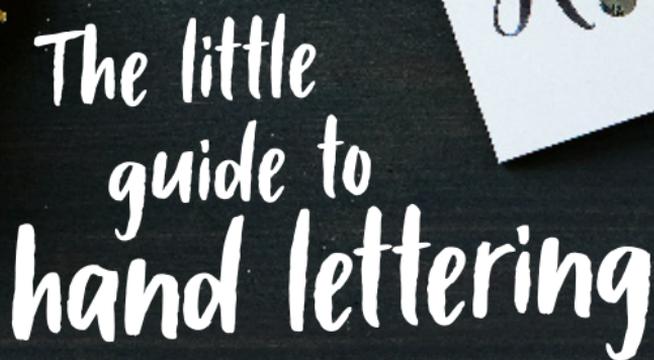


A white card with the words "Happy Birthday" written in a blue, cursive script. A dashed line follows the bottom curve of the text, suggesting a cutting line. The card is placed on a dark surface with colorful confetti scattered around it.

Happy  
Birthday

A white card with the words "Hip Hip Hurray" written in a black, cursive script. The card is decorated with a large amount of colorful confetti scattered across its surface. It is placed on a dark surface with more confetti scattered around it.

Hip Hip  
Hurray

The title text "The little guide to hand lettering" is written in a white, cursive script on a dark background. The text is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the image.

The little  
guide to  
hand lettering

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# Hello!



Hand lettering is everywhere and is much talked about – which just makes you want to pick up a pen and have a go yourself! With just a little practice and a few of our simple tricks and tips, anyone can succeed at the art of hand lettering. This booklet shows you the basics and a variety of techniques together with lots of inspiration, so you'll soon be getting great results and improving your lettering style.

YOU'RE  
*my*  
Star

There are lots of techniques for drawing beautiful letters, and for some you'll need specific materials and equipment. Brush lettering, for example, requires a brush pen with a flexible brush nib.

For hand lettering, you can get pens with different stroke widths. Good pens to start out with are fibre pens with a bullet nib, fineliners and gel rollers. The paper you use also has to match the different requirements of lettering techniques (read our tips over the next few pages to guide you).

Let's go!



# The little ABC of hand lettering

Hand lettering is, quite simply, the art of drawing beautiful individual letters to bring style to the written word. Sounds fairly straightforward, wouldn't you say? Great, then let's get started!

Those who still have their teacher's voice ringing in their ears, telling them off about their handwriting, can now breathe a sigh of relief. That's because we can be much more creative with hand lettering – and have lots of fun in

the process! But the key here is “practice makes perfect”...

Grab a piece of ordinary paper and draw some guide lines. Start out with a fibre pen with a bullet nib and try out some different fonts.

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz  
 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

abcdefghijklmnopqrstu

vwxyz

ABCDEFGHIJKLM

NOPQRSTUVWXYZ

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

Have a nice day

Fineliners are good for drawing tall, narrow letters. Gel rollers make it easy to insert a second line as a decorative element, whereas fibre pens are great for adding shadow lines to the letters.

You'll soon see the huge scope available for creative experimentation and for playing around until you find your own style. More or less any pen is suitable; you just have to choose the right paper to match.

**Tip:**  
 You'll find a fabulous selection of templates for lettering and tracing at [edding.com/templates](http://edding.com/templates)

## A little list of materials:

**profipen e-1800**

light-coloured paper plus tracing paper

**fineliner e-55**

light-coloured paper, e.g. ordinary copy paper

**gel roller e-2185**

light or dark paper

**pastel pen e-1500**

light or dark paper

**colour pen e-1300**

light-coloured paper, e.g. ordinary copy paper

**brush pen e-1340**

light-coloured paper (preferably smooth)



# Hand lettering – here we go!

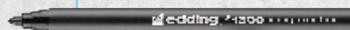
**That's enough theory for now – so let's get started and create our first hand-drawn letters!**

We recommend you take it slow and steady to start with and avoid applying too many effects all at once; with hand lettering, less is usually more. If your lettering isn't up to the level of our examples after your first attempt, it really doesn't matter. Everyone has to start somewhere and you'll probably need to practise a little before the results come up to your expectations. It's well worth being patient, though – trust us!

When you first start lettering, all you need is a black edding colour pen and some white paper or card-board, together with a pencil for initial sketches. Design an invitation card, a poster or whatever you fancy and take it one step at a time.

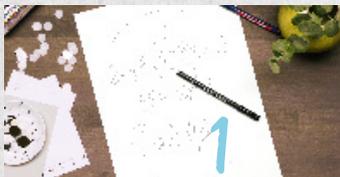
What would you like your hand-let-tered piece to say? With a steady,

You'll need:



light-coloured paper  
pencil  
rubber

relaxed hand, slowly sketch out your chosen wording in pencil on a sheet of white paper.



Now, go over the outlines with the edding colour pen. Take your time, but try not to lift the pencil from the paper too often.



Now draw the inner lines and fill in the downward strokes using the fibre pens.



Embellish however you wish – the e-1800 profipen is ideal for this.



When you're happy with your design, you can stick your lettering onto thick card, decorate it as shown in our example and use it as a poster.

5



# The art of brush lettering

Brush lettering requires specific materials: A good brush pen is essential. With its soft, flexible brush tip, you can vary the width of your upward and downward strokes by changing the pressure of your pen as you write.



1

For the downstrokes, press firmly on the tip to make them wider – and don't worry about pushing too hard because quality pens are designed for this!

2

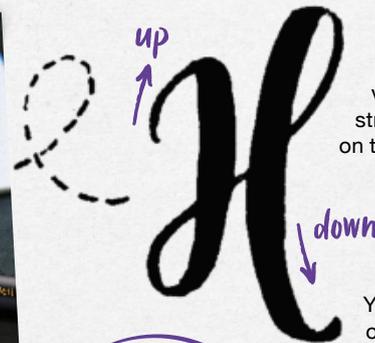
You'll need:



smooth paper

When you move your hand in an upward motion, using the minimum of pressure makes the line narrow again. Learning control and getting a feel for this will take practice.

First of all, practise varying the pressure with straight lines and then move on to curves.



When you feel confident enough, try putting together a complete word in your chosen font. You may wish to sketch it out in pencil first and then go over it with upward and downward motions.

Tip:

Play around and experiment with different fonts and alter the shape of the letters until you're happy with them.

You can find our **fabulous selection of templates for lettering and tracing** at [www.edding.com/templates](http://www.edding.com/templates)



# Design your own paper with watercolour effects

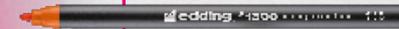
Now that you've got a few hand lettering projects under your belt, maybe you'd like to try something different? Our idea is to combine our colourful brush pens with water. This creates a really impressive watercolour effect – and it's lots of fun to do!

Pick out 2-3 pens and use them to draw patterns on the sleeve, or colour in some shapes.



Carefully place the design face down on the wetted paper and run your fingers over the sleeve to help spread the ink.



- You'll need:
-  edding 1340 brush pen
  -  edding 1300 brush pen
  - watercolour paper
  - paintbrush
  - document sleeve (clear plastic)
  - water

Use the paintbrush to distribute the water over the surface of the watercolour paper.



Remove the sleeve and leave the paper to dry. You have now created a beautiful watercolour background.



Now you can get really creative: why not add some hand lettering and make your own gift tags...



**Tip:**  
You can achieve some pretty cool effects by sprinkling coarse salt onto the damp paper.



# Simply beautiful: blending and colour gradients

Colouring and lettering with gradients looks pretty impressive – and with the help of edding brush pens and the colour mixer\* you can easily keep it nice and consistent.

The most pleasing colour combinations are produced from blue-green shades or red-orange-yellow hues, but you can also mix dark and light colours as the fancy takes you.

The mixed ink simply comes out of the pen as you draw, leaving the brush pen with its original colour. You can then start colour-blending all over again.

### Tip:

Would you like to draw an entire rainbow of colours? Then switch the lower pen to the top position after you've made your first colour gradient, then insert the next pen. This will allow you to continue drawing without pausing.

Only available in the Colour Happy Boxes (see pp. 28-29)



For brush lettering with gradients of colour you'll need the help of the brush pen colour mixer: Insert and click one brush pen into the bottom part of the tool and another into the top.



**Tip:**  
To help the distribution of the ink, rotate the lower pen slightly while both tips are still touching.

Remove the lower pen, start lettering and soon you'll be creating a piece of unique art.



### You'll need:



- brush pen colour mixer
- smooth paper

Next, push the pen tips together until they meet. Hold them in a vertical position for 1-2 seconds so that the lower pen absorbs some of the ink from the upper one.



\*Manufactured under Licence.

# Faux calligraphy: where faux is real

**Faux calligraphy (or “fake” calligraphy) means writing as though you were using a brush pen when in fact you are using a standard pen with a bullet nib.**

Fibre pens are suitable, as are fineliners, gel rollers or a pencil. This means you are free to choose what type of paper you want; it could be coloured card or tracing paper, it depends entirely on which pen you go for.

First, write out the word, leaving a little extra space between the letters.



Next, draw the downstroke reinforcements that would normally appear when you put pressure on the brush pen – from the rounded

peak of the letter down to the baseline. Ensure you always add the parallel line on the same side, either to the right or to the left in order to balance out the word.



**Tip:**  
First, make a preliminary pencil sketch of your faux calligraphy letters, so you can decorate the spaces in between them with dots, lines, etc.

And because you left a bit of space between the letters, they won't look squashed together. Finally, simply colour in the empty spaces created – and that's all there is to it!



**You'll need:**



**paper to suit your choice of pen**



# So eye-catching: bounce lettering

“Bounce lettering” is perfect for giving your letters a spring in their step. You are free to vary the height of the baseline your letters and words sit on – this will give your lettering a dynamic feel.

The bounce technique can be used for many styles of hand lettering and works particularly well with brush lettering and faux calligraphy.

There are only a few things to watch out for here: make sure the ascenders and descenders of the letters don't clash (“f” and “g”, for example).

For a more balanced overall look, keep the first and last letters on the same level and only let the middle ones dance around. The layout of the phrase must be compact and the lettering must be consistent from left to right for easy reading. To achieve a contemporary look, use decorative elements to match the style of the wording and the font.

It's important to draw the letters clearly – a “c” with an extended downward stroke, for instance, won't be legible, and an “a” could soon end up looking like a “q”.

## You'll need:

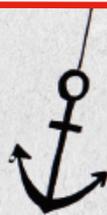


or



paper to suit your choice of pen

ruler



Tip:

Draw double letters so they look different from each other to add extra visual interest.

no bounce

bounce Lettering

Tip:

You might find practising easier by drawing pencil guide lines first.



# How to create little works of art



Have you ever noticed how lettering can sometimes look absolutely perfect, like mini works of art? This is usually because the phrase, the font and the embellishment all coordinate perfectly with each other. You, too, can do this!

First, choose a font: a serious font for a light-hearted sentiment makes for a quirky contrast.



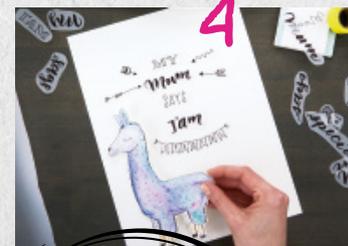
Experiment with the layout of your chosen words: for example, you can write in a block or circular shape, or with a romantic phrase you can draw a heart around it.



Try out another font as a way of emphasising individual words. Don't exceed more than 2-3 fonts, though, to keep it legible.



Different styles of ornamentation can provide the right backdrop for a quote. You can make a small pencil sketch to balance out the layout.



## Tip:

A small sketch, shadow lines on individual words or decorative elements can underline the message behind your wording. Flourishes, banners or swirls – just let your creativity run free!

# Right on trend: bullet journaling



**BuJo – as those in the know call it ... People who have journals that look so amazing, you'll want one of your own straight away!**

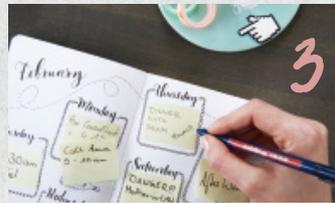
We're talking about bullet journaling, the art of designing your own planner with a combination of stylish hand lettering and beautiful hand drawings. A journal that's so simple, you really enjoy using it. And so beautifully decorated that it becomes an important and treasured item. The end result is that you'll have a wonderful tool to accompany you through life, one that will help you to keep on top of

everyday life and keep an eye on your goals. Unfortunately, we can only touch on the subject here. But it really is worth looking into in more detail – take our word for it! So how can you use BuJo to divide up your week in a visually attractive way?

Here's an example: make a pencil sketch of your weekly plan using faux calligraphy and then embellish it. Go over the outlines carefully with a fineliner and colour



them in at your leisure. For each day of the week, make a space big enough to take a Post-it note and



add some illustrations. Use Post-it notes for your appointments, tasks, birthdays, etc.

Create pages for several months ahead, develop your own to-do lists on specific topics or whatever it is you want to get done in a particular year.

**You'll need:**



**pencil  
notebook  
Post-its**



# Easy craft idea: galaxy cards and gift wrap

Galaxy cards are the in thing right now – they're impressive to look at, and are also really easy to make. For a beautiful matching gift, you could continue the galactic theme and design your own galaxy wrapping paper, and decorate it with the name of the recipient.

A galaxy card has a cool galaxy design as its background. When designing your starry sky, it's best to use slightly thicker watercolour paper. To see how easy it is to do, turn to page 10 for our instructions. Select appropriate shades of blue and violet, although other colour combinations can also result in an impressive galaxy effect.



When your galaxy card is finished, you can get down to making the gift wrap. Plain brown packing paper is ideal for this as it absorbs the paint easily and provides a good neutral background for your creative ideas.



Sketch a star on the wrapping paper and colour it in using fibre pens.

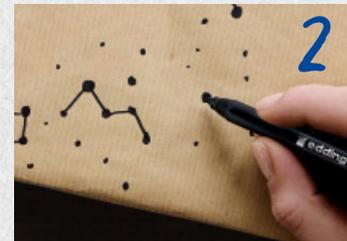


Using the pastel pen, draw an edge around the star and write the recipient's name inside it. When applied once over the colour of the fibre pen, the pastel pen creates a soft shade of violet.

You'll need:



- pencil
- watercolour paper
- plain brown packing paper



Decorate around the star – you could draw a constellation, for example.

**Tip:**

The more times you reapply the pastel pen, the paler the lines will become (let the ink dry between applications).

# No blackboard required: chalk lettering look

Chalk lettering is a specific type of hand lettering – you’ve probably noticed it in cafés where it can make menu boards so enticing that you feel drawn to order something that catches your eye!

For this technique, it’s best to use a chalkboard, although a wall with blackboard paint is also fine. Or simply use a piece of dark paper and the new pastel pen – soft white.

Here we show you how to make a professional-looking Get Well

card for friends or colleagues. You could also use this distinctive style to create fabulous invitations and birthday cards, of course. You’ll be amazed at how much potential there is for white on black, and how well your creative writing stands out.



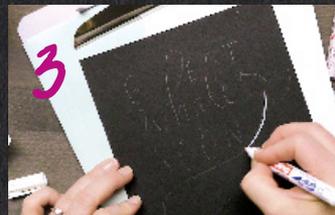
Think about how you want to lay out your lettering. First, draw the illustration in pencil.



Next, add the wording in pencil. Start with the word closest to the illustration as this will help you make better use of the space.



Go over your drawing with the Pastel Pen – Soft White and keep repeating this step until the white is dense enough.



Now go over it with the pastel pen, widen the strokes with a parallel line and colour in the spaces.



And there, you’ve finished! Get your friends to sign the card and then you’re ready to make someone’s day by giving them your card, maybe with a lovely bouquet of flowers.



**Tip:**  
You can add really fine details to your artwork by using the fine tip of the pastel pen.

You'll need:



pencil  
dark paper



# Escaping into the wild. Because I can.

Start into your personal wilderness: Mix up to 190 colour shades with the **brush pen colour mixer\*** and just **20 brush pens**. Get your **Colour Happy Edition** from edding and let your creativity run free! And, what's your next idea?



\*Manufactured under Licence.

[www.edding.com/colourhappy](http://www.edding.com/colourhappy)

# Keen to get started straight away?

Then grab your Colour Happy Box and start lettering!



## Colour Happy Box

### Contains:

- 20x brush pen fibre pens with soft brush nib in 10 new shades and 10 familiar colours
- 1 x brush pen colour mixer\* for up to 190 colour gradients from just 20 brush pens FREE!

\*Manufactured under Licence.

## Colour Happy Big Box

### Contains:

- 30x colour pen fibre pens with bullet nib in colours ranging from warm to cool
- 20x brush pen fibre pens with soft brush nib in 10 new shades and 10 familiar colours
- 1 x brush pen colour mixer\* for up to 190 colour gradients from just 20 brush pens
- 12x fineliners in matching colours
- 5x gel rollers in silver, gold and 3 metallic colours
- 1 x profipen with pigmented black ink
- 1 x new pastel pen – soft white for light, semi-transparent white and pastel tones in combination with coloured fibre pens

\*Manufactured under Licence.

This page is for trying out your lettering:



More information on lettering,  
inspiration and lots more at  
[edding.com/lettering](http://edding.com/lettering)



#edding

We'd love to see some of your creations!

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