


Calligraphy & Handlettering

Examples of correspondence once delivered via the Pony Express are a great, though rare, illustration of calligraphy use in the United States in the mid 19th century. Beginning on April 3, 1860, letters couriered by the Pony Express riders traversed the wilderness from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Sacramento, California over 10 days, an unparalleled feat at the time.

Within a year and a half the Pony Express became obsolete through the completion of the first transcontinental telegraph, a more economical form of communication. Despite the short life, the Pony Express service is commemorated annually by riders along the original route to celebrate the rugged individualism and legacy of the American frontier.



PONY EXPRESS!

CHANGE OF TIME!  REDUCED RATES!

10 Days to San Francisco!

LETTERS

WILL BE RECEIVED AT THE
OFFICE, 84 BROADWAY,
NEW YORK,
Up to 4 P. M. every TUESDAY,
AND
Up to 2½ P. M. every SATURDAY,
Which will be forwarded to connect with the PONY EXPRESS leaving
ST. JOSEPH, Missouri,
Every WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY at 11 P. M.

TELEGRAMS

Sent to Fort Kearney on the mornings of MONDAY and FRIDAY, will connect with PONY leaving St. Joseph, WEDNESDAYS and SATURDAYS.

EXPRESS CHARGES.

LETTERS weighing half ounce or under \$1 00
For every additional half ounce or fraction of an ounce 1 00
In all cases to be enclosed in 10 cent Government Stamped Envelopes,
And all Express CHARGES Pre-paid.
PONY EXPRESS ENVELOPES For Sale at our Office.
WELLS, FARGO & CO., Ag'ts.
New York, July 1, 1861.
SLOPE & JAMES, STATIONERS AND PRINTERS, 86 FULTON STREET, NEW YORK



Thank you for joining us this Valentine's Day weekend at the Briscoe Western Art Museum to learn more about calligraphy and the history of the Pony Express.

It is our hope that you will utilize this new skill to pen your sweetheart a love letter and draw inspiration from the included romantic quotes from Western literature and cinema.

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Your kit includes the following:

Calligraphy Set

- Pen
- (1 each) Bold, Medium, & Fine Point Nibs
- Classic Nib
- (3) Ink Cartridges
- (1) Refillable Ink Cartridge

Paper & Envelopes

Stickers

Wax Seal



Calligraphy & Handlettering

A Beginner's Guide

1. Remove the lid from the pen, and unscrew the classic nib. Choose the nib you would like to use. Your kit is marked with B, M, and F on the nibs for Bold, Medium, and Fine weight lines.



2. Push the tapered end of the ink cartridge into the nib until it clicks following the arrow below. You may need to use some force to pop the plastic stopper inside the ink cartridge.

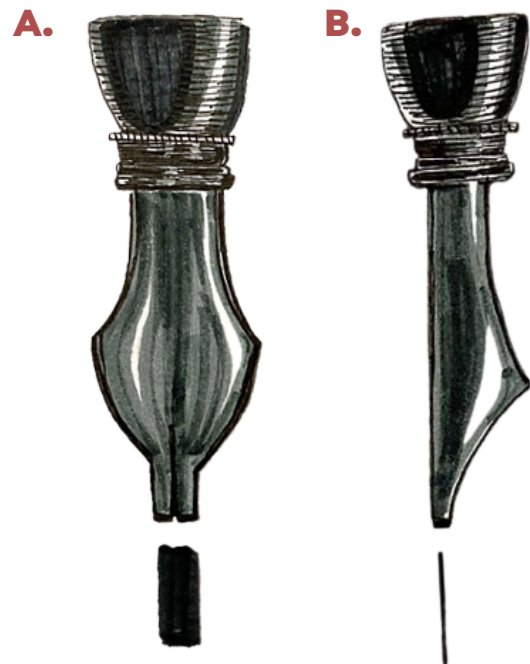


3. Screw the end of the pen into the nib. Shake the pen for a few seconds with the nib facing down. It is helpful to have paper towels handy to wipe away excess ink.

4. Tap the end of the nib onto a piece of paper until you start to see ink coming out. Now your pen is ready to write. If your pen every stops writing, check it is not out of ink and repeat step 3. It is helpful to have paper towels handy to wipe away excess ink.



5. Notice how when the pen is used in the same position shown in A below, a thick line is made. A thin line is made when holding the pen at an angle as shown in B.



Calligraphy can be characterized by the distinct thin and thick strokes.

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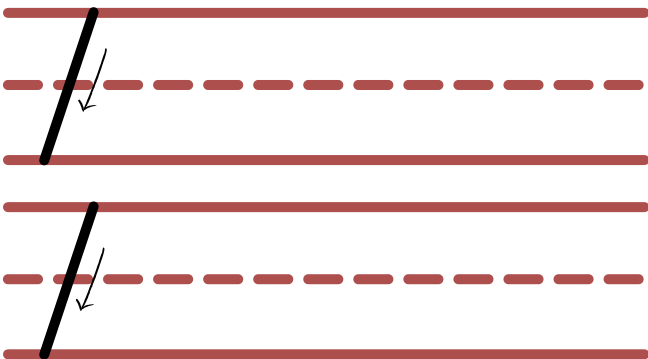
- 6.** Calligraphy is all about angles; the angle of your arm; the angle of the paper, and, most importantly, the angle of the pen. Keeping the pen in relatively the same position in your hand while writing creates uniform script and the characteristic thick and thin lines.

The way you would naturally hold a pen, 45 degrees to the paper, is best with the nib perpendicular to you as shown below.

This takes practice to maintain a comfortable, firm, but flexible grip.

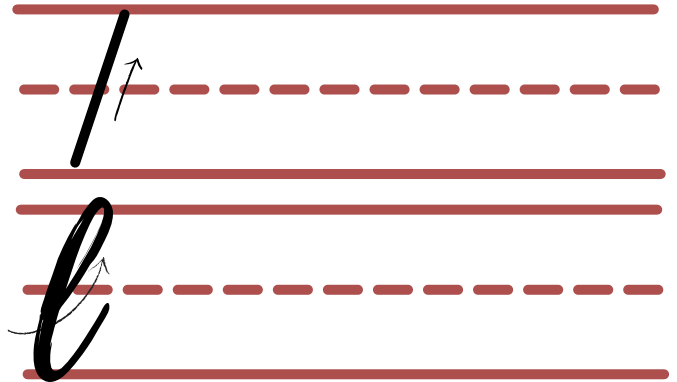


- 6.** Downstrokes are made from top to bottom by putting pressure on the pen and pulling in a downward motion. Sometimes it is helpful to angle the paper for this motion to feel more fluid. Practice below:



- 7.** Upstrokes are made from bottom to top by barely applying pressure on the pen and moving in an upward motion. Sometimes it is helpful to angle the paper for this motion to feel more fluid.

On the second set of lines, try forming a cursive 'L' with upstrokes and downstrokes.

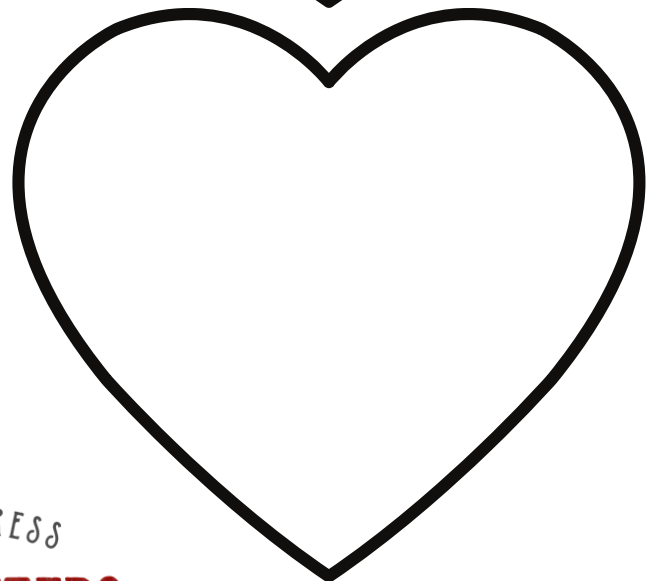
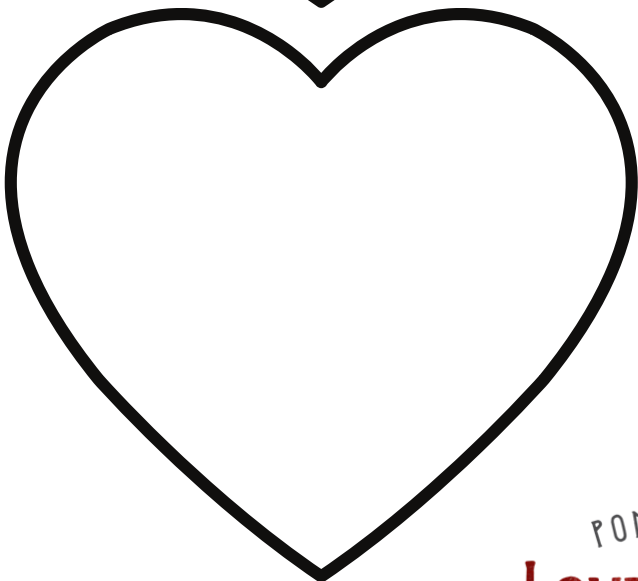
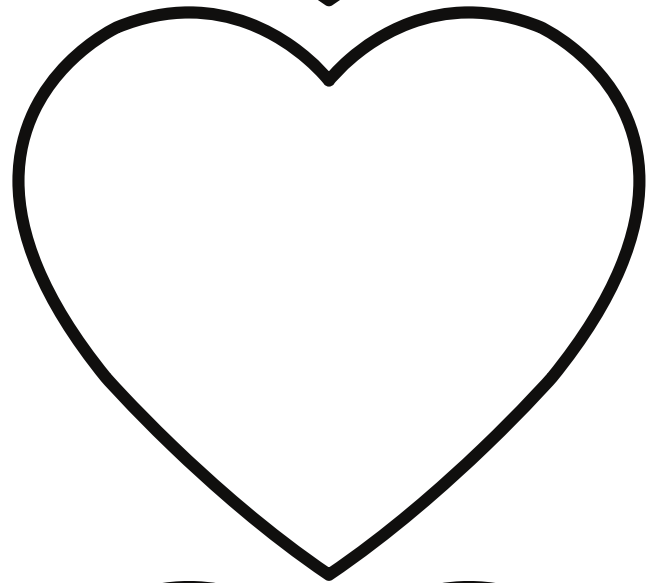
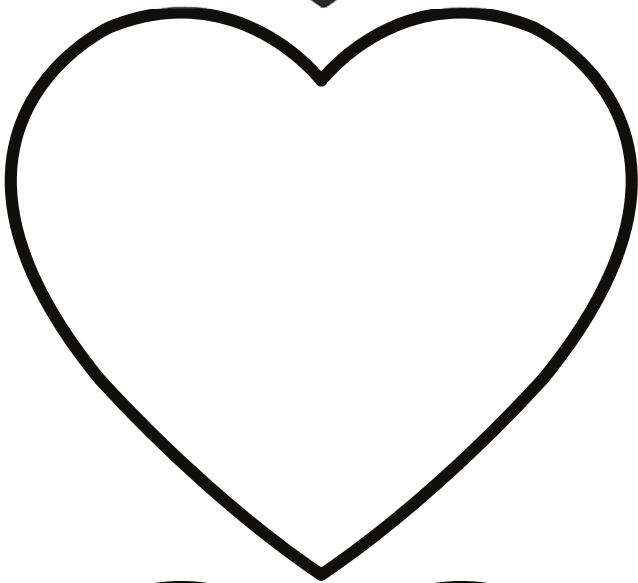
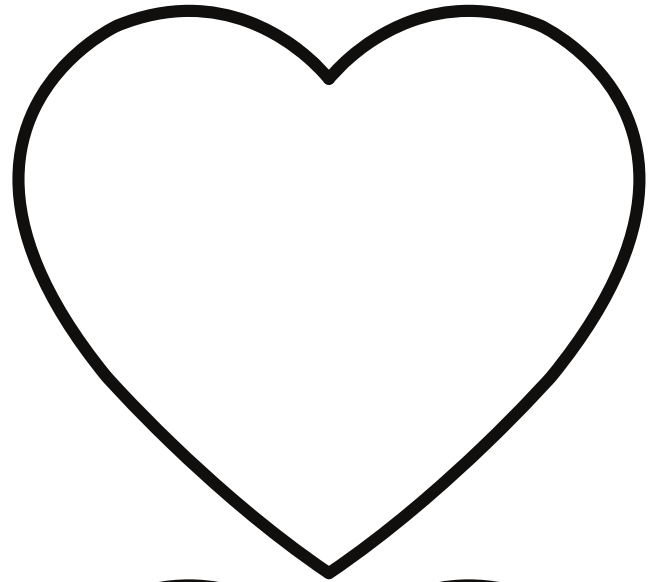


It's important to go slowly in forming each stroke.

- 8.** Combine what we've learned about angle and position with the basic strokes, use the next few practice sheets to try Valentine's day designs and letters. We've included a sample font that you may want to try to replicate.



This exercise will help train your hand for the calligraphy motions. Use the hearts as a guide to practice your upstroke and downstroke.





Aa Bb Cc Dd
Ee Ff Gg Hh
Ii Jj Kk Ll
Mm Nn Oo Pp
Qq Rr Ss Tt
Uu Vv Ww Xx
Yy Zz

PONY EXPRESS

LOVE LETTERS

Practice writing letters below using the previous font
as a reference:



PONY EXPRESS

LOVE LETTERS

Practice writing letters below:

Handwriting practice lines consisting of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed middle line, repeated ten times.

PONY EXPRESS

LOVE LETTERS

Be inspired by the expressions of love found in the great Western romances and, using your new calligraphy set and guide, pen your sweetheart a tender note in the spirit of love. Be sure to let the ink dry on the antiqued stationary. Finish with a wax seal and floral stickers for decoration.



"I know enough about men to steer clear of them."

- *Rooster Cogburn*, 1975

"Every time you kiss me it's like sunshine and whiskey."

- "Sunshine & Whiskey," Frankie Ballard

"I'm your Huckleberry."

- *Tombstone*, 1993

"You are my sun, my moon, and all my stars."

-E. E. Cummings

"Well, if you're waitin' for a woman to make up her mind, you may have a long wait."

- *Pale Rider* 1985

"The only thing I ask is that you outlive me so I never have to live another day without you"

- Beth Dutton to Rip Wheeler on *Yellowstone* (TV)

"I figure if a girl wants to be a legend, she should go ahead and be one."

-Martha Jane Cannary, 'Calamity Jane'

"There are only two things more beautiful than a good gun: a Swiss watch or a woman from anywhere. Ever had a good... Swiss watch?"

- *Red River*, 1948