

Casual pointed pen and Copperplate class

Working with the right tools will make your calligraphic experiences infinitely more pleasant than struggling with the wrong tools and materials. If you care for your materials, they will last for a long time and perform well.

`Pens

Straight penholders

Oblique penholder

Nibs

Elbow- Mitchell copperplate pens

Straight nibs, Nikko G, hunt 101 or 56, Gillott 404 or 303, Brause 66EF

Each nib has its own unique qualities and will be a personal preference once you become comfortable lettering.

Ink

Higgins Eternal generally provides the calligrapher with dense black and a fine hairline. If it seems to be a little too thin leave bottle open and let some of the water evaporate (can be for a day)

You can add a drop or two of Gum Arabic to help flow. Permanent

Walnut ink- walnut hulls powder form

Colored inks

Usually unsuitable for Copperplate, too thin and uneven flow

Sumi inks

Best bottle from OAS- brown bottle- rich smooth black

Moon Palace- excellent hairlines, sits up on paper, shines, smells like stick ink without the work

Gouache

Used for color lettering as well as for black- you can control the thickness of ink for variable supports (papers) add a wormlet to Higgins for a nice flow.

Practice Paper

Smooth, lightweight bond paper such as layout bond

Borden and Riley, Canson Marker pro layout, Bienfang layout, (I use Canson Marker XL readily available and semi transparent)

Great white and Kodak Brite white printer paper

Ruler

I recommend the red grid C-thru rulers – these save time in lining your papers

Metal ruler with cork back- will not slip on paper can tear papers and holds ruler above paper so that you can draw lines without ink seeping under edge. This also doubles the price of ruler-

Use masking tape on back to elevate ruler if you have a plain metal ruler.

Buy one that is longer than the papers you will be lettering on (11 x 14-paper buy 15" ruler)

### Pencils

A medium hard pencil is best 3H or 4H 5H or 6 H will be too hard to see lines and 2B will smudge.

A mechanical pencil is always ready – no sharpening.

### Fine point marker

Micron pigma- for drawing lines and correction of lines 005 and 01

Sharpie fine point or copic liner

### Eraser

Kneaded eraser cleans up smudges and pencil lines without leaving crumbs

White magic eraser

Black eraser for dark papers- white will leave white smudge marks

Xacto knife

### Guard sheet

A simple colored paper to rest your hands on and keeps writing surface clean for hand oils and moisture.

### Scratch paper

Keep a piece of paper next to your decanted ink.

To test ink flow and to catch drops before going to good paper