, foot



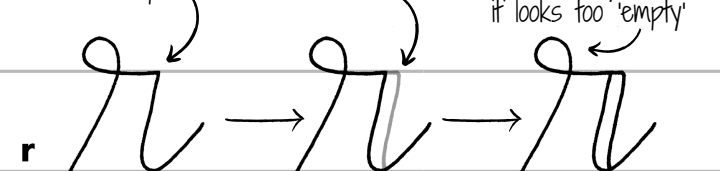
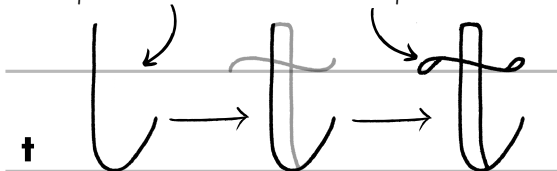
The 't' is a similar shape to the 'u'

Keep the crossbar thin, although you can add some little 'bumps' to either end

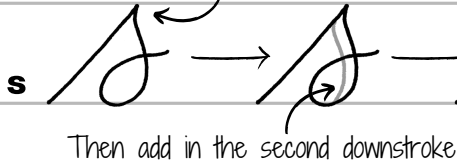
To create the 'r' start with the basic shape

Then add in a second line

Don't add a second downstroke onto the loop unless you think it looks too 'empty'

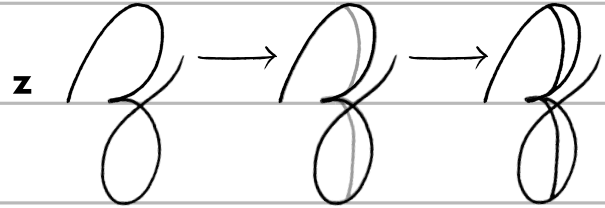


Start with a thin upstroke, then do a sharp turn at the top coming down into a curved downstroke

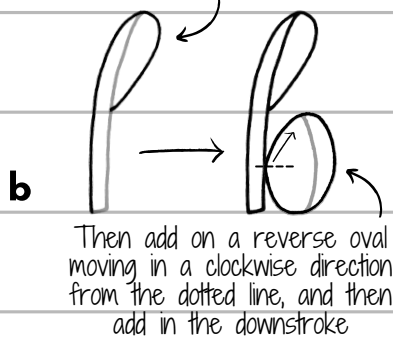


You can also do a little loop at the top if you prefer

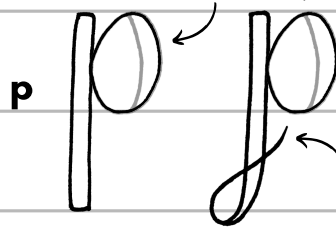
For the 'z', start off with the basic shape of a cursive 'z' (looks like a number 3), then add in the second downstrokes



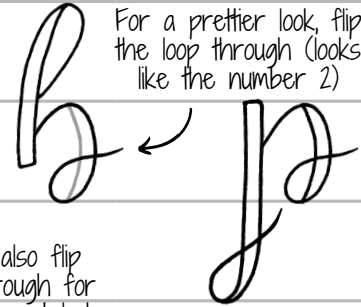
Start with the ascending loop



Use the same reverse oval for the 'b' and the 'p'

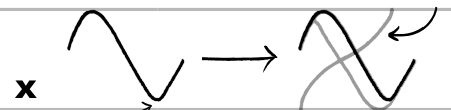
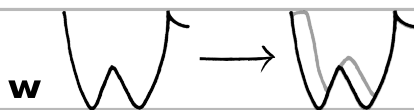
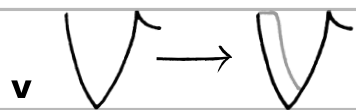


For a prettier look, flip the loop through (looks like the number 2)



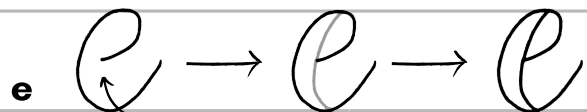
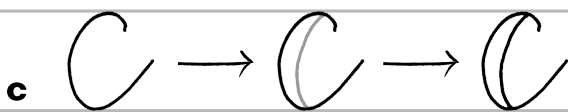
You can also flip the tail through for a more elegant look

This line can be started from either end



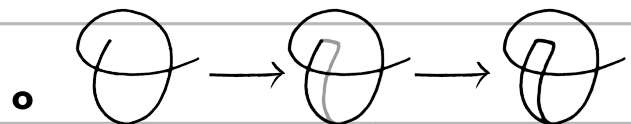
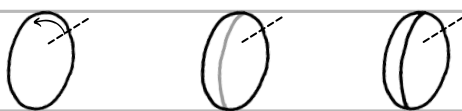
For 'v' and 'w' start with the basic shapes, and then add in the second lines for the downstrokes

leave a small gap so that you can shape the curve of the downstroke



Leave a gap for the downstroke

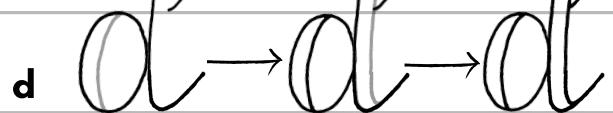
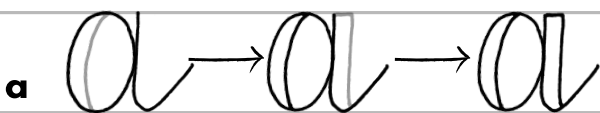
To create the 'a, d, g, q' family, start with an oval - start where the dotted line is, and move in an anti-clockwise direction



Don't add a second downstroke onto the loop of the 'o' unless you feel the loop looks too 'empty'

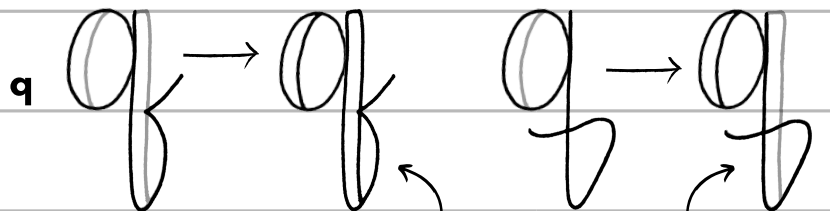
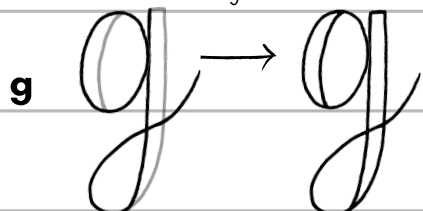
To create the 'a', use the oval and add on an 'i' without the dot

To create the 'd', add an 'l' to the oval



To create the 'g', use the oval and add on a 'j' without the dot

To create the 'q', use the oval and add on a tail



Here are two different tail options

Fake Calligraphy - Lowercase Alphabet Practice Sheets

a a a

b b b

h h h

c c c

d d d

e e e

f f f

g g g

h h h

i i i

Fake Calligraphy - Lowercase Alphabet Practice Sheets

j j j

k k k

k k k

l l l

m m m

n n n

o o o

p p p

p p p

p p p

Fake Calligraphy - Lowercase Alphabet Practice Sheets

q q q

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

Fake Calligraphy - Lowercase Alphabet Words

the quick brown

fox jumps over

the lazy dog

the quick brown

fox jumps over

the lazy dog