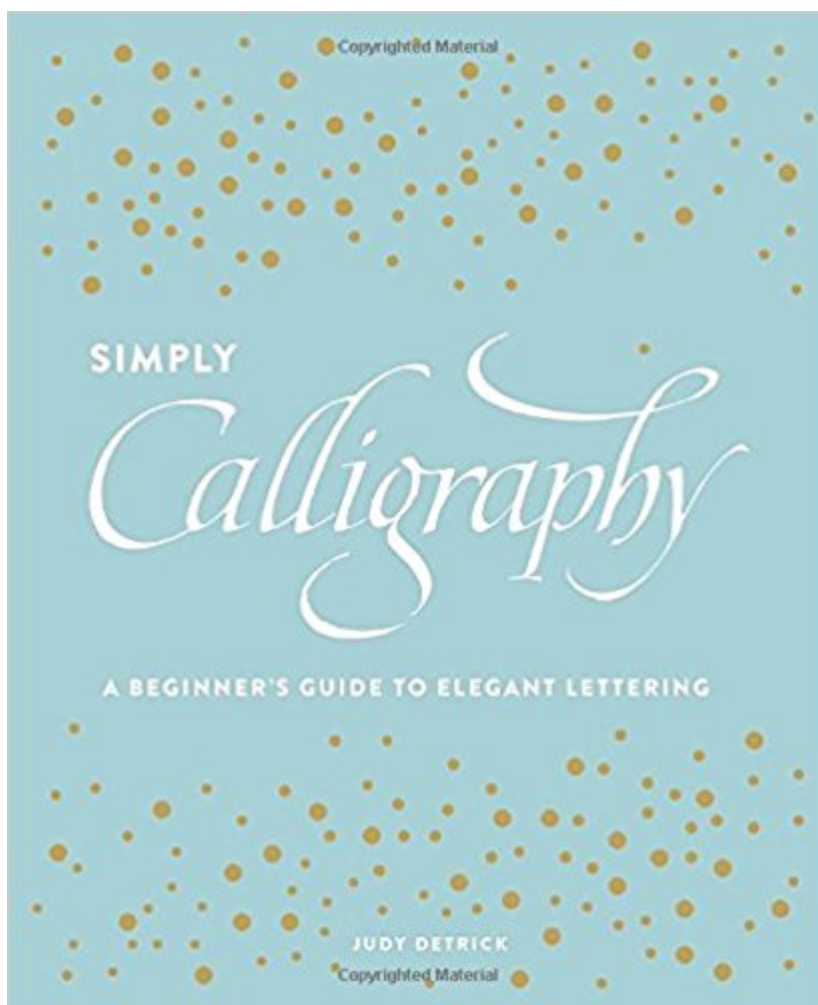




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# Simply Calligraphy: A Beginner's Guide To Elegant Lettering



## Synopsis

Learning the simple and beautiful art of hand-lettered calligraphy is as easy as picking up pen and paper! Italic is the calligraphy's most popular alphabet, and this delightful manual introduces basic capital and small letters and numbers, plus all the creative flourishes you need to customize your unique script for every project and occasion. With a quick and easy instruction from calligraphy teacher and designer Judy Detrick, *Simply Calligraphy* will have you whipping up elegant invitations, pleasing place cards, and personalized thank-you notes in no time. Includes practice exercises, advice on tools and materials, and project ideas for place cards, invitations, and more!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Long an admirer of her beautiful work, I'm delighted to see Judy Detrick draw upon her knowledge and mastery of calligraphy, as well as her extensive teaching experience, to write a book for beginners. Judy's clear and practical instruction coupled with a gentle encouragement every step of the way makes this a good choice for anyone to begin the journey into the fascinating world of calligraphy." • Susie Taylor, curator of the Harrison Collection of Calligraphy  
"This lovely manual introduces you to basic capital and lower-case letters, as well as pretty flourishes to customise your writing for any project or occasion." • Creativity, Book of the Month Review

JUDY DETRICK is a calligrapher and designer living on the Mendocino coast of Northern

California. She taught calligraphy and graphic design at College of the Redwoods on the Mendocino coast for more than twenty-five years and developed the Graphic Arts Certificate Program there. Her work can be found in several anthologies of calligraphy and graphic design, and she is represented in the Richard Harrison Collection of Calligraphy and Lettering at the San Francisco Public Library. She served as editor of *Alphabet*, the Journal of the Friends of Calligraphy from 2007 to 2010. A parallel interest of hers is letterpress printing, and under the imprint of the Attic Press she has produced several limited edition books and a wide collection of ephemera. She teaches regularly at the San Francisco Center for the Book, for the Friends of Calligraphy, and at other venues throughout California.

The book was in great shape & I thoroughly enjoyed it!

Love it

This is an incredibly detailed book for beginners. This book very much holds your hand through the process. To do this, you will need wide ruled paper, as you'd find in any stationery store, a common pen to learn the basic forms, and a Pilot Parallel Pen 2-Color Calligraphy Pen Set, with Black and Red Ink Cartridges, 1.5mm Nib (90050) specifically in the 1.5mm size. Grab some extra ink while you're at it. You'll need it. This goes through ink fast. This really does focus on the basics. First you learn the basic strokes, then the bare skeletal form of the lower case letters, then the letters themselves organized by similarity of form. Take your time. You should not move up to using the calligraphy pen until you have memorized the basic forms. You shouldn't need to ever look them up (they are all together on a single page if you have to) but rather, you should have them committed to memory. After all that, the entire process is repeated with the upper case letters, finally ending with numerals, punctuation, and flourishes. I've been doing a page per letter and that helps a lot. The goal is to build muscle memory and skill with them, so once you're done you can use them and not think about it. This teaches only one font, Italics, and only shows two others by way of where to go next. It is not a comprehensive guide to calligraphy, but is a suitably comprehensive guide to starting out with calligraphy. Once you have these basics down, you can pick a font and start learning it. Chase after too many to start, and you're only more likely to get confused. There is time, and there are plenty of books, for that later on.

. "Simply Calligraphy" by Judy Detrick is a perfect introductory book to help the novice get on their

way. Detrick breaks down the alphabet into categories of letters that are similar so as to form groups of letters. What I like is that there is a system of arrows showing the order of strokes for each letter. It is important to note however that this book will only show you ITALIC calligraphy. This is not MODERN calligraphy. This is traditional calligraphy. At the end of the book there are three additional example fonts but no guide on how to create them. (Starting off with the italic calligraphy these other fonts are not difficult to replicate after some practice.) Detrick explains that there are a number of variations created depending on your tools which I found to be very true. I personally did not use a fountain pen and instead used a tombow fudenosake brush pen. Whether or not this made calligraphy simpler or harder for me I can't say, however I will say that there are still some letters that I am not able to master. I would have liked to perhaps have a little more guidance for some of the letters. One of the simplest letters, F, despite my continued attempts I still can not properly replicate. If I were not a beginner in calligraphy I would most probably find this guide to be pretty boring because it focuses just on one font and aside from a few pages that show a few flourishes to embellish the letters a bit, this is a very basic guide. One other thing that I didn't quite like was that at no point in the entire book was the entire italic alphabet shown all together. I think it would have been helpful to have all the letters on one page to help create a reference sheet. Without this, one has to continuously flip through the pages to find the letter groups and find the specific letter one is looking for- a little annoying. All in all, for a beginner, looking to slowly get into calligraphy I would recommend this, I would not recommend this to someone who is looking to expand on their calligraphy font knowledge base. I included some images to show examples of the type of work that this book helps you create. Hopefully they help illustrate what this book can provide. I received this book from Blogging for Books for this review.

"This book will provide you with the first steps toward developing a calligraphic hand that is unique to you, attractive, and easy to read." Judy Detrick writes in the introduction of her book, *Simple Calligraphy: A Beginner's Guide to Elegant Lettering*. What This ninety-six-page paperback targets those who want to learn how to create calligraphy writing. After an introduction, eight chapters cover the topic, ending with further studies, resources, author's biography, acknowledgments, and index. After explaining pens, ink, and paper, the writer begins with how to hold the pen at a 30-degree angle with slanted downstrokes. Small letters, capitals, numerals, and flourishes follow. Also discussed are project ideas and additional font styles. Why Since I have a degree in art, I love picking up books to learn better techniques in different mediums. I like how simple this book is as it shows the beginner

calligrapher how to write letters and numbers. I liked the tips on using a broad edge fountain pen initially, practicing on college ruled paper, and practicing often to get the technique perfected.~ Why Not ~Those who are already calligraphers or advanced in the skill may not glean anything new from this simplistic instructional book. Because the book does not lay flat, it would have to be secured somehow when referring to its diagrams when practicing writing.~ Who ~A calligrapher teacher and graphic designer for more than twenty-five years in Northern California, the author has been an editor, letterpress printer, and collector of ephemera, and she still teaches the craft.~ Wish ~I wish the book included more lined pages that the beginner could use for practicing. There is one small cut out page of lines that can be used under thin paper, but it would be thoughtful to include pages to write directly on with the examples also on the same page. It would be easier if the book laid flat.~ Want ~If you are looking for an introductory tutorial of calligraphy, this is a good starter book that gives step by step processes and examples.Thanks to Blogging for Books for a sample to read and review.

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