

SKETCHBOOK ADVENTURES

Hand Lettering Exercise #3: Between the Lines

Now that you've gotten more comfortable with your own writing and have a better understanding of professional fonts it's time to put what you've learned from studying the masters as well as getting to know your own style to good use. In this exercise you'll learn how to give your own writing a more uniform look by working within guides. Working within guides while using the style that comes naturally to me helps me keep my letters consistent and makes me think about the height, slant and balance of my letters.

What to do:

1. Create guides on a page in your sketchbook with a ruler. I made the distance between my top and bottom line about an inch and used the height of the ruler as a guide ie: I set the ruler down on my page and drew my top line along the top edge of the ruler and my bottom line along the bottom edge of the ruler. Using your ruler, divide the space into three and make dotted lines for both of the lines inside the top and bottom lines. Repeat this two more times so that you have a total of three guides to write in.

*Note:

-The top solid line is the cap height which is the height the top of your capital letters or the height of letters with taller tops (ie: k, l, d etc...) should reach to.

-The bottom solid line is the descender which is the line that the end of letters with extended bottoms (ie: g, y, p etc...) should reach to.

-The top dotted line is the midline and the bottom dotted line is the baseline. The main part of your letters (ie: the entire o, r, a etc...) should fit within this area.

2. In the first guide write your word or phrase in non-script writing. Feel free to use capitals, lowercase or mix it up and add details like serifs or tails on the letters. Feel free to write your word or phrase in pencil first then go over it pen.

3. In the second guide write your word or phrase in script or cursive writing.

4. In the third guide write your word or phrase in a third style. If you didn't use capitals before, use them now or you can explore something different (like I did) and use block letters.

5. Erase your guides and marvel at the awesomeness of your letters.



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