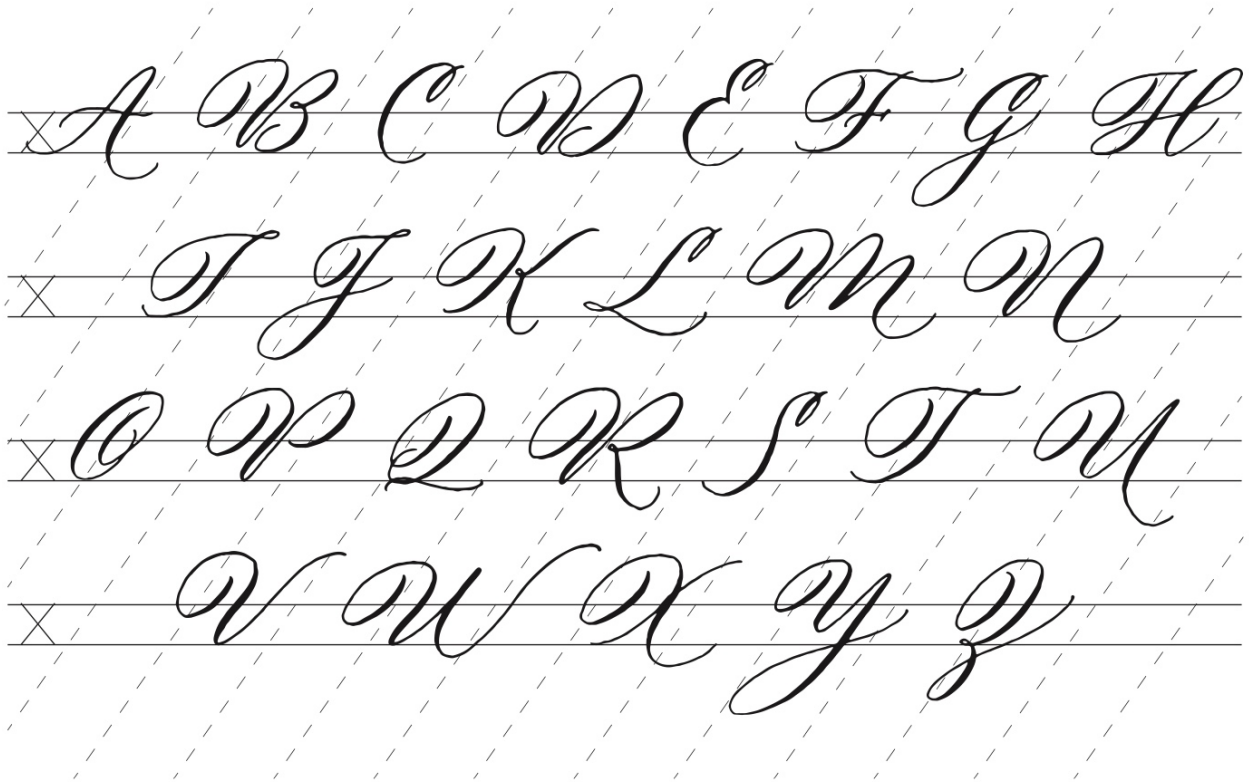


## MODERN UPPERCASE LETTERS

Capitals account for 5% of your letters when writing. These capitals are simple, yet just slightly larger than traditional cap-height. I typically make these large for impact. See how each letter compares to the x-height.



## NOTES

## MODERN & GESTURAL WORDS

The more consistency you have, the more traditional your style becomes. HOWEVER, even within modern styles, you want consistency within your inconsistency. It's all about thresholds. Practicing your words and phrases consistently will help you create more cohesive modern work.

the quick brown fox  
jumps over a lazy dog.

I'm just using the baseline as my guide for the second pangram. I'll go over and under the baseline a little, some of my letters will vary in size; but because of my purposeful practice and muscle memory, the variation will stay within a certain range. That range creates consistency in the inconsistency. I've also added more letter-spacing to create a breathy, modern style.

the quick brown  
fox jumps over  
a lazy dog.

See each version of the word "the"? They're slightly different, but the angle stays the same, the letter-spacing stays the same and the negative space is open. A great way to practice your consistency is with the words "minimum" and "hillbilly". You should see & feel a rhythm between each stroke, even when introducing modern styling into the mix.

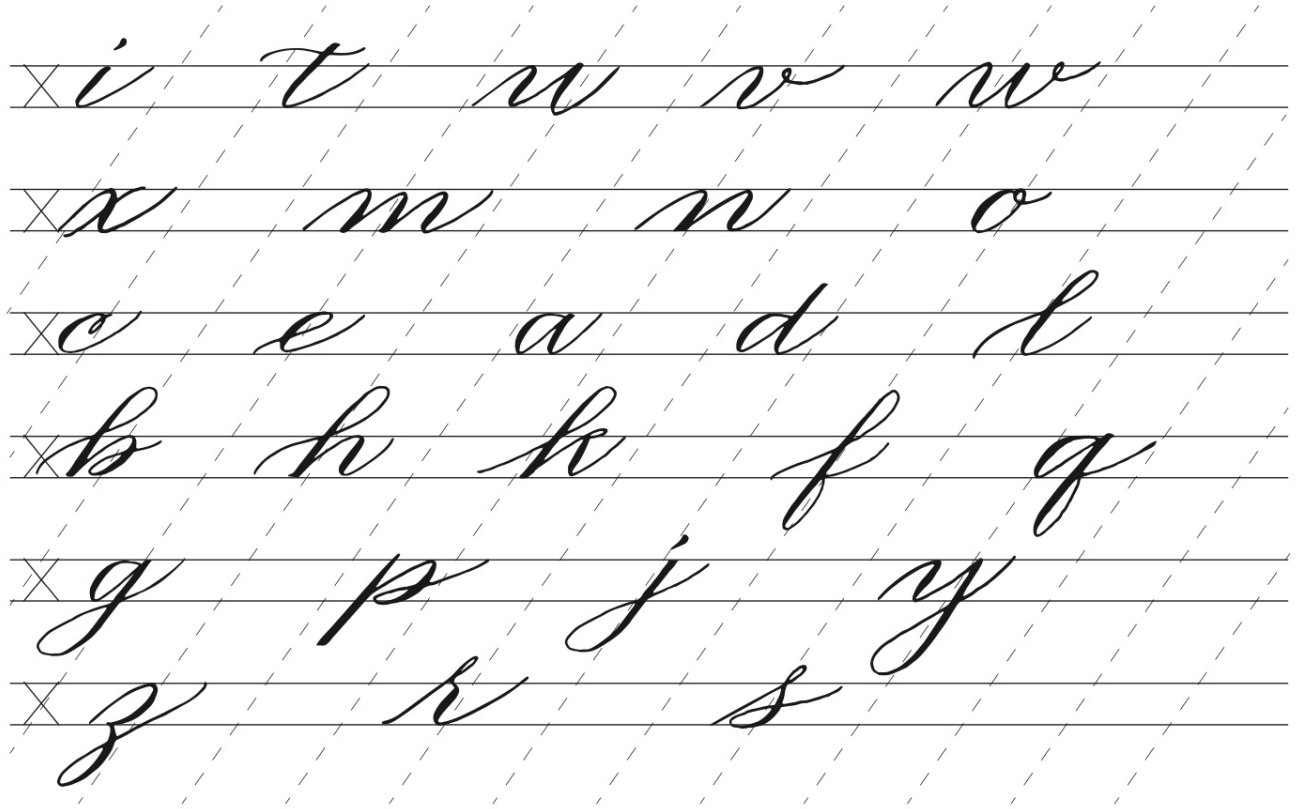
the the the

## MODERN LOWERCASE LETTERS

This is a modified pointed-pen alphabet based on traditional Copperplate and Italic foundations.

Traditional Copperplate styles may have a 2:1:2 ratio or even a 3:1:3 ratio with the ascenders, x-height and descenders. I've not drawn in the ascender and descender lines in with this alphabet because I want to leave that up to you. You may notice that my ascenders and descenders vary slightly in size. Picking and choosing where I maintain consistency is what adds that modern touch.

Traditional angles for Copperplate styles are at between 45-55°. This alphabet is at a 55° angle. Incorporating a more traditional angle adds a formal and graceful nature to this style. If you're fighting the angle, go upright! As long as you're consistent, that's all that matters.



## MODERN NUMBERS

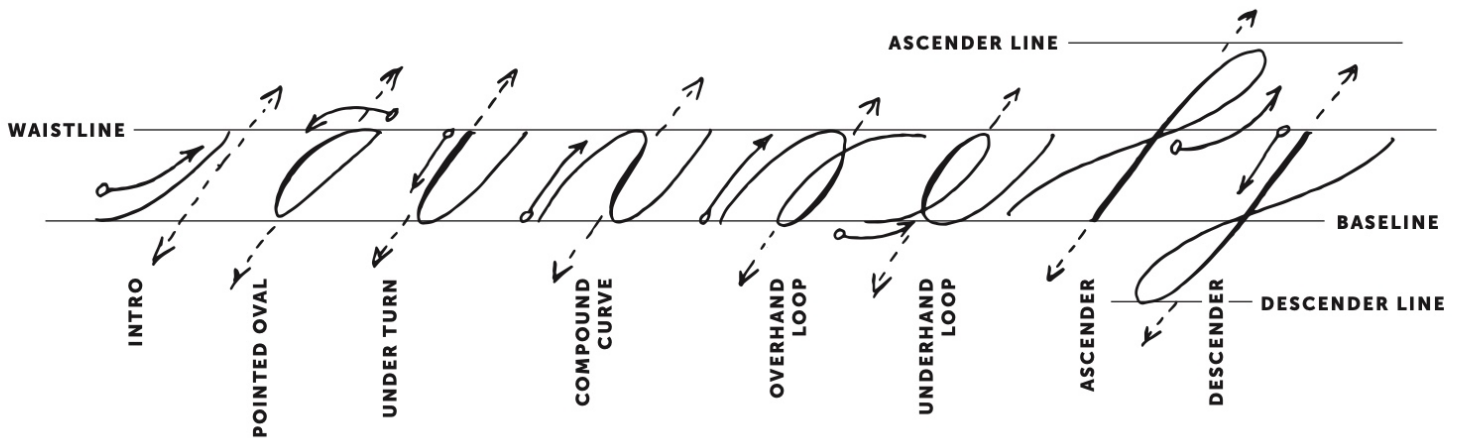
Numbers are 3/4 the height of a capital letter. Basically about the same height as the 't' or 'd'.

More traditional numerals have ascenders and descenders. But there's no need to overcomplicate. We'll keep them the same height.



# MODERN BASIC STROKES

Modified pointed-pen alphabet based on traditional Copperplate and Italic foundations



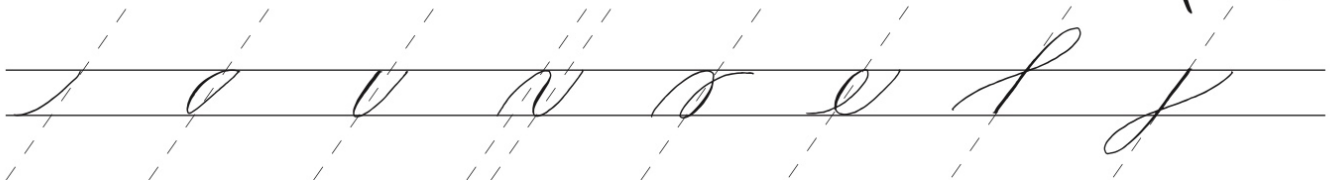
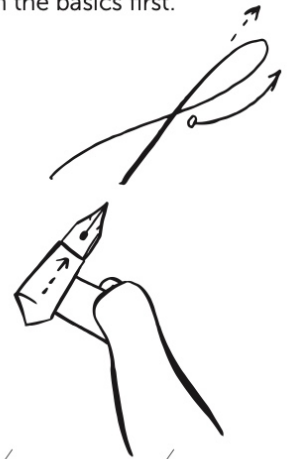
Basic strokes are the essentials, the underwear, of calligraphy. If you don't attend to the foundations with purposeful practice, the rest of your work will fall apart. Perfecting these strokes even in their abstract form will help you develop muscle memory, more consistent style and better readability. If you want to get good fast. Learn the basics first.

## ORIENTATION & GRIP

Want to avoid wrist and finger pain? PAY ATTENTION to the grip demonstration. The death grip will do you no good here.

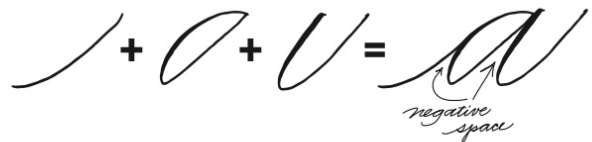
**Proper orientation** is crucial for balanced strokes and letters. You'll want the nib pointing parallel the angle line with even pressure on both tines on the downstrokes. Rotate your paper counter-clockwise (or clockwise if you're a lefty) until your tines match up with the angle.

Holler if you're having troubles with either. Practice tracing in pencil and then pen the basic strokes below:



## COMBINING STROKES

Keep these strokes intact when combining to form letters. Don't crop or overlap strokes. Connect adjacent and touching, keeping in mind the negative space of each letter. If you keep the negative space in mind, you'll find that your work will start to sparkle.



**LET'S CONNECT!** Follow along @melissapher and @calligraphyorg for inspiration and updates.  
Use #calligraphyorg to showcase your work!