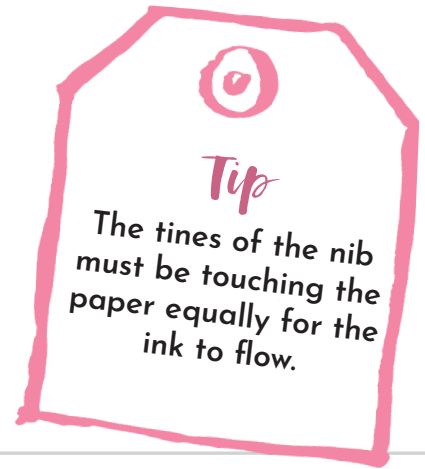




Pressure

Letters are made from a selection of shapes. The drills below will soon become an alphabet, so for now, focus on getting the pressure consistent.



DOWNSTROKES

The tines will split open as you push down, the more they open the thicker your line will be.



UPSTROKES

To make a thin line use the very tip of the pen and use the lightest touch. Try and loosen your grip on the pen to reduce wobbles.



CROSS-STROKES

A cross-stroke looks nice if you vary the pressure so you get a bit more weight to your line in the middle of the stroke.



TRANSITION

This change of pressure is developed further to make arches and underturns.



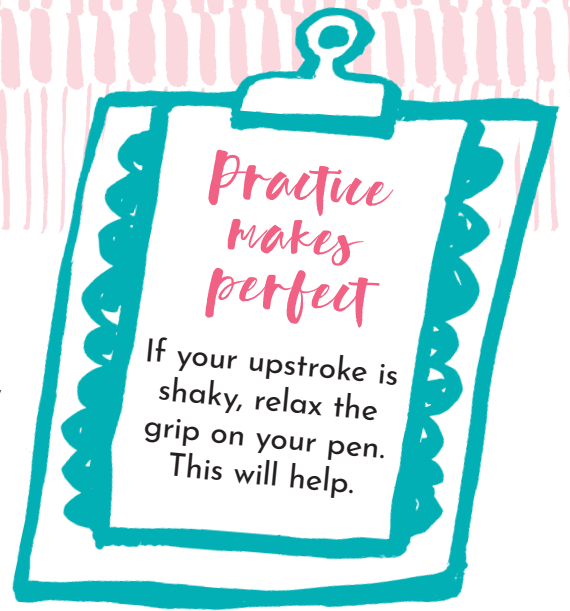
OVALS

Keep the thick line to the side of the oval shape, don't let it fall to the bottom.



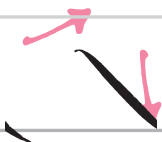


Workbook



Drills

Getting used to how much pressure to apply is so important. Don't worry about drips of ink or mistakes here, just become familiar with the feel of writing with a nib. Work over the grey then try it freehand.





Patterns

Making patterns is just as effective as any drill. The skill is to get used to applying pressure on the downstroke and releasing it on the upstroke.

Before long it will be an automatic response for you, this is called training your muscle memory.



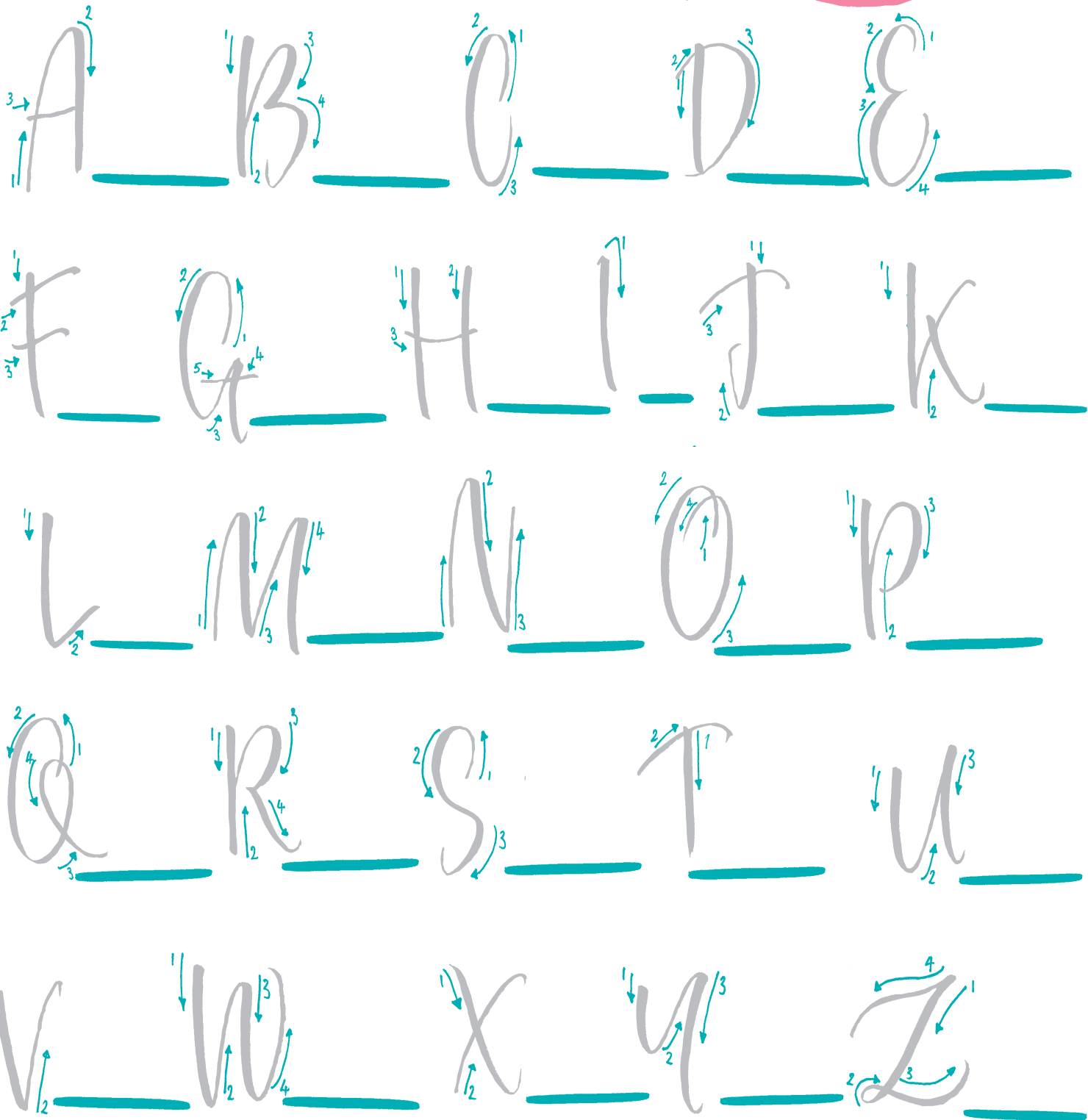


Alphabet Practise

Use layout paper or Rhodia pads for practicing more. A good quality printer paper will be fine too.

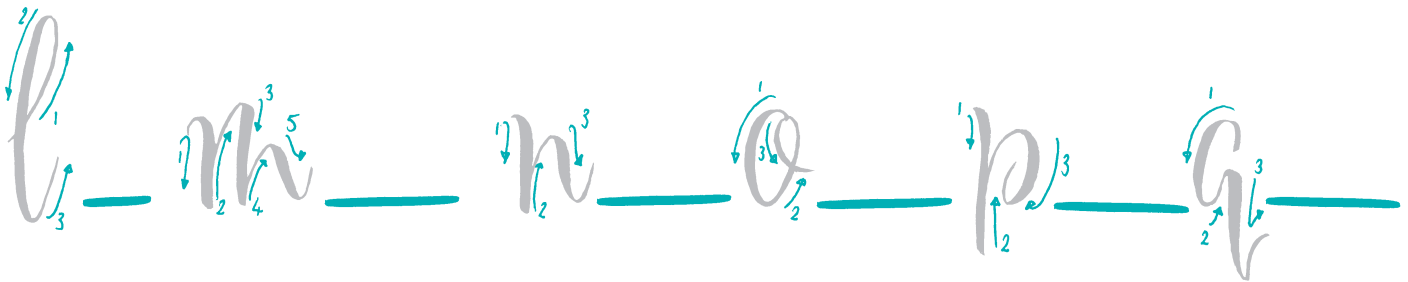
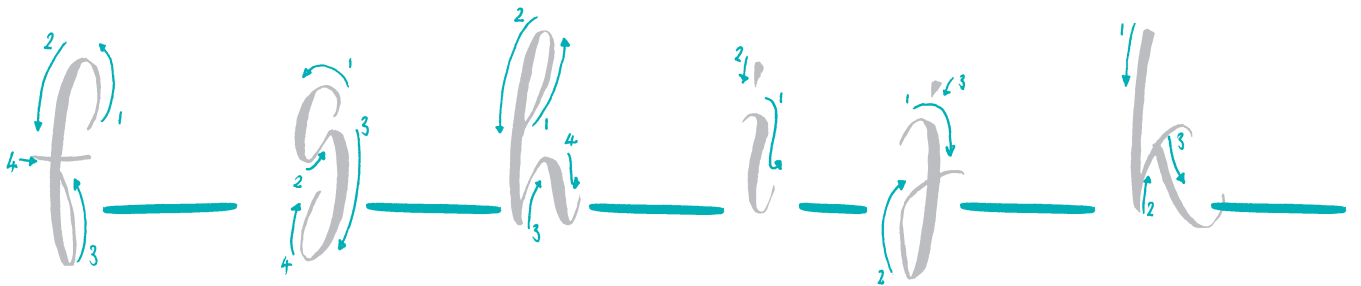
Shapes into Letters

Follow the arrow directions, tracing over the grey letter shapes. Then try making your own version next to them.





Shapes into Letters- lower case

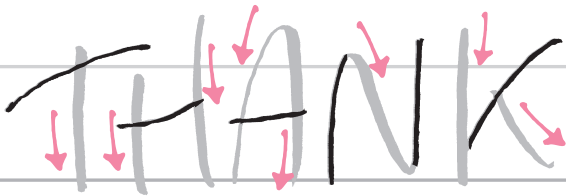




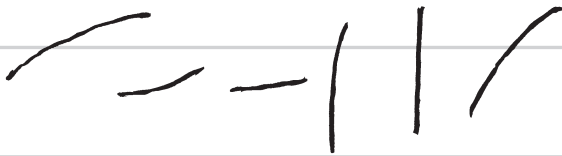
Paper & Pen Project

Writing a whole word in capitals looks effective when you are designing a calligraphy piece. The fact that each letter is the same height means they look neat when positioned together.

1 Go over the grey in the word below, keeping the pressure on your nib to get the thick line.



2 Repeat the process without the grey guidelines.



3 Go over the grey below, gently touching the paper with the nib to get the thin upstrokes.



4 Do it again without the grey guidelines.



Traditional calligraphy focuses on every letter looking the same as the next. Modern calligraphy allows us to alter the shape of each letter to suit the design as a whole.



5 Have a go doing both the thin and thick lines and then write the word freehand.

THANK

6 Write the whole phrase going over the grey guidelines remembering the change of pressure.

THANK
YOU

7 Turn the O into a heart shaped doodle to complete the design.

THANK
YOU

Now you try it!

Think of your own words to turn into designs. Refer back to alphabet to help you form each letter.

Home Style Project

The Home Style project repeats the word HOME twice. You can see that although the letters are similar each time, they are not identical.



1 Go over the grey in the word below, keeping the pressure on your nib to get the thick line.

2 Now try writing the word yourself freehand. You can use the guides above if you need to.

HOME HOME

3 To break up the design, the word in the middle is done in lowercase letters. The pressure and release is the same as with capital letters. Trace over the grey below.

4 Write the word freehand next. All thick lines will be downward strokes, the thin ones are on the upward stroke.

sweet

5 Here is the design all together, to trace over:

HOME
sweet
HOME

Join the Club!

We run an online calligraphy club with weekly projects, workshops and challenges. Join us and build your calligraphy skills with others that share your passion for lettering.

<https://the-modern-calligraphy-club.mn.co>