

The background of the page is a collage of various art and craft supplies. At the top, there are several pens and pencils: a yellow pen, a blue fountain pen, a teal paint tube, an orange pencil, a pink brush, and a green pencil. On the right side, there is a roll of green tape. In the center, there are two black rectangular boxes containing white text. Below the first box, the text 'CALLIGRAPHY, LETTERING & ART SUPPLIES GUIDE' is written in black. On the left side, there is a yellow ruler with black markings and a green level. At the bottom, there is a teal banner with the logo 'THE Happy EVER CRAFTER' in white. The overall style is colorful and artistic.

WHAT PEN

IS THIS?!

**CALLIGRAPHY,
LETTERING & ART
SUPPLIES GUIDE**

THE
Happy
EVER CRAFTERTM

Welcome Letterfriend!

Interested in learning more about modern calligraphy and lettering supplies, are ya? I created this guide after I noticed the same question coming up over and ooooooover again every time I posted my work online.

WHAT PEN IS THIS?!

I totally get it. There are sooooo many options out there, and it can be completely overwhelming as a beginner to try and figure out where to start. Every time you turn around, you see someone doing some crazy-cool technique with a new pen or paint you've never heard of!

So I hope this guide can help you to make sense of it all.

And the best part? I've compiled all the links for you here and made them clickable so you can head directly to each tool without having to search online for it.

In each section in this guide, you will also find my MVPs (most valuable players) per category that you can use for quick reference. These are the items in each section that I cannot live without!

NOTE: All of the supplies I list in this guide may be affiliate links where appropriate. This means that your purchase through direct links in this guide may result in a few cents in payment to me, to support creating future resources like this one! Thank you! That being said, I will never suggest supplies that I do not personally use and fully recommend.

**BRAND NEW
TO MODERN
CALLIGRAPHY?**

*I have a full, free
course for you!*

SHOWMEYOURDRILLS.COM





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Paper

PAPER *explained*

The type of paper you choose to use for your calligraphy & lettering is one of the most important decisions you'll need to make.

Using the proper types of paper will ensure a longer life for your pens. If you choose the wrong types, you may end up quickly fraying or drying out your pens—which means more money spent on new ones!

Simply put, you'll always want to look for the smoothest paper possible, and with as little “tooth” as you can get. “Tooth” essentially means grittiness—so you know those pretty scrapbook papers you can find, or fancy textured card stocks? Yeah—those won't be nice to your pens. Try to always run your hands across the paper you're choosing and make sure it is nice and smooth.

Over time, you'll get a feel for which paper will work well, and which won't— but in this section, I'll run you through my favourites and make it easy on you.

(By the way— if you're looking for watercolour paper, I cover that in a later section!)

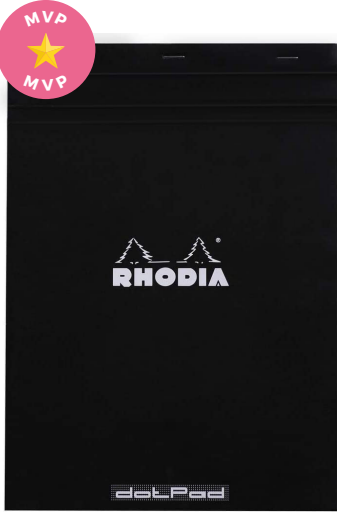





WHAT PAPER TO USE FOR CALLIGRAPHY

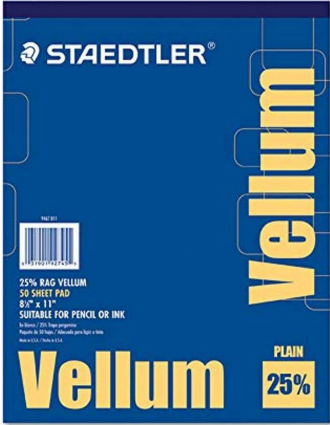

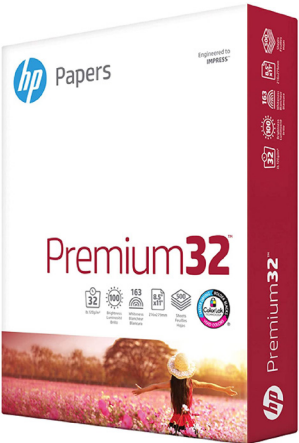
If you're worried about ruining your brush pens by choosing the wrong paper, then this video is for you.

[CLICK TO WATCH](#)

PAPER

PRODUCT	USE FOR:
 <p>RHODIA PADS</p> <p>These come in three types—graph, dot and plain. They are all great, but my favourite is definitely the dot pad. It's still got the guidelines, but they're faint so it looks a little prettier to practice on. These also come in tons of different sizes—that part is entirely personal preference.</p> <div data-bbox="527 793 1169 890">  <p>Watch it on YouTube: How to use Rhodia Paper</p> </div>	<p>-practice and/or good copies with brush pens</p> <p>-practice with pointed pens</p> <p>-any drawing projects</p>
 <p>CANSON XL MARKER PAPER</p> <p>Marker paper is super smooth, semi-transparent paper. The transparency makes it really helpful if you want to use guidelines underneath, but it's also opaque enough that you could use it as regular plain paper as well. It also doesn't bleed, so you can use alcohol-based markers on it easily.</p> <p>Note: any maker paper is great. It does not need to be this brand!</p>	<p>-practice with brush pens</p> <p>-any drawing projects</p>
 <p>STRATHMORE TRACING PAPER</p> <p>Tracing paper is a slightly less expensive version of marker paper. It's usually quite a bit thinner (and less smooth), so you would really only want to use it for practice on top of guide sheets. That said, it's a great option to preserve your brush pens as it doesn't suck a ton of ink out of them! Great for practice.</p> <p>Note: any tracing paper is great. It does not need to be this brand!</p>	<p>-practice with brush pens</p> <p>-rough drafts for drawing projects</p>

PAPER

PRODUCT	USE FOR:
 <p>STAEDTLER VELLUM</p> <p>Vellum is like a thicker, smoother version of marker paper/tracing paper. It's still translucent so you can trace with it, but since it's thicker and smoother, you can also use it for pointed pens! It's quite a bit more expensive, though, so I would only recommend using this for pointed pens, not for miscellaneous brush pen practice. Note: any vellum is great. It does not need to be this brand!</p>	<p>- practice with pointed pens</p>
 <p>STRATHMORE BRISTOL</p> <p>Once I've done my practice on Rhodia/marker/tracing/vellum paper, this bristol is the thick, smooth white paper I use for my finished lettering pieces. It is nice and thick quality, but smooth and easy on brush pens or pointed pens. If buying this one, make sure it's this EXACT type ("bristol smooth surface" or similar wording) as some are not quite the same in smoothness!</p>	<p>-final brush pen pieces</p> <p>-final pointed pen pieces</p> <p>-final drawing pieces</p>
 <p>HP LASERJET 32#</p> <p>Generally, printer paper isn't great for use with brush pens or pointed pens. However, some laser printer papers tend to be very smooth and work well. HP 32# paper is one of those—the package may look different, but just check for the 32# on the front.</p>	<p>-practice with brush pens</p> <p>-practice with pointed pens</p> <p>-any drawing projects</p>

PAPER- JOURNALS

PRODUCT	USE FOR:
 <p>ARCHER & OLIVE NOTEBOOKS</p> <p>I used to mess around and try different journals all the time, but then I found Archer & Olive. They are PERFECT- smooth, thick paper that works well with truly any art supplies. They come in many different formats, too (dot grid, plain, lined, kraft, black, etc!)</p>	<p>- journaling/art journaling with any medium</p>



WHAT IF I NEED SPECIALTY PAPER FOR A SPECIFIC PROJECT?

Honestly, if you're looking for a super specific type/style of paper (or a client provides you with a paper you're unfamiliar with), you're really just going to have to use your judgment and do some trial and error. Understand that not all pens and papers agree with each other, and you'll need to test them out yourself.



Brush Pens

BRUSH PENS

explained

Brush pens are flexible-tipped pens that you can use to create the thicks/thin strokes in modern calligraphy. These days, there are SO MANY brush pens to choose from that it can be very overwhelming to choose one that is right for you.

SMALL TIP vs. LARGE TIP PENS

The biggest thing you **need to know** about brush pens is that they can vary greatly in **tip size**.

Generally, any worksheets you use will be scaled accordingly (for “small” or “large” pens), because the size of stroke each pen produces is different. You don’t want to use a large tip brush pen on worksheets scaled for small pens, and vice versa, so it’s important to know which size your pen is. And it’s fairly obvious by just looking at it.

Generally speaking, smaller tipped brush pens are also easiest for beginners—though, there are always exceptions! The brush pens you choose will always come down to personal preference. It’s really a process of testing different ones and finding your favourites. In this section, I’ll give you my favourite recommendations for both sizes!



SMALL VERSUS BIG BRUSH PENS

If you want to see the tip size difference in action, check out this video where I run you through the key differences between the two.

[CLICK TO WATCH](#)

Did you know...

I HAVE MY OWN BRUSH PEN SETS?!



BRUSH PEN FAVORITES

This set includes 6 small-tipped brush pens, perfect options for beginners.



HOLIDAY BRUSH PEN FAVORITES

This set includes 5 pens, themed for the holidays! 3 are small-tipped, and 2 are big-tipped metallics!

STARTER KIT





This kit includes everything I recommend to get started- everything in one place makes it super easy and convenient!




SMALL-TIPPED BRUSH PENS

PRODUCT	SKILL LEVEL
<div data-bbox="142 380 240 474"> </div> <div data-bbox="142 499 537 611"> </div> <div data-bbox="565 401 948 432"> TOMBOW FUDENOSUKE </div> <div data-bbox="565 443 1196 522"> <p>Available in hard tip and soft tip. Both excellent options for beginners.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="592 579 773 684"> </div> <div data-bbox="786 558 1105 695"> <p>Watch it on YouTube: What's the Difference Between Hard and Soft Tip?</p> </div>	<div data-bbox="1273 516 1435 596"> </div> <div data-bbox="1305 575 1403 596"> <p>BEGINNER</p> </div>
<div data-bbox="164 831 521 1104"> </div> <div data-bbox="565 884 842 915"> ZEBRA FUNWARI </div> <div data-bbox="565 926 1127 1003"> <p>Very similar brush tip to Tombow hard tip. Again, an excellent choice for beginners.</p> </div>	<div data-bbox="1273 884 1435 963"> </div> <div data-bbox="1305 942 1403 963"> <p>BEGINNER</p> </div>
<div data-bbox="164 1293 513 1430"> </div> <div data-bbox="565 1283 896 1314"> ZEBRA MISC. FUDES </div> <div data-bbox="565 1325 1192 1446"> <p>Available in medium, fine & extra fine sizes, meaning you will find some more flexible/less flexible and easier or harder to use than others.</p> </div>	<div data-bbox="1273 1325 1435 1404"> </div> <div data-bbox="1289 1383 1419 1425"> <p>BEGINNER TO INTERMEDIATE</p> </div>
<div data-bbox="175 1713 505 1818"> </div> <div data-bbox="565 1677 989 1709"> KURETAKE FUDEGOKOCHI </div> <div data-bbox="565 1719 1188 1841"> <p>Available in regular, fine & extra fine sizes, all of which are quite small and rigid. Great for small detailed writing.</p> </div>	<div data-bbox="1273 1709 1435 1789"> </div> <div data-bbox="1305 1768 1403 1789"> <p>BEGINNER</p> </div>

SMALL-TIPPED BRUSH PENS

PRODUCT	SKILL LEVEL
 <p>PENTEL SIGN BRUSH PEN Slightly more flexible than other similar small-tips, but many “lighter-handed” people enjoy that!</p>	 <p>INTERMEDIATE</p>
 <p>ZIG COCOIRO Teeny tiny tip, excellent for suuuuper tiny writing but can be tricky to master!</p>	 <p>INTERMEDIATE</p>



WHAT IF I FIND OTHER BRANDS- HOW DO I KNOW IF THEY'RE “GOOD”?

There are SO many brush pen options out there, and I couldn't possibly list them all. Long story short, understand that the larger/more flexible the tip, the trickier it'll be to use. You should be able to start to know your preferences after a while. Annoyingly, another helpful tip is that the more expensive pens are generally better quality, too! Cheap pens often fray quickly or don't hold up to being pushed on over and over again.

LARGE-TIPPED BRUSH PENS

PRODUCT

SKILL LEVEL



TOMBOW DUAL BRUSH

Tons of colour options, great for large colourful lettering. These are water-based, so they can be blended together as well, or even used as watercolour.



KOI WATERCOLOR BRUSH PENS

Very similar to the Tombow Dual Brush, but have a slightly smaller/stiffer tip.



ARTISTS LOFT DUAL TIP

Very similar to Tombow Dual Brush, but a bit more affordable (Michaels in-house brand).



ARTLINE STIX

Meant as a kids pen, but very good for brush calligraphy! They have a stiffer tip than most large-tip brush pens and can also create a beautiful natural ombre effect.



LARGE-TIPPED BRUSH PENS

PRODUCT

SKILL LEVEL



ECOLINE BRUSH

Very juicy, flexible tips. Great for dipping into liquid watercolour to create blends.



INTERMEDIATE



KARIN BRUSH MARKERS

Very juicy, flexible tips. Great for blending. Also come in metallic colours.



INTERMEDIATE



KURETAKE FUDEBIYORI METALLICS

Amaaaaazing metallic colours and fairly durable tip.



INTERMEDIATE

BRUSH PENS I WOULD NOT RECOMMEND

Below are some popular brush pens that you may see in stores, but that I personally would NOT recommend (especially for beginners).



ZIG CLEANCOLOR

Small bristle tips are hard to maneuver



PENTEL COLOR BRUSH

Large bristle tips are hard to maneuver, soft barrel can create leaks



FABER CASTELL PITT

Tip doesn't hold its shape, frays quickly



MICRON BRUSH

Bristle tip very hard to maneuver, not a big colour selection



PENTEL POCKET BRUSH

Beautiful black pigment but difficult bristle tip to use



Pointed Pens

POINTED PENS

explained

Pointed pen is the use of a nib & ink for your calligraphy or lettering. It can be a little bit daunting to understand the tools required and how to use them, but it can have one of the most beautiful outcomes!

For pointed pen you need a few different supplies—specifically nibs, holders, and inks. There are tons of different supplies that can be used for pointed pen, but in this guide we will explore some of the most popular for beginners.

One of the more confusing parts is the holder—so we'll cover that first.

WHICH IS BEST FOR YOU?



STRAIGHT HOLDERS

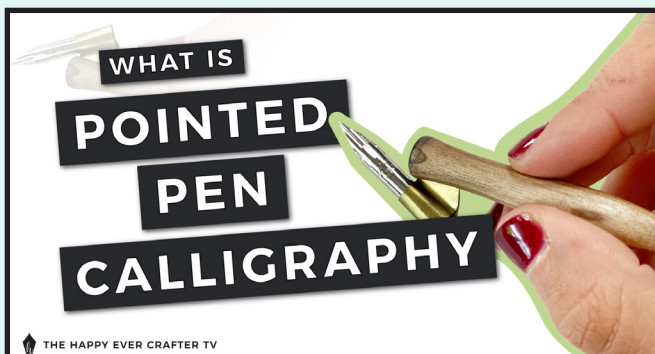
A straight holder will tend to be a little easier right off the bat. But if you are attempting a style that requires you to write on a specific angle you may need to turn your page using a straight holder.



OBLIQUE HOLDERS

The oblique holder takes some getting used to. If you are attempting a style that requires you to write on a specific angle (ie. Copperplate at 55 degrees), you may find the oblique helps you correct that automatically.

GET MORE TIPS ON YOUTUBE



WHAT IS POINTED PEN CALLIGRAPHY?

If you've never heard of pointed pen calligraphy, check out this quick run-through! This section will make much more sense after that.

CLICK TO WATCH

POINTED PEN STRAIGHT HOLDERS

There are soooo many options for straight holders out there that it would be impossible for me to list all of the possibilities you might find in stores. Honestly, deciding on your favourite straight holder will happen just by trying out a bunch of different ones. When I started, I used the simple Speedball straight holder for months before a prettier wooden one caught my eye, so I tried that. It will truly depend on what you like the feel of in your hand-a very personal choice! Holders can also vary hugely in price, so it's up to you how much you're looking to spend.

LEAST
EXPENSIVE



SPEEDBALL STRAIGHT HOLDER



TACHIKAWA STRAIGHT HOLDER



GENERALS CORK HOLDER



LUIS CREATIONS MOBLIQUE

*this pen is a 2-in-1, so it can be turned into an oblique holder as well!



TOM'S STUDIO STRAIGHT HOLDERS

MOST
EXPENSIVE

POINTED PEN OBLIQUE HOLDERS

As with straight holders, choosing an oblique holder will really come down to personal preference. Again, I started out with the Speedball oblique holder which got me used to the actual feel and angle of an oblique holder in general. Then, I experimented with different shapes. The main thing to note with oblique holders is whether they angle the nib the way you like it, as some can be a little bit different (which can greatly affect your personal style!). Again, these can also vary hugely in price, so it's up to you how much you're looking to spend.

**LEAST
EXPENSIVE**



SPEEDBALL OBLIQUE HOLDER



MISC WOOD HOLDERS



ASH BUSH "CARROT" HOLDERS



TOMS STUDIO OBLIQUES



**WRITTEN WORD CALLIGRAPHY
OBLIQUES**














**MOST
EXPENSIVE**

POINTED PEN NIBS

AN IMPORTANT TIP

Remember, for modern calligraphy, you want flexible tipped tools. The nibs you choose should be pointed on the end—not flat, broad edged or chiseled as you often find in older calligraphy kits.



PRODUCT	BEGINNER FRIENDLINESS
  <p>ZEBRA/NIKKO 'G' Best beginner nib. Sturdy for heavy-handers, but flexible enough to still get good thicks.thins.</p>	 <p>BEGINNER</p>
 <p>HUNT 512 Another great beginner nib. Not quite as fine.</p>	 <p>BEGINNER</p>
 <p>BRAUSE 361 "BLUE PUMPKIN" Nice fine lines, but can be pretty finicky to work with.</p>	 <p>INTERMEDIATE</p>
 <p>HUNT 101 Can create VERY thick, beautiful lines— but they suck a lot of ink! Requires a steady hand with steady pressure.</p>	 <p>EXPERT</p>
 <p>HUNT 22B Great all around nib—beautiful hairlines! Also requires a steady hand with steady pressure.</p>	 <p>EXPERT</p>
 <p>BRAUSE EF 66 Great for very small script (make sure it will fit your holder!)</p>	 <p>INTERMEDIATE</p>

POINTED PEN INKS



KURETAKE SUMI INK

Sumi ink is my favourite for pointed pen. It can be diluted with water for whatever consistency you like, and it has a beautiful matte finish when it dries. Sumi is definitely the least finicky ink to work with as a beginner.



WINSOR & NEWTON INDIA INK

India ink is similar to sumi ink in its ease-of-use, but can gum up your nib a little quicker and will require more rinsing. It dries shinier than sumi ink, so it can be used for different applications.

OTHER INK OPTIONS (THAT I DON'T RECOMMEND)

The inks below are readily available at most art stores, and they are OK options—but not ideal. If these are the only options you have, they will work, but I suggest staying away from these if you have the option—they may give you headaches!



W&N DRAWING INKS



SPEEDBALL INK



HIGGINS ETERNAL

LOOKING FOR A SPECIFIC COLOUR OF INK?

Mixing your own ink can be tricky, but it also gives you way more flexibility in colours as well as gives you a ton more control over the consistency that you prefer!



WATER
(preferably distilled)

+



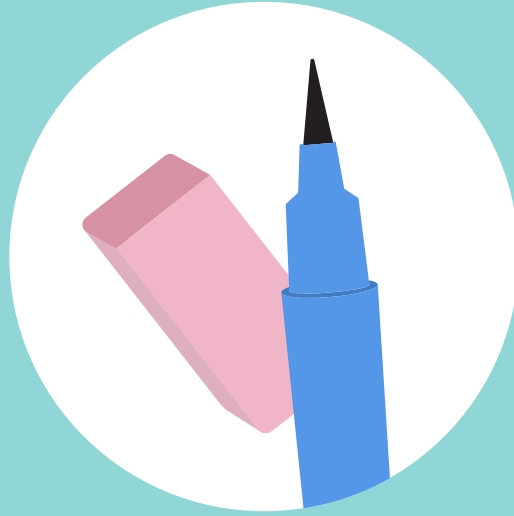
GOUACHE PAINT
(your colour of choice)

+



GUM ARABIC
(just a liiiiiittle bit)

YOU SHOULD MIX YOUR OWN!



Drawing & Journaling Tools

DRAWING & JOURNALING TOOLS



PALOMINO BLACKWING PENCIL

There are multiple types of Blackwing pencils, all with slightly different lead types. I love them all. The smoothness of the lead is beautiful, and the erasers are also replaceable, which is great.



STAEDTLER MARS LUMOGRAPH

I keep a set of Mars Lumograph pencils around so that I have all of the different leads I might be looking for at any given time.



STAEDTLER MARS TECHNICAL PENCIL & SHARPENER

These technical pencils have specialized lead that you can buy in different hardnesses, but of course it's great that it's refillable and not finite in use like a regular pencil. The pencil itself is very heavy and feels really nice in the hand. It also has its own specialized sharpener, it can't be used with a regular sharpener..



TOMBOW MONO SAND ERASER

This eraser saves my life frequently. The texture of this eraser is gritty so it can erase ink! It even erases ink from pointed pen. It is pure magic.



TOMBOW DUST CATCH ERASER

Don't misunderstand this eraser- it still creates some pieces of rubber "dust" as you use it, but they just clump together so much nicer than most other erasers and make less mess.

DRAWING & JOURNALING TOOLS



PIGMA MICRON PEN

Micron pens are my absolute go-to pens for drawing. They are archival quality ink which means not only that they're super pigmented and dark, but they don't fade over time. You can also use them overtop or underneath water (within reason).



UNIBALL SIGNO DX 0.38

This is my absolute favourite everyday writing pen. I use this in my bullet journal, or for writing notes, or anything other than detailed drawing.



TOMBOW TWINTONE MARKERS

I don't generally use a ton of colour in my doodles or for my journal, but I do love the pastel version of these twintone markers by Tombow when I do! They have a thicker side and a thinner side which is great, too.



ZEBRA MILDLINERS

Zebra makes the BEST highlighters (though they're called "mildliners"). They come in tons of different colours and I use them for bullet journaling all the time.

DRAWING & JOURNALING TOOLS



SHARPIE

Sharpie is still my go-to for permanent marker, on surfaces that won't bleed. I rarely use them on paper, but I use them tons on surfaces like wood hangers, or many projects that require "faux calligraphy", for example.



UNIBALL SIGNO WHITE

Uniball Signo is my faaaavourite white gel pen. It is far more opaque than most, and doesn't bleed into other inks so you can use it overtop of things. As with all gel pens, it can be finicky, but when it runs well, it's the best.



UNI POSCA ULTRA FINE

This is a paint pen so it can be a little thick/wet for paper sometimes, but the "ultra fine" size is FANTASTIC for adding little white embellishments on lettering.

DRAWING & JOURNALING TOOLS



THE HAPPY EVER CRAFTER WASHI TAPE SET

Drawing floral borders on my journal pages used to take me so much time! Now I can quickly use these to add borders any time I need to! These tapes are created in a style that mimics the look of pen on paper, so it looks just like you drew it. The tape background is a subtle white that blends well onto paper, making the floral designs pop as borders or other embellishments.



THE HAPPY EVER CRAFTER BOTANICAL RUB ONS

These botanical designs are perfect for borders, separators and space-fillers! You can also use them for easy card-making. They are sort of like stickers, except you rub them onto the page and they do not have any background-so it looks just like you drew it!



THE HAPPY EVER CRAFTER FLORAL RUB ONS

These floral designs are perfect for borders, separators and space-fillers! You can also use them for easy card-making. They are sort of like stickers, except you rub them onto the page and they do not have any background-so it looks just like you drew it!



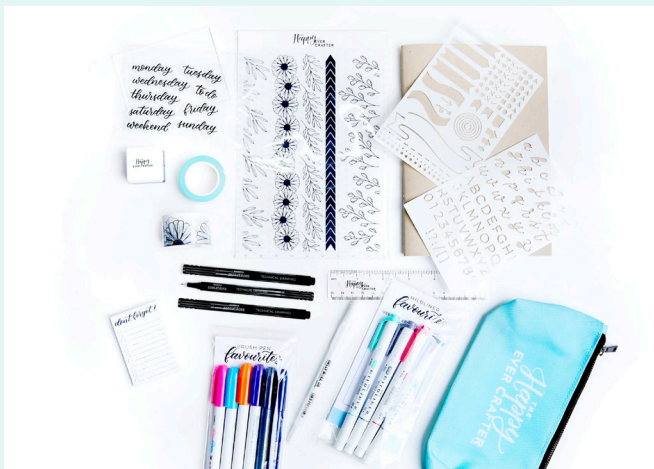
THE HAPPY EVER CRAFTER MIXED BOTANICALS RUB ONS

These botanical designs are perfect for borders, separators and space-fillers! You can also use them for easy card-making. They are sort of like stickers, except you rub them onto the page and they do not have any background-so it looks just like you drew it!

**LOOKING TO SNAG
EXACTLY WHAT I USE
IN MY OWN JOURNAL?**

I made this kit for people who are obsessed like I am with all things pens, paper, hand lettering, drawing, journaling and doodling. It's filled with goodies that help you create and play in a style like mine, with the lettering, doodling and planning elements that I use day-to-day in my own journals!

FIND IT HERE



THE KIT INCLUDES:

- ✓ 6-Pack of Colored, Small Tip Brush Pens
- ✓ 5-Pack Zebra Mildliner Pens
- ✓ 3-Pack Black Fineliner Pen
- ✓ Sakura Gelly Roll Pen, Medium Point in White
- ✓ The Happy Ever Crafter A5 journal
- ✓ 2 4X6 custom stencils
- ✓ 3x4 custom stamp set
- ✓ Floral Rub on sheet
- ✓ Acrylic stamping block
- ✓ Black ink cube
- ✓ Roll of solid color washi tape
- ✓ Roll of washi tape
- ✓ Pencil pouch
- ✓ The Happy Ever Crafter ruler
- ✓ Sticky notepad
- ✓ Sticker Sheet



Watercolour Supplies

WATERCOLOUR SUPPLIES

explained

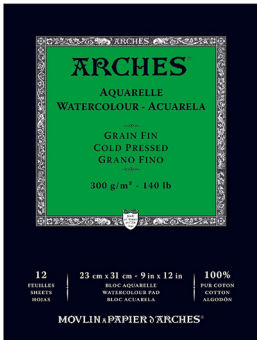

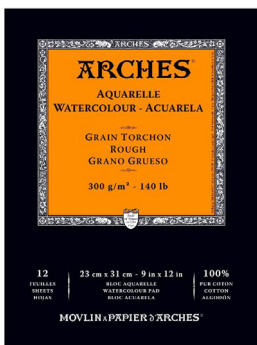
Watercolour paint is becoming more and more popular for use in lettering & calligraphy. Using watercolour paint or liquid watercolours with a paintbrush or waterbrush allows you to create some fun techniques (like blending!) that you couldn't easily achieve using brush pens.

If I can give you one general rule, it's that, the higher quality (read: more expensive) watercolour tools will be easiest to use and give you the best results.

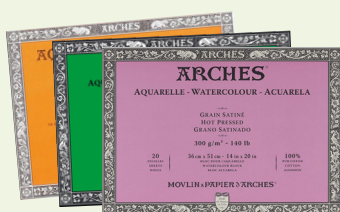
There are many, many types of watercolour paint and liquid watercolours. For the purposes of this supplies guide, we'll be exploring those that are tried & tested for techniques specifically related to lettering & calligraphy.



WATERCOLOUR PAPER




PRODUCT		BUDGET LEVEL	QUALITY
 <p>ARCHES COLD PRESS</p> <p>Arches is a very high quality, thick, heavy watercolour paper. The cold pressed version is rough to the touch, which is wonderful for watercolour effects. However, it can be really tough on your pens. Use it carefully with those!</p>		\$ \$ \$	★ ★ ★
 <p>ARCHES HOT PRESS</p> <p>Arches hot pressed paper is smoother than cold pressed. It's a better option if you're looking to use more brush pens on it, or if you like the different effect it can make with your watercolours. The bleeds will be a little different, but it is definitely easier on your brush pens.</p>		\$ \$ \$	★ ★ ★
 <p>ARCHES ROUGH</p> <p>Arches rough paper is very, very toothy (ie. textured & rough). I would not suggest using your pens on this paper at all, but it can have an amazing effect on your watercolours if you want to use it!</p>		\$ \$ \$	★ ★ ★

EXTRA TIP!



Arches paper is also sold as a “block” instead of in sheets, so that you can paint liberally on the sheet without it warping due to water! Then, when its dry, you peel it off the block. These are a bit more pricey, but definitely worth it if you have that issue!

WATERCOLOUR PAPER

PRODUCT		BUDGET LEVEL	QUALITY
	<p>STRATHMORE COLD</p> <p>Strathmore is my go-to watercolour paper for practice, because it is still decent quality but it isn't as expensive as Arches. Since it's cold pressed, again, it's not great for your brush pens. Be careful with it!</p>	<p>\$ \$ \$</p>	<p>★ ★ ★</p>
	<p>FABRIANO COLD PRESS</p> <p>Fabriano cold press paper is another option for more cost-effective practice, but you can definitely tell the difference between it and the more expensive papers. It's a little bit less toothy than other cold pressed papers, and the paper itself is a bit less thick.</p>	<p>\$ \$ \$</p>	<p>★ ★ ★</p>
	<p>FABRIANO HOT PRESS</p> <p>Same comments apply to this one as with the Fabriano cold pressed papers, except that since it's hot pressed it is smoother. Better for your brush pens, but not necessarily as good for your watercolours.</p>	<p>\$ \$ \$</p>	<p>★ ★ ★</p>

BRUSHES & PALETTES



PENTEL AQUASH

These brushes have a screw off top so you can pre-fill them with water (or ink, or liquid watercolour!). They come in a few different sizes.



PRINCETON ROUND “SNAP!” BRUSH

These brushes are on the cheap end but they are my absolute favourite—they hold their shape really well and come in tons of different sizes that are great for lettering.



CERAMIC PALETTE

Ceramic palettes are much nicer to use than plastic palettes, even though they're pricier. They are easier to clean, and they also never have issues with watercolour “beading”, which you may find on plastic ones.






There are many handmade makers who make these, but I get mine from Ellie Panda Pottery.



PLASTIC PALETTE

Plastic palettes are much more affordable and easy to find— you can get these at any art store. I prefer the palette with actual wells for each paint as opposed to a flat plastic palette—for watercolour, you want to be able to contain it!

WATERCOLOUR PAINTS

PRODUCT	BUDGET LEVEL	QUALITY
  <p>WINSOR & NEWTON PROFESSIONAL</p> <p>My favourite watercolour paints. Amazing colours & quality.</p>	<p>\$ \$ \$</p>	<p>★ ★ ★</p>
 <p>WINSOR & NEWTON COTMAN</p> <p>Very similar to above, but slightly cheaper grade. Great option for beginners and/or practice..</p>	<p>\$ \$ \$</p>	<p>★ ★ ★</p>
  <p>ECOLINE LIQUID WATERCOLOR</p> <p>Amazing vibrant colours, great quality for price. These are so fun to play with and require less mixing with water- you could even use them totally without water if you preferred, or even add them directly into a waterbrush like the Pentel Aquash.</p>	<p>\$ \$ \$</p>	<p>★ ★ ★</p>

MISC. RELATED PRODUCTS



DR. PH MARTIN'S BLEEDPROOF WHITE

Bleedproof white has tons of different uses and it is a *must have* in my toolbox! It can be mixed with water and used as a white paint, or you can mix it with even more water to create white pointed pen ink. It is the most opaque white you will find!



FINETEC GOLD/PEARL PALETTES

Finetec is a great metallic pan set. It works much better than attempting pre-made metallic inks for pointed pen, or it can be used directly as a metallic paint as well! Simply mix with water when you need it.



PEARLEX METALLIC PIGMENT POWDERS

Pearlex is a line of powders that you can mix into paint or inks to add metallic shimmer & colour! It comes in a ton of different metallic colours. It requires a bit of practice to get the right consistency.



WINDSOR NEWTON IRIDESCENT MEDIUM

Iridescent medium is a shimmery medium that can be mixed directly into paint or ink, or added on top of a finished piece afterward. It gives it a shiny, metallic look that is a bit more subtle.



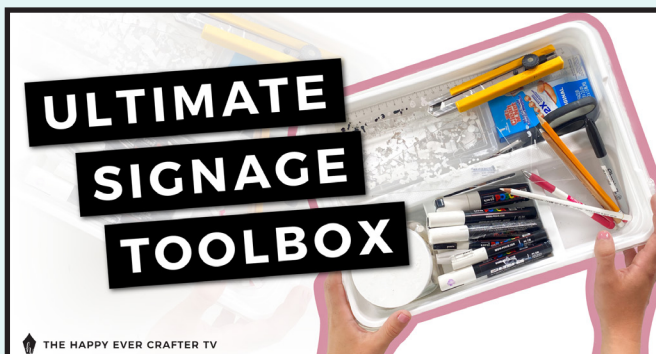
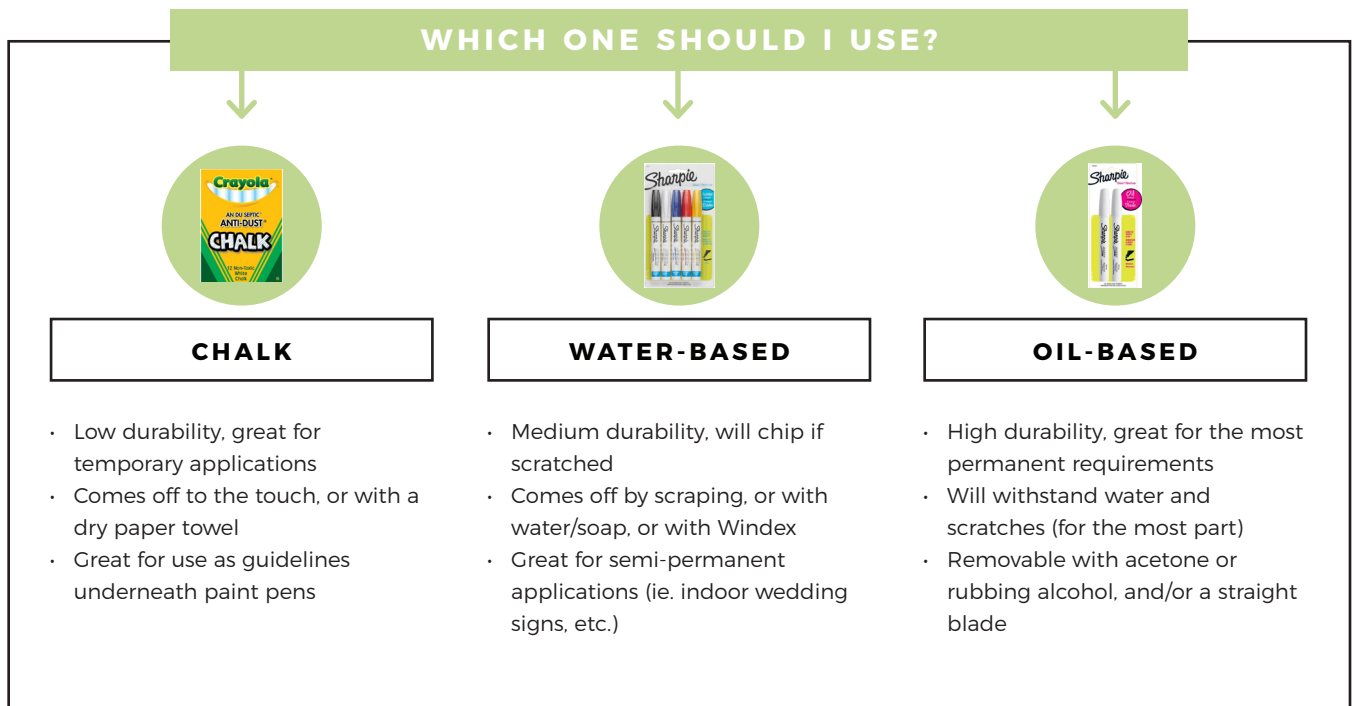
Paint Pens & Chalk Pens

PAINT PENS & CHALK PENS

explained

Using paint pens and chalk pens can be tricky. It will REALLY depend on exactly what type of project you're doing. In fact, there's so much to cover here that myself and another artist, Mabz, wrote an entire guide JUST about signage tools that includes this info in way more depth (see below!), However, in this section, I'll go over the basics of which one to use for which applications (though there are always exceptions), how to remove them, as well as giving you some visuals for which ones are the most/least durable.

Here's a quick run-down:








LOOKING FOR MORE ABOUT SIGNAGE-SPECIFIC TOOLS?

Check out this Ultimate Signage Toolbox guide for a complete list of what exact tools you'll need in your toolbox for that type of job.




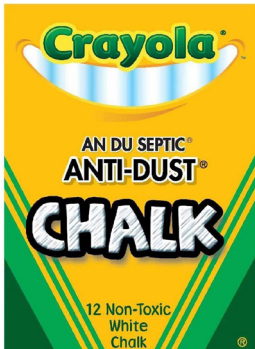
[FIND THAT HERE](#)

PSST: you can also find my entire course all about signage, Signing Up, [here!](#)

PAINT PENS

PRODUCT	DURABILITY	REMOVE WITH
 <p>POSCA PAINT PENS</p> <p>Posca paint pens are such a great option for versatility in size as well as colour. They are one of my go-to's. However, they're not SUPER durable (they are water-based).</p>	<p>★ ★ ★</p>	<p>WATER/ WINDEX</p>
 <p>SHARPIE WATER-BASED</p> <p>Sharpie water-based paint pens are great and opaque, but they only come in limited sizes and colours. I use these really only for the black and white options.</p>	<p>★ ★ ★</p>	<p>WATER/ WINDEX</p>
 <p>SHARPIE OIL-BASED</p> <p>Similar to the water-based option, the oil-based Sharpies are limited in colour and size. However, they're exceptional for more durable work.</p>	<p>★ ★ ★</p>	<p>ACETONE OR ALCOHOL</p>
 <p>MOLOTOW ONE4ALL</p> <p>Molotow is a great option for a durable, colourful paint pen. It comes in tons of different colours, and also comes with refillable cartridges which is excellent.</p>	<p>★ ★ ★</p>	<p>ACETONE OR ALCOHOL</p>
 <p>MOLOTOW LIQUID CHROME</p> <p>Same as the above description, I just added this pen separately because it's a MUST-TRY for anyone looking for a metallic/chrome effect!</p>	<p>★ ★ ★</p>	<p>ACETONE OR ALCOHOL</p>

CHALK/CHALK PENS

PRODUCT	DURABILITY	REMOVE WITH
 <p>BISTRO CHALK MARKER</p> <p>Bistro chalk markers are great if you want VERY easily removable art from non-porous surfaces. It's also great to use for guidelines for use with stronger paint pens, as it will easily rub off but the paint pen will stay.</p>	<p>★ ★ ★</p>	<p>DRY PAPER TOWEL</p>
 <p>VERSACHALK MARKER</p> <p>Same description as the Bistro markers above, except Versachalk makes far more colourful options!</p>	<p>★ ★ ★</p>	<p>DRY PAPER TOWEL</p>
 <p>GENERALS CHALK PENCIL</p> <p>Chalk pencils (or even pastel pencils) are perfect for super tiny, detailed chalk work. If you're working on a project with actual chalk (below), these are a great thing to have on hand.</p>	<p>★ ★ ★</p>	<p>DRY PAPER TOWEL</p>
 <p>CRAYOLA ANTI-DUST CHALK</p> <p>The "anti-dust" is a little bit misleading—all chalk will create some sort of dust. However, this is certainly the least dusty of them all, and it is a nice opaque finish for jobs requiring real chalk.</p>	<p>★ ★ ★</p>	<p>DRY PAPER TOWEL</p>



Miscellaneous Other Supplies

LAYOUT PLANNING, ETC.

STABILO AQUARELLABLE PENCIL



I use this to draw guidelines on pretty much any surface- glass, plexi, mirrors, windows, chalkboards, etc. It wipes off with a dry towel or with a bit of water!

LASER LEVEL (ANY BRAND)



The brand I use is called Johnson HotShot—but it does not have to be this one! Any laser level from the hardware store will do. I use this to shoot a guideline across any surface I don't want to draw one onto!



Watch it on YouTube:

My Secret Weapon For Calligraphy



SCOTCH RULER-STYLE TAPE

This ruler-style Scotch tape makes signage jobs SO easy. I line it up down the sides of any signage surface I'm working on, so that I can easily make sure things are level and draw my guidelines without having to measure each one! SO genius!



LEVEL

I always make sure to have a level with me when I do any signage jobs- even the best eyeballer can't always ensure things are perfectly straight. This can really throw off your project!

Your level can be ANY brand, and they make them in all different lengths depending on what type/size of projects you do.

EMBOSSING



Watch it on YouTube:

HOW TO USE EMBOSSING POWDER

[CLICK TO WATCH](#)

Embossing can be a really fun way to add texture to your work, but it does require some specialty tools. Most of these items can be found at your local craft stores, and they do not need to be these exact brands. These are just the ones I use!



VERSAMARK EMBOSSING INK

Embossing ink is a fluid that you can dip a paintbrush into to create your lettering to be embossed.



VERSAMARK EMBOSSING PEN

Embossing pens are essentially just pens with embossing ink built-in. This one has a dual tip which I like—a brush end and a bullet end. I've even dipped it directly into the embossing ink when it has dried out!



VERSAMARK EMBOSSING STAMP PAD

An embossing stamp pad would be for use with stamps (shocking, I know!). You would cover your stamp with the embossing fluid from the stamp pad, which is sticky to let the powder adhere to all the small details.



RANGER EMBOSSING POWDER

There are many brands and colours of embossing powder, it does not have to be this brand.



RECOLLECTIONS HEAT GUN

You can use any heat gun for embossing, just make sure that you pay attention to the amount of heat coming out or it can curl or even burn your paper.

FOILING



Watch it on YouTube:

HOW TO DO FOILING WITH A MINC MACHINE

[CLICK TO WATCH](#)



MINC REACTIVE FOIL

Comes in different colours. You can find other brands of foil out there but they don't all work equally well. This one is tried and true!



MINC MACHINE

This is the machine to use for foiling projects- it also comes in a mini version if you tend to do smaller pieces. Some people have found success in using a basic laminator for this type of work, but again, it is hit-and-miss and requires lots of playing with the settings.



MINC TONER INK MARKER

Foil requires toner ink to stick to for lamination. For this I generally print my designs from a laser printer (see the tutorial), but if you'd rather do a design by hand, this pen can do the trick! Personally, it is not my favourite as it dries out quickly.



Watch it on YouTube:

FOIL YOUR WORK WITH A QUILL PEN

[CLICK TO WATCH](#)



WE R MEMORY KEEPERS FOIL QUILL

This foil quill creates the heat required to be able to easily transfer foil onto a multitude of surfaces. It can be finicky, though- see my tutorial for tips!

MASKING



Watch it on YouTube:

HOW TO USE MASKING FLUID FOR CALLIGRAPHY

[CLICK TO WATCH](#)

Masking fluid is really useful in many art techniques and can create some really fun effects. It basically “masks” your background, so you could paint or write overtop of it. See the tutorial to understand a bit better!



WINSOR & NEWTON MASKING FLUID

This masking fluid is definitely high quality, but beware: use it with a brush that you aren't attached to! Masking fluid tends to gum up any brush it touches, and even after washing, it may not bounce back to its full shape.

You can also find masking fluid that comes in yellowish colours so that you can more easily see it on your page.



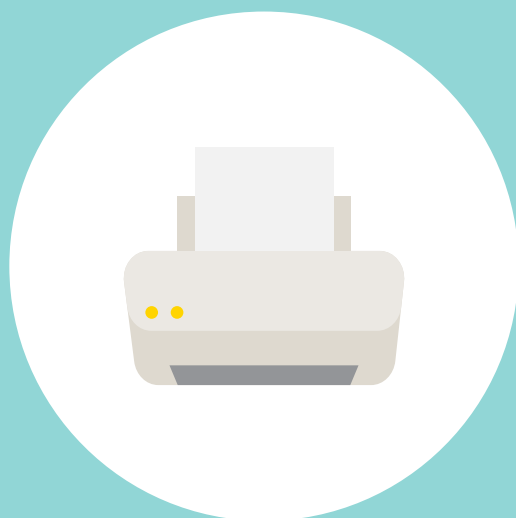
MOLOTOW MASKING FLUID PEN

A masking fluid pen makes it much easier to control if you're planning to use it for writing! It also means not having to mess up any of your brushes. However, the tip of this pen can be easily frayed with use on textured (generally watercolour) papers, so that's the tradeoff.



RUBBER PICK-UP TOOL

A rubber pick-up tool is really helpful in removing the dried masking fluid without accidentally ripping your paper. You could also use a gum eraser for this, but the rubber pick-up tool is just.... better!



Technology

TRIPODS



CANVAS LAMP

The Canvas lamp is so great for creators who want to film while they create (like me!) because it clips your phone into an adjustable tripod, but it's also a light!

I love the flexibility of it, and I also love how heavy the base is so it never topples over.



ARKON MOUNT

The Arkon mount is the most versatile tripod for the phone that I've ever found. It has multiple joints so you can adjust it in TONS of different positions which is really helpful for filming art projects. It can also extend fairly tall, as well as fold up pretty small for transport. And again, the base is quite heavy so it doesn't topple. Highly recommend!



NEEWER BOOM STAND TRIPOD

This is the tripod I use if I'm filming actual course or tutorial videos, and I use it with my DSLR camera instead of my phone. It extends horizontally over my hands so I can easily film what I'm doing. I also use it when I'm filming huuuuuuge signs and my smaller tripod can't get the whole thing in view, or if I'm on site filming a mural process video or something like that! This thing is HUGE, but works really well.

LIGHTS



NEEWER TABLETOP LIGHTS

If I don't have natural light, these are the tabletop lights I use to film videos. I put one on either side of my work to reduce shadows. They work great and are totally adjustable.



NEEWER RING LIGHT

I use this light if I am filming myself (not my hands) for tutorial videos and I don't have natural light.



CRICUT BRIGHTPAD

This is the lightbox I use. I love the way it feels under my paper if I'm tracing (it's not as hard as regular glass lightpads) and I absolutely love that it has different brightness options. It's also pretty lightweight compared to other models I've tried!

CAMERAS & PRINTERS



IPEVO ZIGGI-HD PLUS

This is called a document camera, and it is super handy for teaching. It's great for over-the-hands work, and it plugs into my computer directly so I can stream to my students or record a quick tutorial. I also use this for in-person workshops so I can easily project what I'm doing onto a bigger screen! It is fantastic and affordable.



CANON PIXMA PRO-100

This is the printer I use- it is much bigger than it looks in the photo! I chose this printer because of its super-high quality for art prints, but also because it can print on larger paper (up to 13"x19") as well as thicker paper (ie. watercolour paper!)



SAMSUNG M2020 LASER

I use this black & white laser printer if I need to print something quickly (the Canon has far more expensive ink, so I don't want to waste it!) or if I am printing something to foil. For foiling, the print must use toner, which this printer does!

Okay, you've got the tools...

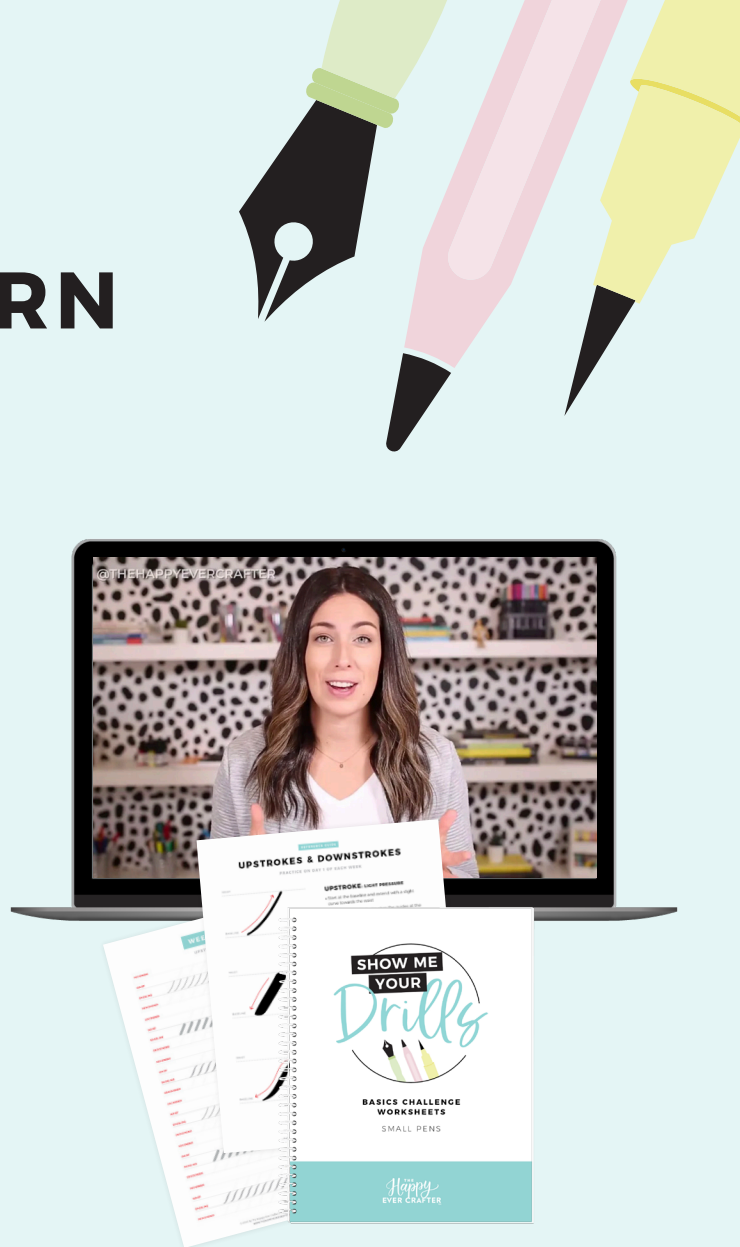
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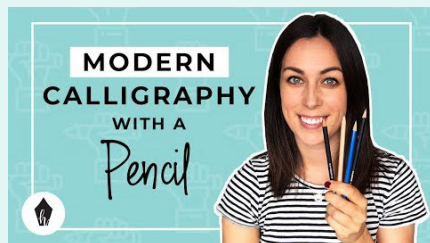
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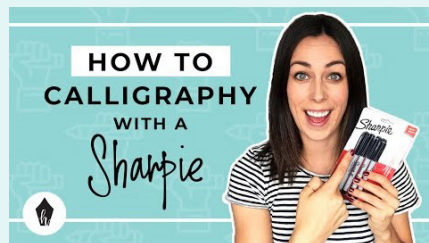
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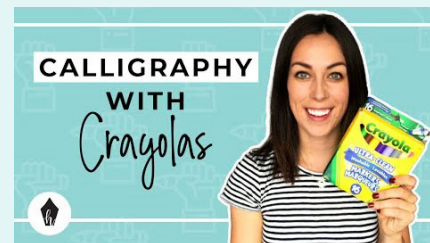
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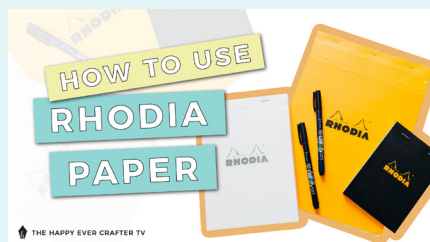
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- ▶ How To Use Rhodia Paper



- ▶ How To Transition From Small to Big Brush Pens



- ▶ Tombow Fudenosuke Hard Tip vs Soft Tip: What's The Difference?



- ▶ Brush Pens: Small vs. Big. What's the difference?



- ▶ The 2 Best Pens for Beginner Brush Calligraphy

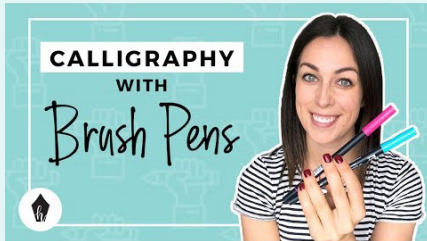


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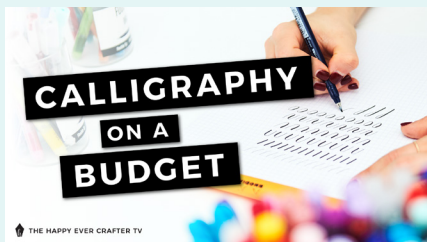
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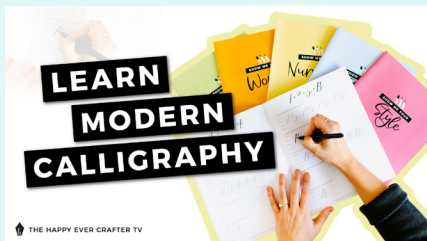
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- ▶ The Ultimate Calligraphy "Lightbulb" Moment



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- ▶ 3 Common Brush Pen Mistakes (and how you can fix them!)



- ▶ How NOT To Hold Brush Pens

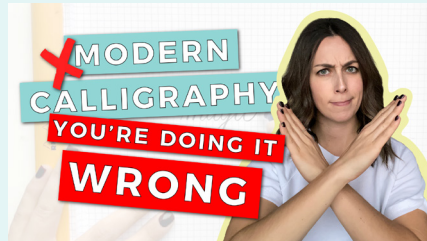


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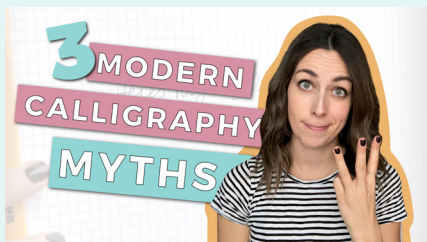
▶ 4 Common Beginner Calligraphy Mistakes and How You Can Fix Them



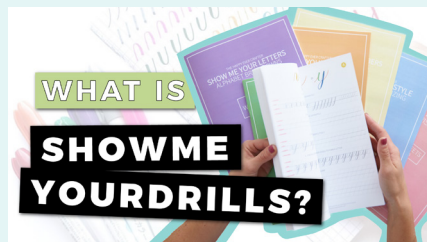
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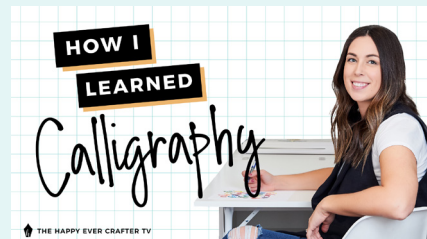
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