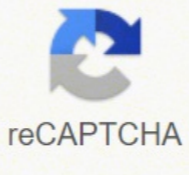




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How to do faux calligraphy with a pencil

Does easy calligraphy exist? Is there an easy way to learn the art of lettering? Where should you start if you are a beginner and want to learn more about hand lettering and calligraphy but don't have a lot of resources to invest in another hobby? You're in luck! Beginning to learn lettering doesn't have to be hard or expensive. You can learn some easy calligraphy using only a pencil and paper. One way to do this is with faux calligraphy. Faux calligraphy is drawing letters and reinforcing some of the strokes to make it look like calligraphy. This is a great way to get started learning about letter shapes and how lettering works. In fact, I still use faux calligraphy when I'm working with a design to help me get the feel of a piece without pulling out the final tools. It's a fantastic way to play with letters before committing them to ink. I love beginning a design in pencil because it's accessible (I can sit down anywhere in my house and find one close by!) and a pencil slides smoothly across the paper without snagging, blobbing ink or skipping on the paper. That means, your primary focus can be learning the movements of each letter. Here's another way to use a pencil to begin making beautiful letters. I'll call it easy calligraphy because it uses supplies you already have and still trains your muscles in the practice of lettering art. As an added bonus, you can erase it when you want a redo without having to start all over again. Easy Calligraphy Beginning Strokes For this exercise, a pencil that you can sharpen will work best. You can use a mechanical pencil, but the difference in strokes will not be as noticeable. Just Begin in easy calligraphy with four different pencils. Take a look at the words above. Notice that some of the lines in the letters are thin and some of them are thick. Do you see a rhythm to the thin and thick lines? Think about the way you usually write. Letters are a mixture of pushing your pencil toward the top of your paper (up strokes) and pulling your pencil toward the bottom of your paper (down strokes). When writing calligraphy, you apply light pressure on your tool (this time, a pencil) during your up strokes and heavy pressure on your tool during down strokes. Try it. Write "Just Begin" on a piece of paper in your normal handwriting. When do you move up as you write? When do you move your line down? Now, write it again. But this time write it like calligraphy. When you move up with your line, keep it light on the page. The less pressure you put on your pencil, the thinner the line will be. When you move down with your line, apply pressure as you push your pencil against the paper. The more pressure you place on your pencil, the thicker your line will be. If it helps, write it normally first and go over the down strokes (a lot like faux calligraphy). Just look at the difference! Look how easy calligraphy can be! Now, you just need a little bit of practice because all good things get better with practice. I've designed a worksheet for my email subscribers to help you get started. Try out this worksheet to help you begin to practice easy calligraphy with a pencil. Sign up for my email list (Blots & Jots) in the form below or to the right of this post so I can send you this free worksheet. You'll receive the password for the resource library and access to all new resources and printable guides as they become available. You can see examples of lettering in pencil all over the web, but one of my favorite examples is the Instagram account of @mimortismay. Click on this link to see an example of her work in pencil. Amazing. And so tiny! That's all for today! Thank you for reading, and Happy Creating! Are you learning calligraphy, a hand lettering beginner, but don't know where to start? This faux calligraphy or fauxigraphy basics tutorial is for you! I LOVE fauxigraphy. This is how I started learning lettering and it really helped me to understand the thin upstrokes and thick downstrokes when I started using a brush pen. One of my favorite things is that you can use any pen! No more excuses for not being able to buy expensive brush pens. I totally get that because that's where I was at when I started. But you can even use a pencil for fauxigraphy. For this tutorial, I used the Tombow Twintone pens, although you can use any pen. They have such pretty colors! I have two packs of these Tombow Twintone pens I got from Amazon (As an Amazon Associate I earn from qualifying purchases). If you would like to also watch this tutorial with demos, see my YouTube video here: Faux Calligraphy Basics Tutorial

1. Write a word. It can be a script style or print style. It doesn't matter right now. I will talk about how lettering isn't cursive in a little bit, but for now, just write any word.
2. Add a line to the downstrokes. If you don't remember where the downstrokes are, you can follow your word with your pen to see where the pen went down. We only want the downstrokes. Leave any sideways strokes or upstrokes. We want all of our downstrokes to be the same angle.
3. Fill in the downstrokes. If you don't want very thick downstrokes, the second and third step may be combined for you and I'll talk about that more in a minute. The main goal is to make sure all of your downstrokes are the same thickness to keep it consistent throughout your word. I shared another faux calligraphy tutorial in my post The Secret to Fake Calligraphy if you want even more inspiration. Faux Calligraphy isn't cursive When I teach my hand lettering workshops, the first thing I teach is faux calligraphy. Most people hesitate because they say their cursive doesn't look like mine. This is true. First, because we all have different styles. Second, because lettering is not cursive. With cursive, the main thing is that your pen never lifts off the paper. This is ok for some of the letters, but it's really going to mess up other letters. For example the e in cursive doesn't have much of a downstroke because you just loop your pen around. With lettering, you pick up your pen so that the e gets its full downstroke. Also in the g (also happens with the letter a), you have the line going through the oval of the g because you don't lift your pen. As I try to add the downstroke, it's really squished in there. Whereas the g when you pick up your pen has the full oval to just add the downstroke to.

So when people ask if you can just write a word in cursive for fauxigraphy, it only sometimes works. Fauxigraphy Basic Strokes Alphabet I'm going to break down each letter of the alphabet here to show you how you would use faux calligraphy to thicken the downstrokes. Each letter is made up of different strokes. If you have never heard of the basic strokes for hand lettering and calligraphy, see my post Hand Lettering the Basic Strokes. Basically, you pick up your pen after each stroke to form your letters. Unlike cursive, you actually get to pick up your pen between each stroke. If you are really used to cursive, this may be hard at first. It takes a lot of patience to slow down and break down each letter. Of course, if you enjoy a more cursive, don't pick up your pen style, I'm sure you can make that look good. I just know that for me and most of my students, it is easier to break it down like this. I like that I can pick up my pen and breathe for a second while I'm getting ready for the next stroke. It's very therapeutic. And as for adding the downstrokes, you can see in the picture, I normally add the thickness to the right side of the stroke. That's just a general rule. However, you have to decide letter by letter and word by word. If I'm going to cover up a loop too much, then I'll add it to the left side. And sometimes I add a little to the right and a little to the left depending on how much room I left myself. The main thing is that it looks natural like a brush pen did it, and you have the same downstroke width throughout your word. Faux Calligraphy Styles This is another great aspect of faux calligraphy. You can choose the style. Do you want it to be thinner downstrokes with very little contrast between your upstrokes and downstrokes? Or do you want really thick, chunky downstrokes with a lot of contrast? With fauxigraphy, you get to choose. If you were using a brush pen, you'd have to choose the right brush pen for thin or chunky and some brush pens have good flexibility that allows you to get some variations. But with fauxigraphy, you can be doing this with any pen. And that leads to my new Skillshare class I created for you. How to do Faux Calligraphy to Create Unique Lettering Styles. Creating your style can seem like this big vague mystery. But I'm going to keep it really simple for you and show you how fauxigraphy can help. In the Skillshare class, you will get these free practice sheets with each letter broken down into strokes and plenty of fauxigraphy practice. If you don't want to take the class, I also have Faux Calligraphy worksheets with lowercase, uppercase and several words to practice in fauxigraphy. If you've never heard of skillshare, it's really awesome. When you sign up, you can take any class you want at no extra cost. Plus I have a special Skillshare link you can use to get two months free so you could take all of my classes and any other classes for free. Take the Skillshare class: How to do Faux Calligraphy to Create Unique Lettering Styles.

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