



The Ultimate Brush Lettering Guide: A Complete Step-By-Step Creative Workbook to Jump-Start Modern Calligraphy Skills

Peggy Dean

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From the artist behind the popular Pigeon Letters website, a complete guide to learning and perfecting brush lettering, a forgiving style of modern calligraphy that encourages creative expression and imprecision, including basic skills, flourishes, and project ideas.

The Ultimate Brush Lettering Guide has something for everyone--from beginners that have never used a brush pen, to seasoned letterers looking for a new style or ideas for creative flourishes. From choosing the best pens and paper and knowing the different styles of lettering, to adding color to your finished pieces--this book covers it all. The book includes templates for labels, cards, handmade bunting, and word collages. It even includes a how to guide for posting your best work on social media. Each lesson builds on itself, unlocking endless opportunities inside the playful art of brush lettering. As a self-taught artist who left her day job to pursue a creative life, Peggy Dean is the ideal teacher for artists and non-artists alike.

The Ultimate Brush Lettering Guide: A Complete Step-By-Step Creative Workbook to Jump-Start Modern Calligraphy Skills Details

Date : Published July 24th 2018 by Watson-Guption

ISBN : 9780399582172

Author : Peggy Dean

Format : Paperback 160 pages

Genre : Art, Nonfiction, Crafts, Language, Writing

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Christen says

I love Peggy Dean's botanical drawing books but this brush lettering book really missed the mark for me. There were a few interesting tidbits throughout the book, like the 3 corner approach and the botanical faux calligraphy letters.

The book could have really benefited from some photographs or at least some other colors. The entire book is black and blue. The practice pages were tiny! Very little room to actually practice.

She offered 10 alphabet but not cohesively. All 10 upper and lowercase a's were together. It was hard to piece them together. On the other hand it is nice to see variations and find one that suits you and your project.

Overall. Meh.

Tammy says

Great breakdown for me as a beginner. I might eventually get the hang of it!

Luana says

Great book....but

This book is packed with knowledge, however it is difficult to read because of the way it was developed. I had read another person review on amazon stating their book was difficult to read and fuzzy, also the book was produced on thin pages. So I thought I would purchase the kindle version in order to read and be able to utilize the book better. Still had some difficulty anyway. I did find the book full of knowledge, and am rereading it again. I might just look at the examples and go from there.

Whitney says

It's a badly produced book full of great information. I'm all excited about playing with my new brush pens now.

Problems with the physical book:

- at least five typos, one misaligned subheader, and a weird phantom half-printed image in one spot
- printed on thin paper (not good when you're going to be photocopying practice pages; you can totally see

through to the other side)

- is designed in black and gray, and many many of the small gray details are difficult to make out

One of the Amazon reviews was complaining about the whole thing being written in brush lettering. I thought that would annoy me, too, but it wound up being fine. I enjoyed seeing the various ways information could be arranged with this particular art form. It's all readable, except for a couple of really elaborate example words.

The information and ideas in this book are great for beginners. Even though it needs better editing and art direction, it makes me happy, and I think it'll be a good start to what will hopefully be a fun hobby.

Theresa says

Dean's tone in this book is rather snarky, and not in a cute, friendly way. That said, she provides multiple examples of script and a variety of styles for every letter of the alphabet.

Some of the content is printed in a very pale gray, which makes reading this book in anything less than sunlight, or under an Ott light, difficult.

Reading this book did annoy me, but in a good way, kinda like a blister from a pair of high heels. I don't wear those types of shoes because, while pretty, are terribly uncomfortable. Similarly, I determined that I don't give a f**k about calligraphy, and will stick with my own handwriting when creating cards or art, or writing in my art journal. I quite like my handwriting, come to think of it. Thank you, Peggy Dean, for your pithy education on the difference between calligraphy and handwriting.

I'll save the modern calligraphy for the font makers.

Vesta says

Once you meet Peggy Dean in her classes on Skillshare (starting from basics and following digital lettering in art apps like Procreate) you understand she is very special in sharing her knowledge.

People follow her not because they were told by influencer but because they can learn so much from every blog, class or book.

Personally I love the way she designed this book inviting you to be creative and don't compare. "Lettering is an art of drawing letters" and any drawing is a subjective view documented to be shared. The book is an artistic map to "acquired skill" of very personal taste for eye-pleasing structures based on learned muscle memory and love of design.

Jane says

This book really does a great job at earning the Ultimate title.

The first part is full of useful information so you will be fully prepped to create letters. It has information on tools, gives you encouragement and alleviates any fears of being a beginner. You should not skip this section. Even if you are experienced it is helpful and an excellent refresher.

The next part are the lettering guides. If you are not familiar with The Pigeon Letters' lettering guides, she shows you 10 ways to write numbers and letters. All different and unique. There are flourishing, embellishments, and ligature guides as well. You will be able to create multiple unique styles.

The last part has room for practice, how to incorporate lettering into practical purposes, some fun projects, and bonus step by step tutorials.

This book is a definite must own. You'll learn from it and then continue to refer to it later.

Zakkiya says

If I had to choose just one word for this amazing lettering book, I would definitely choose "exceptional". Not only has the author covered all topics starting from materials to individual letters to detailed projects, she has also done it in a way that is simple and easy to follow. There are practice pages with guidelines which are so convenient. I love using tracing paper over it so that I can make use of the guidelines multiple times.

Even if you're just starting out or you're an advanced letterer, you'll be able to take away a lot more than the price it's at.

Like I mentioned earlier, EXCEPTIONAL!
