

Contents at a Glance

<i>Introduction</i>	1
<i>Part I: Yes, You Can Do Calligraphy!</i>	7
Chapter 1: Doing Calligraphy Can Be as Easy as ABC	9
Chapter 2: Peeking Inside the Calligrapher’s Toolbox	15
Chapter 3: Putting Your Pen to Paper	25
<i>Part II: The Amazing, Incredible Italic Alphabet</i>	41
Chapter 4: Taking a Few Baby Steps with Italic	43
Chapter 5: Doing Italic with a Calligraphy Pen	55
Chapter 6: Perfecting the Italic Alphabet	65
Chapter 7: Turning Up the “Wow! Factor” with Variations and Embellishments	79
<i>Part III: Expanding Your Repertoire</i>	89
Chapter 8: The Blackletter Alphabet	91
Chapter 9: Classical Roman Letters	107
Chapter 10: Formal Manuscript, Foundational Hand, or Bookhand	123
Chapter 11: Formal Uncial and Funky Variations	139
Chapter 12: Elegantly Outlined and Decorated Letters.....	151
Chapter 13: A Fancy Document Script	159
<i>Part IV: Popular Projects</i>	189
Chapter 14: Designing and Lettering a Quotation.....	191
Chapter 15: Creating a Poster or Sign	199
Chapter 16: Certificates	209
Chapter 17: More Things to Do with Your Calligraphy	219
<i>Part V: The Part of Tens</i>	229
Chapter 18: Ten Ways to Use Your Calligraphy for Weddings	231
Chapter 19: Ten Fun Alphabets	237
Chapter 20: Ten Tips for Making Money Using Your Calligraphy	245
Appendix: Practice Pages.....	251
<i>Index</i>	303

Table of Contents

<i>Introduction</i>	1
About This Book.....	1
Conventions Used in This Book	2
Foolish Assumptions	2
How This Book Is Organized.....	3
Part I: Yes, You Can Do Calligraphy!.....	3
Part II: The Amazing, Incredible Italic Alphabet.....	3
Part III: Expanding Your Repertoire	4
Part IV: Popular Projects	4
Part V: The Part of Tens.....	4
Icons Used in This Book.....	5
Where to Go from Here.....	5
<i>Part I: Yes, You Can Do Calligraphy!</i>	7
Chapter 1: Doing Calligraphy Can Be as Easy as ABC	9
You Don't Have to Be a Rembrandt . . .	9
. . . But You Do Have to Be Circumspect	10
You Can Really Do Calligraphy!	11
Strike a Pose	11
Getting your posture right	11
Holding your pen.....	12
Trace and Copy: A Sure-Fire Approach to Picking Up Calligraphy	12
Taking Your Skills Further	13
Chapter 2: Peeking Inside the Calligrapher's Toolbox	15
Finding the Right Materials.....	15
Choosing the Right Pens	16
Pen parts	16
Markers.....	17
Fountain pens	18
If you're left-handed	19
Dip pens.....	19
Got The Right Ink?.....	21
Selecting the Right Paper	21
Additional Materials You Need.....	22
Taking Care of Your Materials	23
Chapter 3: Putting Your Pen to Paper	25
Using a Fountain Pen	26
Examining the parts of the pen	26
Filling the pen — Fill 'er up!	27
Getting a grip on (actually, off) your pen hold	28
Combatting ink-flow problems	29
An Amazingly Talented Pen!.....	30
Taking care of your fountain pen	31
Using a Dip Pen.....	32
Checking out the pen's parts	32
Filling — not dipping — your dip pen	32
Taking care of your dip pen	33



Setting Up Your Board34
 Keeping Letters Straight: Drawing Guide Lines.....34
 Calculating the distance between lines35
 Using a T-square and drafting tape35
 Using a ruler and right triangle36
 A third way to draw guide lines?37
 Loosening Up to Get Started.....38

Part II: The Amazing, Incredible Italic Alphabet41

Chapter 4: Taking a Few Baby Steps with Italic43

Introducing Italic44
 It's All in the Family — Six Simple and Easy Letter Families44
 The pull-down letters (the *l* shape)45
 Pull-down, bounce-over letters (the *n* shape)46
 Pull-down, swing-under, pull-down letters (the *u* shape).....47
 Oval letters (the *o* shape)48
 x letters (the *x* shape).....49
 v Letters (the *v* shape).....50
 Putting Together What You Know to Make Letters and Words.....51

Chapter 5: Doing Italic with a Calligraphy Pen.....55

What Is Pen Angle for Italic and How Do You Get It Right?55
 Getting your angle right.....56
 Practicing the pen angle.....56
 Perfecting the pen angle.....57
 Trying the six basic shapes57
 Reading between the lines — pen widths58
 Those Tails Called “Serifs” — Don't Get Caught by the Tails!58
 Doing Lowercase Italic with the Pen59
 Italic Capital Letters.....60
 Italic Numbers and Punctuation62

Chapter 6: Perfecting the Italic Alphabet.....65

Checking Yourself with the 5-S Formula.....65
 Strokes66
 Shapes.....66
 Slant67
 Sizes67
 Spacing.....68
 The Simplest Way to Practice Italic — Write It!.....68
 Joining Letters Cursively — How It's Done.....68
 Simple diagonal joins69
 Diagonal joins to *a*, *d*, *e*, *g*, *o*, and *q*.....69
 Horizontal joins from *f*, *o*, *r*, *t*, *v*, and *w*.....69
 Joins from *b*, *p*, and *s*70
 Joins to ascenders.....70
 Joins to an *s*.....71
 Joins from an *e*.....71
 No joins.....72
 Simplifying the capitals72
 Reviewing the Most Common Errors.....72
 Droopy *a* shapes.....72
 Spikey letters73
 Fat and rounded letters73

Rounded arches.....	73
Crooked pull-down strokes	73
Branching too high or too low.....	74
Gaps in letters.....	74
Badly shaped e's.....	74
Badly shaped s's	75
Badly shaped t's.....	75
Errors with joins.....	75
Errors in capitals: a through k.....	76
Errors in capitals: l through t.....	76
Errors in capitals: u through z.....	76
The Nearly Lost Art of Beautiful Correspondence	77

Chapter 7: Turning Up the “Wow! Factor” with Variations and Embellishments.....79

Using Variations to Change the Look of Letters.....	79
Heavy and bold letters.....	79
Light and thin letters	80
Angular shapes	81
Rounded shapes	82
Seven alternate letters.....	83
Avoiding errors.....	84
Swashes and Flourishes	84
Adding flourishes to letters	84
A flourished signature	86
Creating Other Embellishments.....	88

Part III: Expanding Your Repertoire.....89

Chapter 8: The Blackletter Alphabet.....91

Getting to Know the Blackletter Alphabet.....	91
Getting the “Write” Dimensions	92
Boning up on the Basic Strokes of Blackletter	92
Drawing the three primary basic strokes.....	93
Moving on to the four secondary basic strokes.....	93
Combining the Basic Strokes	94
Letters that have a main vertical stroke: l, i, j, h, t, f, k.....	94
Letters that have an o shape: o, a, b, d, g, q, p	96
Letters that have a u or n shape: u, n, m, w, y, v	98
Open-sided letters: c, e, r and the remaining three letters: s, x, and z.....	100
Moving On to Capital Letters.....	101
Flag-flying capitals	102
The circular letters.....	103
The four remaining capitals.....	104
Nudging Forward to Numerals	104
Stringing Together Black Letters.....	105

Chapter 9: Classical Roman Letters107

Understanding the Roman Alphabet	107
Getting to Know the Five Groups of Letters	108
Letters as wide as they are tall.....	108
Letters $\frac{3}{4}$ as wide as they are tall.....	109
Letters $\frac{1}{2}$ as wide as they are tall.....	111
Two narrow letters	111
Two wide letters	112
Putting the Letters Together	113

Trying the Letters with a Pen	113
Getting the letter height right	114
Smoothing out your stroke	114
Zeroing in on the right pen angles	114
Practicing pen angle.....	115
Creating letters with a 20-degree pen angle.....	116
Making letters with the 45-degree pen angle	117
Stringing the alphabet together	118
Common Errors	119
Adding On Some Serifs	120
Getting to know the three kinds of serifs	120
Making the serifs	121
Chapter 10: Formal Manuscript, Foundational Hand, or Bookhand	123
Getting to Know the Manuscript Alphabet Basics.....	123
Pen widths.....	124
Pen angle	125
Basic shapes and proportions.....	125
The Lowercase Letters	126
The round letters.....	126
Letters that have the <i>n</i> or <i>u</i> shape	127
The straight-line letters	128
Learning the letters that have a <i>v</i> shape	129
All the other letters	129
Capital Letters	130
Letters as wide as they are tall.....	131
Letters whose width is three-fourths the height.....	131
Letters half as wide as they are tall	132
The narrow capitals	133
The wide capitals	133
Numbers.....	134
Putting It All Together	135
Variations	136
Chapter 11: Formal Uncial and Funky Variations.....	139
Have What You Need?.....	139
Understanding Uncial	139
The Uncial Serifs	141
Getting a Handle on the Formal Uncial Alphabet.....	142
The circular letters	142
Letters that have strong vertical strokes	143
Letters with diagonals	144
Learning the three special letters	145
Putting the Letters Together	145
Varying the Uncial Alphabet	146
Narrow variation	147
Wide variation.....	147
Curly-cue variation.....	148
The craziest variation.....	148
Letter fitting — a neat trick.....	148
Chapter 12: Elegantly Outlined and Decorated Letters.....	151
Taking the Right Approach	151
Getting the Right Materials	152

Drawing the Letter	152
Step 1: Sketching the letter	153
Step 2: Decorating the letters and background	153
Step 3: Inking the lines	154
Finding Alphabets You Can Use	154
Gilding: Applying Gold Leaf	155
Chapter 13: A Fancy Document Script	159
Cozying Up to Copperplate	159
Using the special oblique pen	160
Angles and slants	161
Holding your pen	161
Guide lines	162
Controlling the pressure through thicks and thins	163
Learning the Ten Basic Strokes	163
Lowercase Letters	165
Letters with the <i>n</i> shape	166
Letters with the <i>o</i> shape	168
Letters with the <i>c</i> shape	169
Letters with the <i>l</i> shape	170
Letters with the <i>i</i> shape	171
The remaining letters	172
Capital Letters	174
Letters with the <i>i</i> shape	174
Letters with the <i>p</i> shape	176
Letters with the <i>a</i> shape	177
Letters with the <i>v</i> shape	179
Letters with the <i>u</i> shape	180
Letters with the <i>o</i> shape	181
Letters <i>h</i> and <i>k</i>	182
The remaining letters	183
Numbers and punctuation	184
Putting It Altogether	187
Part IV: Popular Projects	189
Chapter 14: Designing and Lettering a Quotation	191
Gathering What You Need	191
Arranging the Lines	192
Deciding on Design	193
Flush left	193
Flush right	194
Symmetrical	194
Flush left and right	195
Sketching	196
Exploiting Harmony and Contrast	196
Positioning a Large Word	197
Incorporating Designs and Drawn Images	198
Finding Quotations You Can Use	198
Chapter 15: Creating a Poster or Sign	199
Tools and Skills to Polish a Poster	199
Using Pull-Stroke Italic	200
Avoiding Common Errors in Design	201

Making a Good Poster	202
It's just like fishing — hook 'em and reel 'em in!	202
Using effective lettering.....	203
Making the most of white space.....	204
Making Large-Scale Letters	204
The two-pencil method.....	205
The compass method	205
Brushing on Letters for Signs	205
Chapter 16: Certificates	209
Making Sure Your Materials and Skills Are in Order.....	210
Filling In Names on Prepared Certificates.....	211
Working from Scratch	211
Creating a mock-up	212
Curving the title.....	213
Lettering the actual certificate	214
Fixing Mistakes	214
Adding spaces for signatures, dates, and seals.....	215
Running for the border	215
Resolutions	216
Polishing Your Work with a Presentation Folder	216
Chapter 17: More Things to Do with Your Calligraphy	219
Calligraphic Doodles and Drawings.....	219
Monograms	220
A Potpourri of Border Designs	221
Addressing Envelopes	223
Plaques	223
Combining Calligraphy and Other Art Media	224
Part V: The Part of Tens.....	229
Chapter 18: Ten Ways to Use Your Calligraphy for Weddings.....	231
The Invitation	231
The Outer Envelope, Inner Envelope, and Reception Card.....	233
Announcements	234
Monograms	234
Program or Order of Service	234
Placecards, Table Numbers, and Favor Tags.....	235
Menus	235
A Marriage Certificate	235
A Wedding Guest Book.....	236
Thank You Notes	236
Chapter 19: Ten Fun Alphabets.....	237
Nearly Persian	238
Pseudo-Chinese.....	238
Hebrew-esque.....	239
French Ronde.....	240
Old German (aka Fraktur).....	240
It's Greek to Me.....	241
Digital.....	242
Upside-Down Letters	242
Fancy Fancy	243
Funky Letters.....	244

Chapter 20: Ten Tips for Making Money Using Your Calligraphy245

Make a List245
 A Business Card That Sizzles.....246
 A Portfolio That Impresses246
 Never Work for Free247
 Reproductions247
 Show It Before You Deliver It247
 Taking the Order248
 Finalizing the Sale248
 Offer Matting and Framing.....249
 Do It Legally249

Appendix: Practice Pages251

Italic253
 Blackletter265
 Classical Roman271
 Manuscript.....277
 Uncial.....285
 Copperplate293

***Index*303**

