

# Hand Lettering

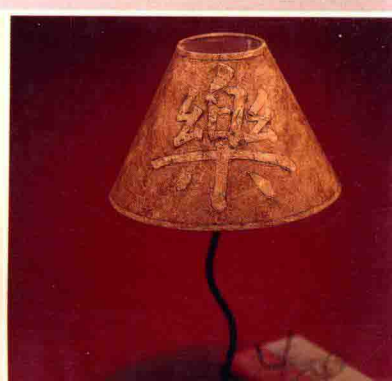
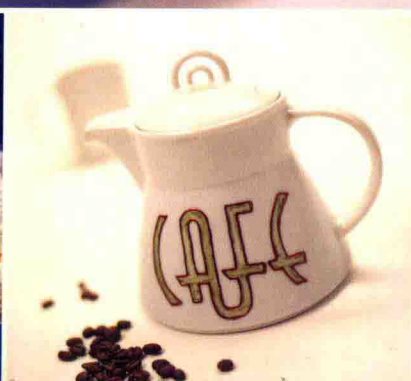
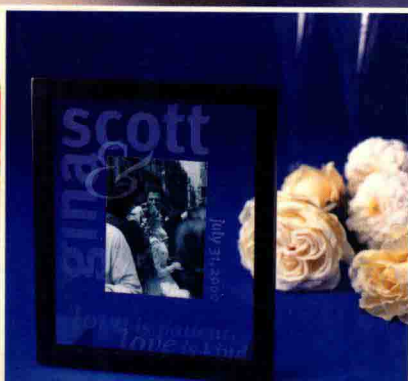
A Decorative Guide  
from A to Z

# Lettering for crafts

ROCKPORT



Sandra Salamony







# Hand Lettering for Crafts

*A Decorative Guide from A to Z*

*Sandra Salamony*

ROCKPORT  
PUBLISHERS

Copyright ©2001 by Rockport Publishers, Inc.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without written permission of the copyright owners. All images in this book have been reproduced with the knowledge and prior consent of the artists concerned and no responsibility is accepted by producer, publisher, or printer for any infringement of copyright or otherwise, arising from the contents of this publication. Every effort has been made to ensure that credits accurately comply with information supplied.

First published in the United States of America by  
Rockport Publishers, Inc.  
33 Commercial Street  
Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930-5089  
Telephone: (978) 282-9590  
Facsimile: (978) 283-2742  
[www.rockpub.com](http://www.rockpub.com)

ISBN 1-56496-741-7  
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1  
Design and layout: Leslie Haimes  
Cover design: Leeann Leftwich  
Cover Image: Kevin Thomas Photography

Image credit:

*Beardley's Illustrations for Le Morte D'Arthur*, Dover Publications, Inc. New York  
KPT Power Photos I

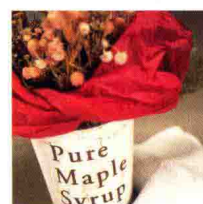
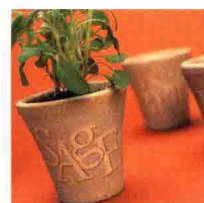
Printed in China.

# Contents

Lettering ABCs	8
Materials	10
Tools	12
Time to Begin	14
<b>Romantic Lettering</b>	18
A Simple Italic Hand	20
Brush Script	22
Bickham Script	24
Riva™	25
Framed Dried Bouquets	26
Calligraphy-Lined Shadow Box	28
Seaside Curio Box	30
Calligraphy-Accented "Tiled" Mirror	32
Gilded Glass Coasters	34
Brush Script Monogrammed Napkins	36
"Stained Glass" Travel Journal	38
<b>Modern Lettering</b>	40
Architect's Hand	42
Frutiger Black	43
Futura®	44
Gill Sans® Light	45
ITC Anna® and Anna Pro®	46
Bodoni	47
Etched Glass Floating Frame	48
Architect's Blueprint Frame	50
ABC Lamp Shades	52
Sweetheart Sachets	54
Cloisonné-Style Coffeepot	56
Shadowed Letter Canisters	58
Initialed Shaker Boxes	60
<b>Decorative Lettering</b>	62
Crystal Onyx	64
Party™	65
Algerian Condensed	66
ITC Obelisk™ Light	67
ITC Rennie Mackintosh™ Light	68
ITC Vintage™	69
Garden Journal	70



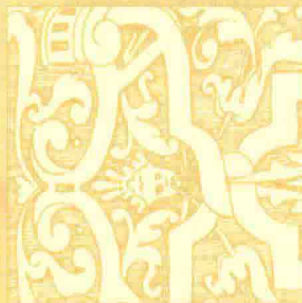
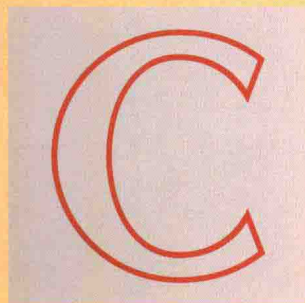
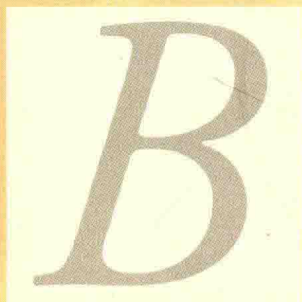
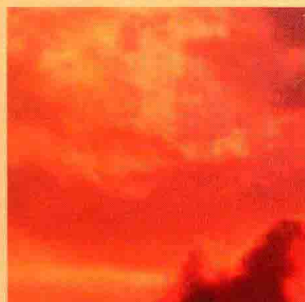
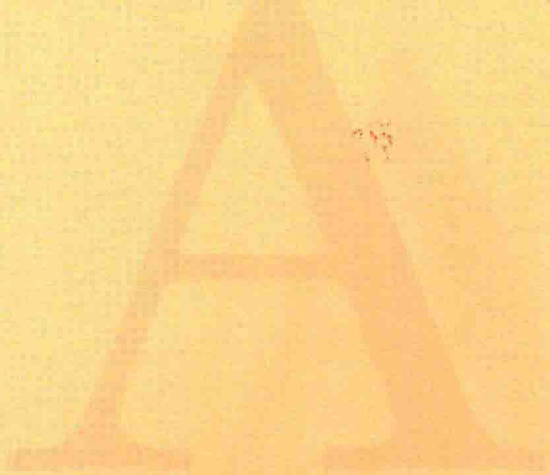
Dotted Gradient Dessert Plates	72
ABC-XYZ Embossed Portfolio	74
Raised Chinese Calligraphy Lamp Shade	76
“Eat Your Peas” Decoupage Bowls	78
Painted Glass Vase	80
Playful Herb Pots	82
<b>Vintage Lettering</b>	84
Traditional Versals	86
Modern Versals	87
Castellar™	88
Uncials	89
Adobe Caslon	90
Galliard Italic	91
“There’s Time!” Kitchen Clock	92
Vintage Sap Bucket	94
Four Seasons Placemats	96
Initial Painted Curtains	98
Botanical Note Cards	100
Sweet Dreams Pillows	102
Hot Pepper Oil Bottle	104
<b>Hand-Lettered Crafts Gallery</b>	106
Moss-Covered Letters	108
Decorative Lettering in the Home	109
Spice Jars	110
Lettered Silk Scarf	111
Watermelon Decoupage Plate	112
Brush-Lettered Lamp Shades	113
Tempus Fugit	114
Dreaming Kitty	115
Brushed Gold Vase	116
Gocco-Printed Calendar Pages	117
Tea Tray Floor Cloth	118
Mosaic “T” Tray	119
Celebrate! Plate	120
Image Transfer Mosaic Mirror	121
Family Tribute Box	122
Etched Metal Jewelry Box	123
Lettering Resources	124
Directory of Artists	126
About the Author	128







# Hand Lettering for Crafts







# Hand Lettering for Crafts

*A Decorative Guide from A to Z*

*Sandra Salamony*

ROCKPORT  
PUBLISHERS



Copyright ©2001 by Rockport Publishers, Inc.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without written permission of the copyright owners. All images in this book have been reproduced with the knowledge and prior consent of the artists concerned and no responsibility is accepted by producer, publisher, or printer for any infringement of copyright or otherwise, arising from the contents of this publication. Every effort has been made to ensure that credits accurately comply with information supplied.

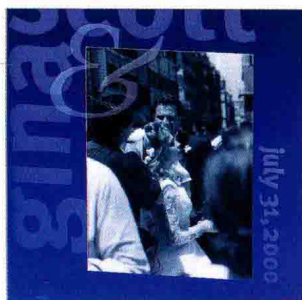
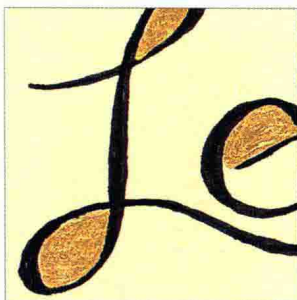
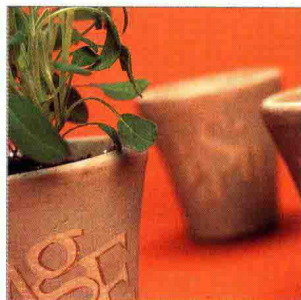
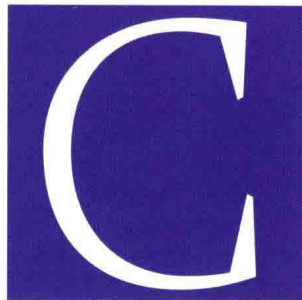
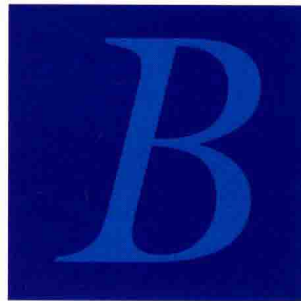
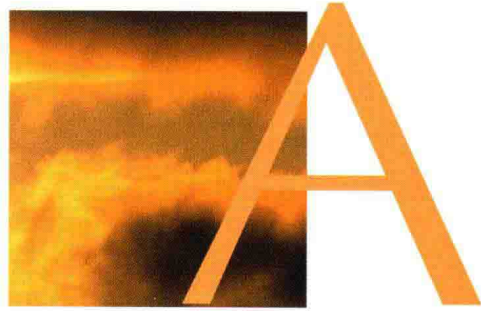
First published in the United States of America by  
Rockport Publishers, Inc.  
33 Commercial Street  
Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930-5089  
Telephone: (978) 282-9590  
Facsimile: (978) 283-2742  
[www.rockpub.com](http://www.rockpub.com)

ISBN 1-56496-741-7  
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1  
Design and layout: Leslie Haimes  
Cover design: Leeann Leftwich  
Cover Image: Kevin Thomas Photography

Image credit:

*Beardley's Illustrations for Le Morte D'Arthur*, Dover Publications, Inc. New York  
KPT Power Photos I

Printed in China.



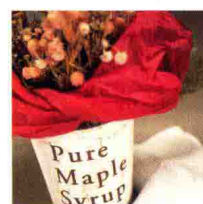
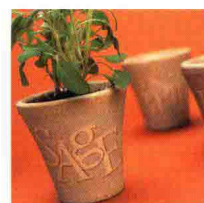


# Contents

Lettering ABCs	8
Materials	10
Tools	12
Time to Begin	14
<b>Romantic Lettering</b>	18
A Simple Italic Hand	20
Brush Script	22
Bickham Script	24
Riva™	25
Framed Dried Bouquets	26
Calligraphy-Lined Shadow Box	28
Seaside Curio Box	30
Calligraphy-Accented "Tiled" Mirror	32
Gilded Glass Coasters	34
Brush Script Monogrammed Napkins	36
"Stained Glass" Travel Journal	38
<b>Modern Lettering</b>	40
Architect's Hand	42
Frutiger Black	43
Futura®	44
Gill Sans® Light	45
ITC Anna® and Anna Pro®	46
Bodoni	47
Etched Glass Floating Frame	48
Architect's Blueprint Frame	50
ABC Lamp Shades	52
Sweetheart Sachets	54
Cloisonné-Style Coffeepot	56
Shadowed Letter Canisters	58
Initialed Shaker Boxes	60
<b>Decorative Lettering</b>	62
Crystal Onyx	64
Party™	65
Algerian Condensed	66
ITC Obelisk™ Light	67
ITC Rennie Mackintosh™ Light	68
ITC Vintage™	69
Garden Journal	70



Dotted Gradient Dessert Plates	72
ABC-XYZ Embossed Portfolio	74
Raised Chinese Calligraphy Lamp Shade	76
“Eat Your Peas” Decoupage Bowls	78
Painted Glass Vase	80
Playful Herb Pots	82
<b>Vintage Lettering</b>	84
Traditional Versals	86
Modern Versals	87
Castellar™	88
Uncials	89
Adobe Caslon	90
Galliard Italic	91
“There’s Time!” Kitchen Clock	92
Vintage Sap Bucket	94
Four Seasons Placemats	96
Initial Painted Curtains	98
Botanical Note Cards	100
Sweet Dreams Pillows	102
Hot Pepper Oil Bottle	104
<b>Hand-Lettered Crafts Gallery</b>	106
Moss-Covered Letters	108
Decorative Lettering in the Home	109
Spice Jars	110
Lettered Silk Scarf	111
Watermelon Decoupage Plate	112
Brush-Lettered Lamp Shades	113
Tempus Fugit	114
Dreaming Kitty	115
Brushed Gold Vase	116
Gocco-Printed Calendar Pages	117
Tea Tray Floor Cloth	118
Mosaic “T” Tray	119
Celebrate! Plate	120
Image Transfer Mosaic Mirror	121
Family Tribute Box	122
Etched Metal Jewelry Box	123
Lettering Resources	124
Directory of Artists	126
About the Author	128





# Lettering ABCs



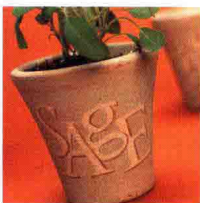
Hand and lettering, like no other artistic process, can immediately add personality to a craft, whether it's a touch of whimsy, sophistication, or romantic elegance. This book introduces you to many methods of creating personalized hand lettering on your craft projects, including beginning calligraphy with pens and brushes, where each stroke of the pen or brush creates one segment of a letter; decorative painting techniques, consisting of outlining and filling traced letter forms; and specialized crafting processes such as decoupage, chemical rust treatment, and glass etching.

Materials include calligraphy inks, watercolors and gouache, and acrylic and vinyl paints. Craft surfaces are not limited to paper; glazed ceramics and porcelain, glass, metal, fabric, and wood materials are discussed. Specialized transfer processes are introduced, including iron-on color transfer sheets, acrylic gel medium transfers, and even transferring black and white photocopied lettering using wintergreen essential oil.

Many of the hand-lettered crafts available in specialty decorating stores rely on loose, charming printing or handwriting. You may have a hard time accepting your own lettering in that style, and you may feel that perfection never arrives. Always keep an open mind—if you are disappointed in the handmade look of your lettering, don't immediately despair. Sleep on it; tomorrow (or even next week), it will look charming



and personal to you. When adding lettering to a craft, after all the base coating, color washing, and other preparations, it all comes down to one potentially stressful minute—when you begin to apply the lettering and there's no going back. If you feel pressure, take a deep breath, and work on test materials for warm-up practice. Some artists find that it helps to create two projects at the same time, one “for real” and the other as a backup that can become the “for real” project if a mistake is made. Remember, lettering should be fun!





# Materials

## Basic craft materials

Some basic craft materials are needed for most of the projects, including

- tracing paper
- clean water (preferably distilled) in a jar
- craft knife
- transfer paper and sharp pen, pencil, or stylus for transferring
- straight-edge and a sharp pencil to create guide lines
- a kneaded eraser to remove guide lines and transferred outlines

## Media

### Colored Pencils and Pastels

These are wonderful for paper applications and can be used with many blending and decorative techniques. A spray fixative is recommended for final artwork, as in memory books or picture frame mats. Watercolor pencils can be washed with water to create varying effects.

### Marking Pens

Corresponding to the rise in popularity of scrapbooking, many new pens are being developed with high standards of permanence and acid-free archival quality. Watercolor pens that can be blended with a color wash are popular, as are pens with a brush end to simulate painting. High-precision permanent lining pens are perfect for creating outlines of letters that will be filled later, or for meticulous lettering projects where sharp lines and control are desired. Gel pens write with an opaque colored gel medium that is effective for paper use.

### Calligraphy Ink

Calligraphy ink can be used directly from the bottle, or it can be diluted for special effects. It's a very thin medium, so it does not clog calligraphy pen nibs. It is loaded onto a pen nib by dipping or by using a brush or eyedropper to apply ink to the nib reservoir. Calligraphy ink is available in waterproof or nonwaterproof, pigmented or dyed, and in many colors and shades, including iridescent. It can be used with brushes but may damage them over time, so clean your brush carefully and often. For crafts that will be exposed to the sun, permanence of the ink can be an issue; test your ink by writing thick lines on a piece of paper, covering half of the ink with a piece of paper, and taping both papers to a window that receives direct sunlight. After a week, check the inked lines, comparing the covered part to the exposed to see if the ink color has faded.

### Watercolor and Gouache

Gouache and watercolors are water-based pigmented media and come in tubes or cake form. They are mixed with water (preferably distilled water to avoid contaminating the paints) to create a smooth paint with many options for textured effects such as dry brushing. Gouache generally has a permanence rating printed on its tube. It is easily used in metal nibs for pen calligraphy and creates a less transparent color in a thicker, creamier form than watercolor. Watercolor's thin texture and transparency allows many decorative options, including blending and color washing. Both clean up quickly and are easy on brushes, though it is always recommended that you promptly clean your brushes after each use.

## Acrylic and Fabric Paint

Acrylic paint is a water-based, pigmented medium that provides a highly colored, waterproof coverage when dry. Generally, you should use professional-quality, medium-viscosity liquid acrylics rather than craft acrylic paints; the artist's paints have more pigment than in their crafting cousins, so brushstrokes are less likely to show and coverage is more complete. They are easily mixed to create a wide range of colors, but they are already available in almost any shade you might need. The manufacturers of craft acrylic paints have developed many specialty formulas of paint for special uses, such as painting metal or terra cotta, which are often the best paint for those surfaces. Acrylic paints can damage fine-quality brushes over time, so reserve a set of brushes for acrylic use only, and make sure you clean them promptly after each use. Synthetic brushes hold these paints well and are not as easily ruined as natural-hair brushes.

Fabric paint is an acrylic paint that has been adapted for smooth, permanent coverage on fabric. It often requires heat-setting with an iron or dryer and comes in many forms and colors, including metallic and iridescent finishes. Painting with fabric paint is similar to using other media but may require a firmer brushstroke. For the best results, you might try fixing the fabric to an ironing board or heavy cardboard with fine straight pins to hold it firmly like a canvas.

## Oven-Firing Water-Based Enamels

These are a special line of water-based enamel paints that adhere well to glass, glazed ceramics, and porcelain; they are permanent when oven fired at a medium temperature. Make sure to follow the firing instructions on the paint bottle. Surface preparation is important to the permanence of the final letter project—clean the piece well with rubbing alcohol before painting. A wide range of finishes is available, from translucent to opaque, and alternate media can be mixed with the paints to provide a matte or glossy finish. Don't purchase paints that have separated from their medium because they may have lost their ability to bind well to the smooth surfaces of glass and ceramics. It is easy to correct mistakes with these paints; because the dried paint sits cleanly on the surface of the project, you can carefully scrape away small errors with a craft knife, or you can wash away larger areas with water or alcohol before heat setting.

## Air-Drying Oil-Based Enamels

These paints provide a thick, opaque coverage on glazed ceramics and glass but are much harder to clean up than water-based enamels. They work well in conjunction with a frisket or adhesive stencil and are durable when dry. Corrections must be made with a solvent such as odorless turpentine, which is also used to clean the brushes.

## Other Media

Other media, including milk paint and dry stencil paints; chemical treatments, such as rust-creating chemicals and etching cream; and even plaster are used in the featured projects. Refer to those pages for specific recommendations.

# Tools

## Calligraphy Pens

Dip pens are the staple of fine calligraphy. You'll want to own broad-edged metal nibs in many sizes to create calligraphic hands such as Foundational, Italic, and Versals, shown in this book. A flexible pointed nib is perfect for the pointed pen lettering illustrated on page 28. Clean and store nibs carefully. For beginning practice, you can use chisel-edged markers, which are available in many sizes and colors—even brush markers for Chinese calligraphy and brush lettering are available.

## Brushes

Whether you use brushes for calligraphy or for trace-and-fill decorative painting, your brushes are the most important tool in your repertoire. A good brush is worth every penny, so buy the best you can afford and take proper care of it. Brush shape is key to good brush performance, so reshape each time you dip a brush in paint. Natural-hair bristles are most appropriate for water-based applications such as watercolors and gouache, but their ability to create a brushstroke without harsh stroke lines will occasionally make them the right tool for acrylic work, too. Acrylic paints can damage natural-hair brushes over time, so be sure to promptly clean and store them. Synthetic-hair brushes, particularly those made specially for decorative painting use, are invaluable for acrylic painting.

### Flat Brushes

The flat-edged brush is named for its sharp, tapered chisel edge. Depending on the direction that you use this brush, you can create a thin, controlled hairline or a thick, filled stroke. These brushes can be used successfully with calligraphic alphabets in place of the broad-edged calligraphy pen and are perfect for filling in traced letterforms for decorative painting. Also referred to as chisel brushes, bright brushes, and one-stroke lettering brushes, each type of flat brush has slightly different bristle and handle lengths, resulting in differences in the amount of paint that can be loaded onto the brush and the degree of control necessary to create a steady stroke. Experiment with these brushes to find the one that works the best for you. When buying a flat brush, look for clean, trimmed bristles that taper to a fine edge, with no stray hairs or splits in the bristles.



Calligraphy nibs are available in many shapes, each appropriate to creating a different size or style of calligraphic hand.



Some basic brushes you will find useful are flat- and chisel-edged brushes, a small round brush, and a very small round brush, also called a spotter brush.