

hey!

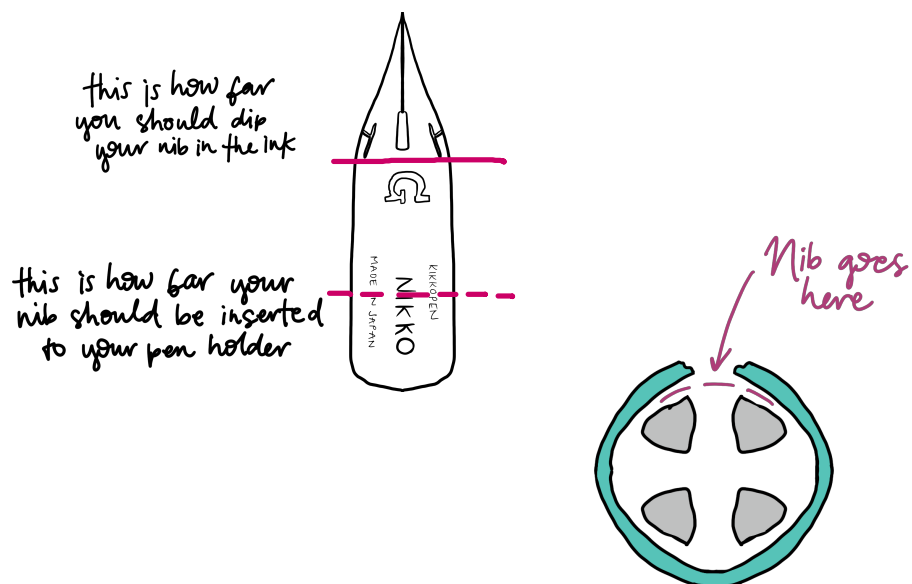
Seeing as we only had one hour for our very rushed calligraphy session, I thought I'd write up a bit of a summary with some key points, what materials we used and some further sources of information and inspiration.

## NIBS

I've used a few different nibs, and they all help with different styles of writing. The nib I've given you is one of my favourites, the **Nikko G**. This nib is available most places, but [www.calligraphysuppliesaustralia.com](http://www.calligraphysuppliesaustralia.com) is a great Australian based business with a great range of products. This nib gives excellent variation between thin and thick lines, so you can get a great range of lettering out of it.

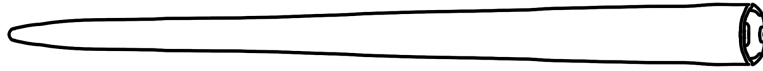
I've recently fallen in love with the Brause B50 Pfannen nib, which is the broader nib some of you were playing with. The flatter end means you can achieve bolder, stronger lettering, and I like using this nib to write the couple's names on the certificate, whilst using the Nikko G for the smaller details, like my name, the venue and the date. It's used as a monoline nib, so you won't get much variation in your strokes with this one. I bought this one from overseas, and it was a bit of a gamble, but I had a big payoff! Available here: <https://www.paperinkarts.com/brsb50.html>

And because my directions on how to insert a nib were lousy; here's a diagram and demo: <https://vimeo.com/164041164>



## PENHOLDER

The penholder I've given you is a Manuscript Universal penholder. The beauty of the universal holders is that you can use almost any nib with this pen. Nibs vary in size slightly, but this trusty tool should see you through for many sessions to come.



Remember this is a wooden product with metal inserts; do not to let your penholder touch your water when you're cleaning off your nib, or it will rot and rust internally.

Some people like to use oblique holders. Frankly, I'm too uncoordinated to handle mine, so it never gets used. Apparently it's good for angled writing, but I just rotate my page for more comfortable results. But hey, you don't know unless you give it a go!

## INK

You have taken home a pot of **Japanese Sumi ink**. There's a few different types and brands out there, but I stick with a liquid form as opposed to the sticks or pastes, as it's easier to use and I'm lazy. Chinese calligraphy ink will also work well, and I've used that in the past too. Sumi is my preference because of the no-smudge finish and it's relatively water-fast.

If you're looking to bring in some colour to your certificates, there are some metallic inks available. If you're dedicated, Finetec have some amazing powders that require you to mix your own ink, also available from Calligraphy Supplies Australia. Otherwise Windsor and Newton, available from Eckersley's is great. If you're after a white ink, the best is Dr Ph. Martins No Bleed.

<https://www.eckersleys.com.au/drawing/inks/calligraphy>

If your ink becomes too thick, add in some water or gum arabic (liquid form) to achieve a more workable consistency. And remember to clean and dry your nibs thoroughly after using them to make sure they last you a long time. Otherwise you'll get rusty or clogged nibs.



## PAPER

If you're looking to practice your skills, it's important to use a smooth finish paper. If you use regular copy paper, your ink will bleed and it's harder to practice your shapes. Reflex Ultrawhite is a good bleed-proof paper, but any paper from Officeworks with a Digital or Silk finish is what I use. And the heavier the GSM, the less likely it is to rip or leak through the paper.

The paper I've used for your practice sheets is this one here:

<https://www.officeworks.com.au/shop/officeworks/p/j-burrows-premium-200gsm-a4-digital-copy-paper-250-sheets-jbdp200250>

## NEED SOME INSPO?

I frequently find myself about to write up a name, only to forget how to draw a capital letter. If you hop onto instagram and search **#theletterarchive\_(letter you need inspo for)**, it will come up with a whole bunch of different artists and their take on that particular letter. e.g **#theletterarchive\_r** will come up with thousands of different Rs.

Looking for some general lettering inspo? Try these accounts:

**@bydawnnicole**

**@maggiescript**

**@letterarchive**

**@blackchalkco**

**@lettercise**

**@litemissrose**

**@amandarachlee**

**@kellycreates**

**@thepostmansknock**

There are heaps of resources online with free downloadable worksheets if you're looking for some further practice. **The Postman's Knock** is a comprehensive online resource with information about tools, materials and free downloads, as well as purchasable material. Her Amy Style worksheet is one of my personal favourites. If you're intrigued, try it out here:

<https://thepostmansknock.com/product-landing/calligraphy-worksheets/>



## TIPS

- Grip the pen from about one third down the pen. Holding too close to the nib will make it hard to form certain letters, and your nib may snag on your page.
- Look at letters as shapes or drawings; this approach is great for your lettering, but often leaves me with spelling mistakes! Pay attention to every letter.
- It's okay to lift your nib off of the page! In fact, this will allow for better placement between words. It's easier to lift your nib after an upstroke as opposed to a heavy downstroke.
- Ritually clean your nibs while working by dunking the tip in water, then cleaning with paper towel. If you don't, your nib will clog and leave large splotches of ink across your paper.
- Do your work slowly; don't rush your lettering.
- The lightest lines come from barely touching the paper, for variation between your strokes make sure you're changing your pressure.
- The nibs won't break! Be as heavy handed as you like.
- Keep the hole in the nib facing upwards at all times; don't hold your pen at a 90° angle, but rather a 45° angle.
- Shake excess ink off of your nib before putting it to the page, otherwise you'll end up with puddles.
- If you find fibres of paper have attached to your nib, just rinse off with water.
- Don't let the pen holder touch your water; it will rot and rust and it won't be pretty. Make sure it's just the nib in your water.
- It's a good idea to clean your nibs with an ink solvent at the end of a session; Dr PH Martin's Bombay ink solvent is a great one to use.
- Always separate your nib from your penholder when you're finished for the day; leaving it inside the penholder will leave your nib prone to rust and damage.

Happy lettering!

♥ Tenielle  
xo