

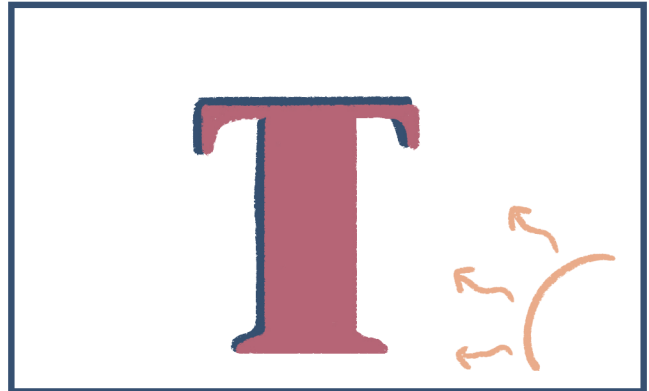
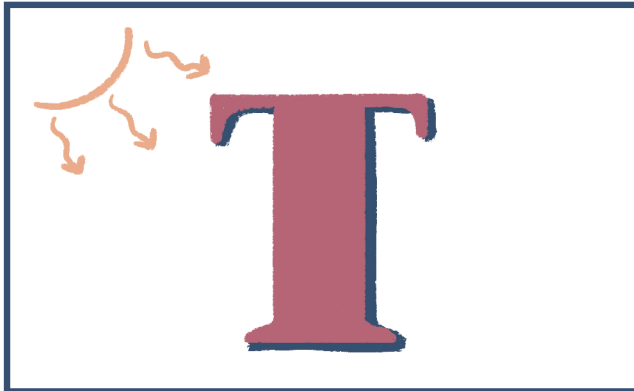
LIGHT & SHADOWS

12-page
lettering workbook

LIGHT AND SHADOWS

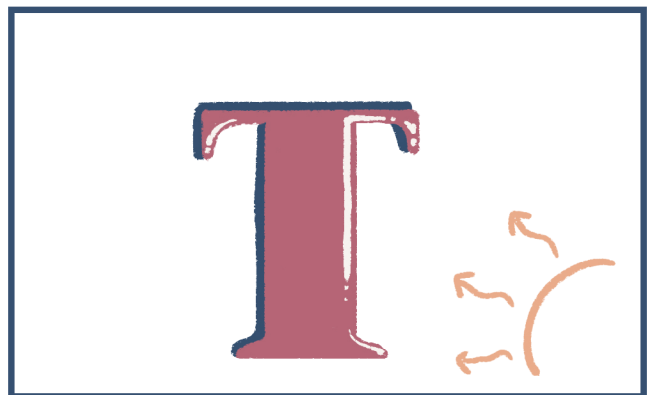
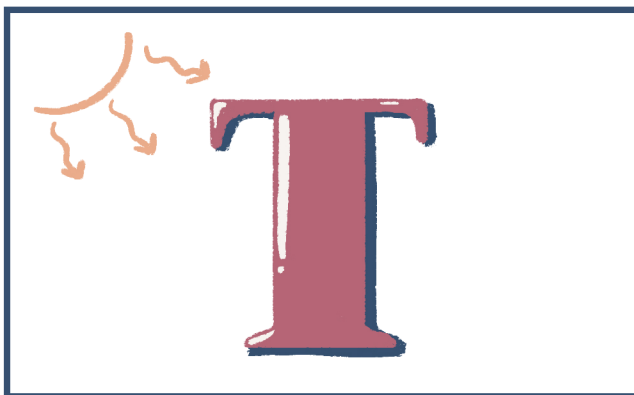
To learn how to letter with shadows and highlights, you need to know where the light is coming from and how it interacts with objects.

SHADOWS



Shadows always appear on the opposite side of the light source.

HIGHLIGHTS



Highlights typically appear on the side nearest the light source, but not *right* on the edge.

FOLLOW THE LIGHT

Practice: Add the shadows and highlights that work with each light source. Use a white gel pen or a light pencil line for the highlights and a dark pen for the shadows.

 = light source

create 

 CREATE

 garden

GARDEN 

forest 

 FOREST

SHADOW STYLES

Style 1: Simple Thin Line



This is the simplest shadow style. You simply need to use a dark line on the opposite side of the light source to give the impression of a shadow.

Style 2: Hovering Thin Line



To create the hovering thin line, all you need to do is add a small buffer of empty space between the lettered word and the shadow. Try to keep the line evenly spaced from the word.

Style 3: Brush Pen Shadow



Use a brush pen to curve the shadow around the letters. Where the letter curves toward the light, make a thin line. As it becomes the shadow side, transition to a thicker mark.

Style 4: Hollow Shadows



Add structure and extra dimension to your lettering by creating hollow shadows. Do the same technique as the hovering thin line shadow and simply connect the shadow lines to the lettering.

Style 5: Extra 3D Shadows



Make your shadows extra 3D by creating hollow shadows and filling them in with color.

SHADOW STYLES

Style 6: Shadows on Shadows



Create extra 3D shadows in a lighter color. Then, using a darker color, add extra shadows on the bottom of each letter's shadow.

Style 7: Ghost Shadow



Make a ghost shadow effect by creating a thin shadow line *without* any base letter to guide you. This can take some practice, but it is well worth the work.

Style 8: Colorful Cage Shadow



Create a hollow shadow in one color and fill it in with another color for a two-toned shadow effect.

Style 9: Silver Lining Shadow



The silver lining shadow can be achieved two ways. First, you can create the extra 3D shadow effect and use a white gel pen to outline the lettering. You can also just carefully leave white space between the lettering and word.

Style 10: Line Shadow



Use lots of thin, repetitive lines to create shadows for your lettering. A higher concentration of lines is great for darker areas, just like the shadows on shadows technique.

SHADOW STYLES PRACTICE

Style 1: Simple Thin Line

hello gift witty suave

HELLO GIFT WITTY SUAVE

Style 2: Hovering Thin Line

hello gift witty suave

HELLO GIFT WITTY SUAVE

Style 3: Brush Pen Shadow

hello gift witty suave

HELLO GIFT WITTY SUAVE

SHADOW STYLES PRACTICE

Style 4: Hollow Shadows

hello gift witty suave

HELLO GIFT WITTY SUAVE

Style 5: Extra 3D Shadows

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HELLO GIFT WITTY SUAVE

Style 6: Shadows on Shadows

hello gift witty suave

HELLO GIFT WITTY SUAVE

SHADOW STYLES PRACTICE

Style 7: Ghost Shadow

hello

Style 8: Colorful Cage Shadows

hello gift witty suave

HELLO GIFT WITTY SUAVE

Style 9: Silver Lining Shadow

hello gift witty suave

HELLO GIFT WITTY SUAVE

SHADOW STYLES PRACTICE

Style 10: Line Shadow

hello

gift

witty

suave

HELLO

GIFT

WITTY

SUAVE

Practice your favorite shadow styles in the space below!

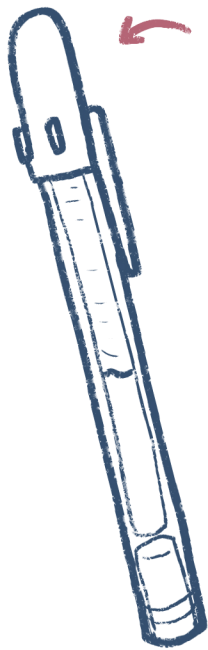


little coffee fox



HIGHLIGHT SUPPLIES

Creating shadows is easy with whatever pens, pencils, or markers you have lying around. Highlights, on the other hand, are a bit more tricky without special supplies. You can carefully create letters around pre-planned highlights, but it's much easier to add the highlights on top of your lettering with special white pens and inks.



Sakura White Gelly Roll Pen

This inexpensive white gel pen is one of my favorites for adding highlights to my lettering. And there are tons of opaque colors in the Gelly Roll line, meaning you can create highlights with whatever color you want!



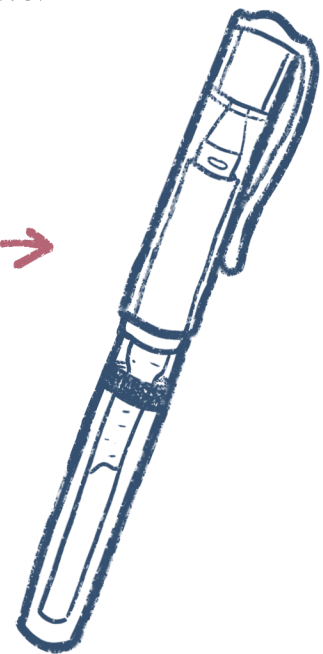
White Gouache

Use this opaque white paint to add white highlights to your lettering. You can even water it down for more subtle highlights!



Dr. Ph. Martin's Bleedproof White

This curious substance creates a dependable opaque white ink. Add a few drops of clean water and mix to your desired consistency to use it.



Uniball Signo White Gel Pen

This white gel pen is a great cheap option for adding highlights.

HIGHLIGHT STYLES

Style 1: Simple Highlight



This is the simplest highlight style. All you need to do is put a thick white line with one extra dot (like an exclamation mark) on the downstroke of each letter.

Style 2: Extra Shiny Highlights



To give your lettering some extra shiny highlights, add more dots above and below the long line. This gives the letters an almost wet appearance.

Style 3: Skeleton Highlights



Highlights can sometimes be more abstract and still give tons more dimension to your lettering, like skeleton highlights. Add a dot to the center of each downstroke line and add two long lines on either side to create this look.

Style 4: Horizontal Highlights



Change it up by adding horizontal highlights. On the thick downstrokes, create a series of horizontal lines starting very thin about halfway up the letter and ending fatter toward the bottom.

Style 5: Half Full Highlights



On the downstrokes, pick a halfway point. Below that point, create a thick white line. Then add equal-sized dots on the top half of each letter to create this look.

HIGHLIGHT STYLES PRACTICE

Style 1: Simple Highlight

hello gift witty suave

HELLO GIFT WITTY SUAVE

Style 2: Extra Shiny Highlights

hello gift witty suave

HELLO GIFT WITTY SUAVE

Style 3: Skeleton Highlights

hello gift witty suave

HELLO GIFT WITTY SUAVE

HIGHLIGHT STYLES PRACTICE

Style 4: Horizontal Highlights

hello gift witty suave

HELLO GIFT WITTY SUAVE

Style 5: Half Full Highlights

hello gift witty suave

HELLO GIFT WITTY SUAVE

Practice your favorite highlight styles in the space below!