**Brush Calligraphy Guide: Basic Strokes and the Alphabet**

A reference guide for brush calligraphers

This guide is intended for the beginning brush calligrapher. Use it to build your brush calligraphy foundation. From mastering these basic strokes and letterforms, you will develop your own unique style.

Remember:
- **Thin up, thick down:** Upstrokes and horizontal strokes are **thin**. Downstrokes are **thick**.
- **Go slow:** Don’t worry about shakiness. In the beginning, focus on making each stroke and understanding how each letterform is created.
- **Not all brush pens were created equal:** You may need to experiment with different brush pens to find one that feels most comfortable to you.

### BASIC STROKES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entrance/exit stroke</th>
<th>Underton stroke</th>
<th>Overturn stroke</th>
<th>Compound curve</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>waistline</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>baseline</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oval</th>
<th>Ascending loop</th>
<th>Descending loop</th>
<th>Full-pressure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>waistline</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>l</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Learn more about each basic stroke here: piecescalligraphy.com/basicstrokes
BRUSH CALLIGRAPHY ALPHABET GUIDE
(small)

a b c d e

f g h i j k

l m n o p

q r s t u

v w x y z

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