Script Lettering

Script is a lettering style that emulates calligraphic letterforms. Drawing, rather than writing these shapes, makes it much easier to explore a vast variety of styles, without having to use different or multiple tools. From strict, sharp and narrow to very playful rounded and bold.



Just like when drawing serif or sans serif letterforms, it can be very helpful to guide yourself by drawing a few horizontal lines for the height of the letters and the length of the ascenders and the descenders. Connected scripts are based on handwriting and are therefore often drawn at an oblique angle. This is why the vertical guidelines that will determine width and spacing will have to be drawn at an angle. Let's go through the process step by step once again.

Step 1

The process starts with drawing the skeleton of the letters, this time following the angle of the oblique guidelines. Drawing the lowercase letters first can help you focus on the structure of the word first, before adding a bigger, more expressive initial, at the start.

Step 2

To decorate the design, you can use the open endings of the shapes, the ascenders or decenders to add flourishes and swirls. Make sure you use these decorative lines to fill up empty spaces around your letterforms, to create a balanced shape.



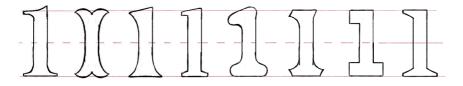


2. DRAWING LETTERFORMS

Below you can see some examples of various serif shapes, as well as some types of flourishes and swirls you can draw inspiration from.

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Top vs Bottom Serifs

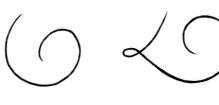


Flourishes















2. DRAWING LETTERFORMS

Step 3

Finally, it's time to add some contrast to the strokes. Script emulates the behaviour and pressure of a fountain pen in classical calligraphy, where the downward movements are drawn while applying more pressure, creating thicker strokes, and the upward ones applying less pressure, creating thinner strokes.





OHCBCCDEC 1.61 Ý opUVWXVZ abcdefghijklm nopgistuvwxyz

This is an example of a classic connected script, which can be used as a reference to check the contrast distribution across all letters. This distribution also works for other styles of script lettering.