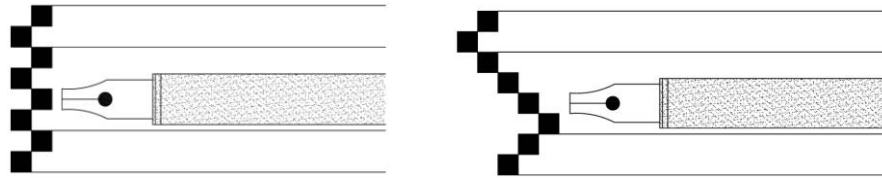


Using the Correctly Sized Pen Nib

This is not really an instruction page about "Using the Correctly Sized Pen Nib". The title was intended to draw you in to the real instruction which is "Understanding How to Create Proper Proportioned Letters with Your Different Pen Nibs".

Each Medieval Lettering Style has defined proportions which are what give the letters their intrinsic beauty. If you do not understand how to create proportion guidelines for each of your Nibs, your lettering will undoubtedly lose its charm & good looks and leave you unsatisfied with your work.

How to use your pen to create proper proportion for the letters you will make

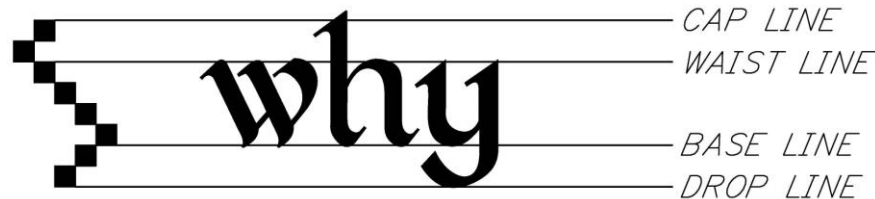


Set the pen down on the paper at a 90° angle and draw a block. This is the pen nib width.

Move your pen one block up (or down), touch the corner of the first block and draw another block.

Continue making blocks until you have the required number.

These blocks will be used to create guidelines which are normally called: the drop line, the base line, the waist line and the cap line



(don't forget, you will typically need "a space" between each drop line and the cap line that follows it)

A good Calligraphy Instruction Book should call out the standard number of pen nib widths normally used to create the beauty of each lettering style you are learning.

This most common reason that new calligraphers lose faith in their abilities is because the most common mistake of a new calligrapher is to draw letters in guidelines that are TOO BIG for the Pen Nib. This makes the writing look gangly, clumsy and inelegant.

Starting with the proper proportion will make all the difference in the world. It allows you to have a wonderfully rewarding experience and builds your confidence as you practice your penmanship.