

Hand Lettering God's Love

Learn the Craft of Brush Lettering
through the Beauty of the Bible

Margaret Feinberg and Jessica Taylor Design

Hello beautiful

My mom returned home with gift that stirred my childhood imagination—a pack of pens designed for drawing letters. I still remember those five colors—red, blue, green, brown, and black. I formed words and flourishes until the ink ran dry. Sculpting letters on a page provided space to doodle, design, and dream.

Sometimes I wonder if playing with all those letters shaped me into becoming a writer.

More recently, my heart awakened to new beauty with the emergence of hand lettering everywhere.

But I never thought I could create my own hand lettered images. *That's for the real artists, those with real talent, those with gobs of real time*, I told myself.

My sweet friend, Jessica, inspired me, “You can do this, too! I’ll help you.”

Now I’ve worked with Jessica for the last decade as she managed my creative whirlwind with clarity and gusto. As a successful womanpreneur, she launched Jessica Taylor Design. Her stunning hand lettering artwork including, “Not Today Satan,” “Girl Boss,” and “I’d walk across Legos for you” hang throughout our home.

I never dreamed I could make art like hers to enjoy or give to others.

Yet Jessica made it easy for me to learn. She told me the exact supplies to order online. Then she taught me letter by letter how to use a brush pen.

I discovered that with the right coaching and practice anyone can learn to hand letter.

This simple artistic expression reminded me of the importance of words—especially God’s words. Fusing hand lettering with Scripture opened a new pathway to read, reflect, and memorize the Bible.

Now I can’t keep this gift to myself. I want to share Jessica’s amazing teaching and training with you. That’s why we’ve created *Hand Lettering God’s Love*.

We believe creativity is a gift of God—since God’s the ultimate Creator. With every brushstroke from the beginning of time, God has been writing a love letter to us and through us.

That’s why we’re inviting you to learn hand lettering and rediscover how you’re created to experience and extend the love of God. After all, this is who you are and this is who you are called to be.

Together, let’s uncap our creativity and grow closer to Jesus.

xoxo,
Margaret

We Love Lefties

Jessica's sweet momma is a lefty, and we've heard her vent that the world was simply not made for her. She must search for a different pair of scissors, a different can opener, a different set of golf clubs, and re-seat herself at dinner parties to avoid dueling elbows. *Can you relate?*

We have good news. Mastering brush lettering is not out of reach for you. We'll be honest, some letters will be trickier. But the letters, shapes, and directions that are difficult for righties will be a breeze to your southpaw.

Here are tried and tested tips (thanks mom!) for our lovely lefty letterers:

There are three main hand placements for lefties:

1. **The hovering hand.** This is when your forearm rests on the paper, but your wrist and fingers float in the air. This technique can be tricky to control with brush pens.
2. **The over hook.** This is when you curl your hand above the line you're writing on, often used by people who were taught to write by right-handers. This technique risks smudging.
3. **The under writer.** This is when the meat of hand touches the paper for stability, but you stretch your fingers to write under the line of text. This will be the best hand placement for lettering, however do what feels most natural to you.

Embrace the grace: Lefties will always wrestle with smudging. It's the nature of writing from left to right with your left hand. This is normal. Give yourself extra time in between shapes or letters so the ink has a chance to dry before you drag your hand over that area.

Transitions are difficult techniques for lefties to master. Because you're pushing down and pushing across toward the right (unlike righties who pull the pen down and pull across), it's an unnatural pressure and direction for the pen. For this reason, we recommend spending more time with the less-expensive pens (like Crayola Super Tips) before you switch to the more expensive pens (like Tombow Dual Brush Pens) so you don't fray them.

The key to mastering this transition is to start easing up on the pressure before you make the turn. Give yourself more time to transition the change in pressure. Taper the thick or add pressure to the thin before the turn.

Above all? Give yourself grace. Like any new skill, this one takes extra patience and practice.

Cheering you on,
Jessica and Margaret

Before We Begin

Brush lettering is a skill that involves developing muscle memory. Also known as: Practice. Practice. Practice. You must master the basic strokes and skills so that advancing will come more naturally. From basic line drills to connecting letters, the skills build on each other. While it may be tempting, don't skip ahead. Love yourself enough to be patient.

Brush lettering is trickier than using a regular pen. Why? The flexible tip allows for a change in pressure. This art form offers you endless options when it comes to color, layout, and design. As you master the basics (as taught in this book), your own style will emerge on the paper. Many letters will evolve and continue evolving as you discover what feels most true to you.

Brush lettering is different for the left-handed. We're right-handed, but we know for my lovely lefty friends, learning to letter can take some extra work. Read through all of We Love Lefties on page 10 before you continue.

Brush lettering requires you to take your time. Move s.l.o.w.l.y. The slower you go, the more precise your work will be. We want you to feel successful at brush lettering. Don't feel rushed to move forward until you've mastered a step. Slow, consistent, and persistent are the key words when it comes to mastering brush lettering and growing in your faith.

Brush lettering differs from handwriting. Handwriting is quick and dirty. Brush lettering is slow and steady. Each letter is hand-crafted, drawn with precision, as opposed to handwriting that can be inconsistent and difficult to read.

Through brush lettering, I'm reminded of the steady pace it takes to follow God, one foot in front of the other, one day at a time. It isn't easy right away, but after practice and persistence I'm more able to extend grace, to offer forgiveness, to lavish people with love.

Brush Lettering:

you are lovely

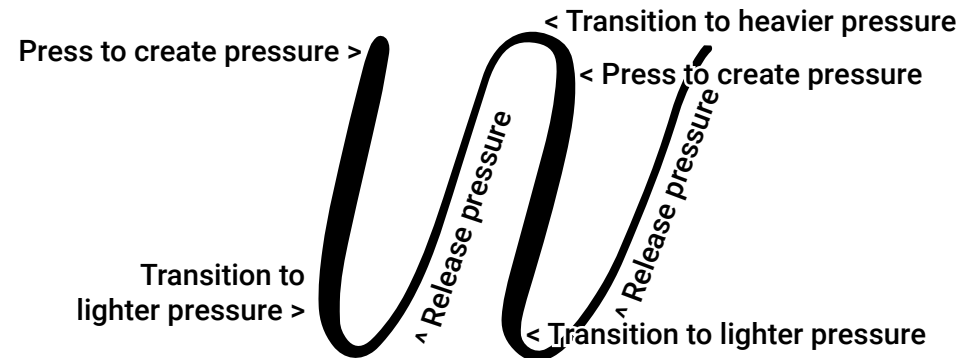
My actual handwriting:
(please excuse the chicken scratch)

you are lovely

Brush lettering asks you to be gentle with yourself. This may not come naturally at first. Give yourself grace. You're doing something new, and we're so proud of you.

Brush Lettering Techniques

In brush lettering, there is a distinction in the weight (or thickness) of a letter. Downstrokes are thick while upstrokes are thin. This is base skill of brush lettering.

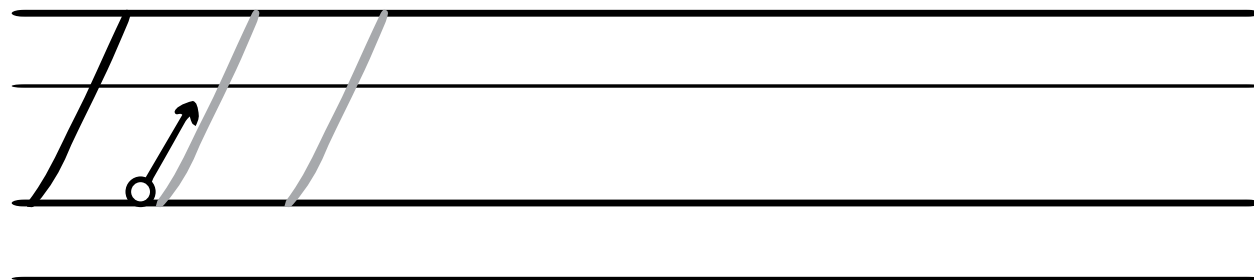


Each time you move in a down direction, you want to PRESS your brush firmer onto the paper creating a thick line by adding pressure on the tip. Then, each time you move in an upward direction, you will RELEASE the pressure creating a thin line with the tip of your brush. The trickiness is in the transitions from thick to thin or vice versa.

Let's practice together!

Upstroke.

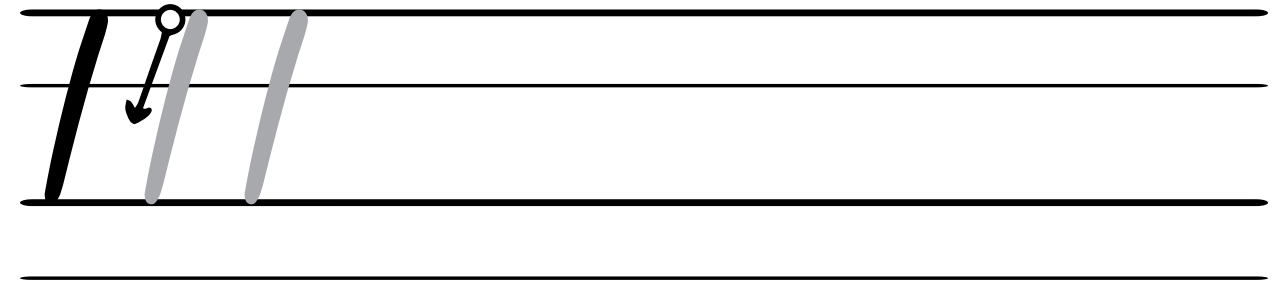
Begin on the baseline. Make a soft and slow line with the tip of your brush at an angle up to cap height. The upstroke utilizes light pressure on your pen. Don't rush and make inconsistent dashes, but slow down and make each upstroke look uniform. Upstrokes tend to be a little wobbly, especially when you're using a new pen. Extra drills will give your hand the muscle memory you need to smooth out the upstroke.



Bonus tip: Lettering is muscle memory. Many of these drills may seem tedious or silly but are the foundations for beautiful lettering.

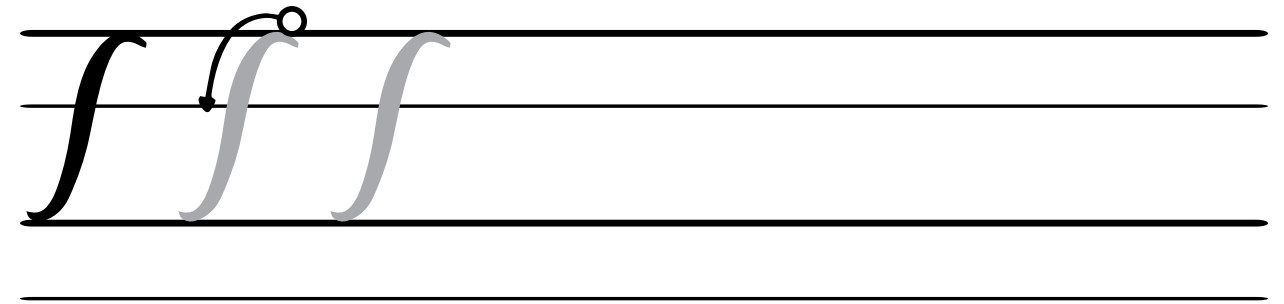
Lines.

Starting at cap height, create thick straight lines down to the baseline by adding pressure to your brush to test how thick you can get your ink. **Bonus tip:** Avoid smooching your pen into the paper or moving it in directions not instructed, this will ensure you don't fray and ruin your brush head.



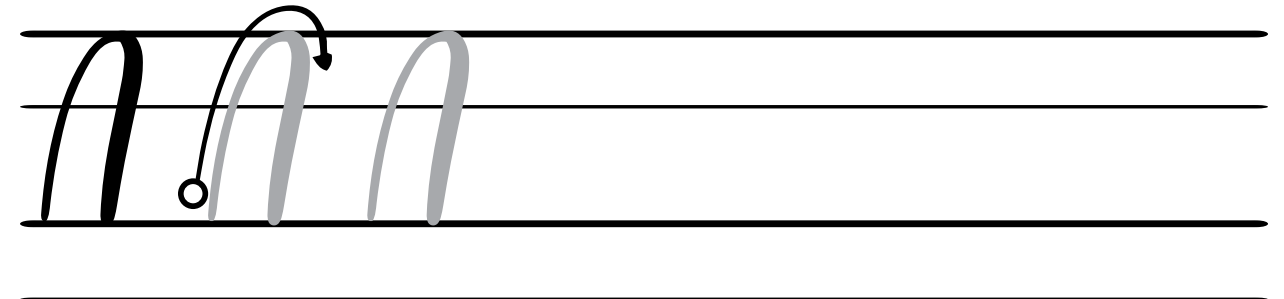
Downstroke.

Start at cap height and taper into full pressure then taper out at the baseline. The slower you go, the more you'll be able to notice the thickness and thinness transition. **Bonus tip:** Adding pressure to the flexible nib is what makes the thick stroke.



Overturn.

Starting at the baseline, create a thin upstroke using the tip of your pen, transition into a thick downstroke at about 12 o'clock once you reach cap height (add pressure during the transition all the way to the bottom of the page). **Bonus tip:** Keep both the upstroke and downstroke parallel.



k k k

l l l

L is because you have the best laugh

m m m

n n n

o o o

P is for portrait because you're an inspiration
P P P

q q q

r r r

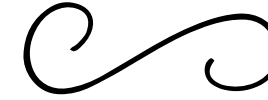
S stands for stunning because that's who you are

s s s

t t t



Since you are precious and honored in my sight,
and because I love you,
I will give people in exchange for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
-Isaiah 43:4



Since you are precious and honored in my sight,
and because I love you,
I will give people in exchange for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
-Isaiah 43:4



I love you.

These three words rank among the most powerful you'll ever speak, you'll ever hear. They reverberate deep in your bones because those are words with which you are formed and fashioned, dreamed and destined. You are handcrafted in the love of God, by the love of God, for the love of God.

But sometimes you lose your way.

God knows this. That's why you've heard the refrain "I love you, I love you, I love you" as a sacred echo.

These words glow bright crimson as a beacon call for you to return home, folded into God's loving embrace. Abiding in this deep love is where you're fully alive, run wild and free, and discover who you're created to be.

Allow these words to wash over you today, refreshing your soul, revitalizing your spirit.

I love
you

The following page is for you to practice hand lettering God's love. Copy the composition above, or create your own. Use any version of Isaiah 43:4. Sketch your composition in pencil before inking it on the page.