

You do not have to purchase everything on this list. This is only intended to help you wade through all the available options out there! Most of these supplies can be found at either Paper and Ink Arts or John Neal Bookseller.

**Pen Holder** – any oblique holder with an adjustable metal flange. Both of the pens listed below are dual use and can function as straight and oblique holders. These are the most budget friendly options but feel free to choose any pen you like.

Moblisque Dual Penholder  
Dual Use Workshop Holder

Lefties can use a regular oblique, a straight holder, or the left handed oblique.

**Nibs** – Any flexible pointed pen nib meant for copperplate or Spencerian will do. I always recommend buying a sample pack or a variety of nibs to experiment with. I like to keep a variety of nibs around as my needs vary depending on the script style, ink, and paper I am using. It can also take some experimenting to find the nib that works best for you. These are some of my favorites:

Nikko G Nib – Great nib for beginners but loved by professionals. Can be a little stiff.

Zebra G Nib – Very similar to the Nikko G but a little more flexible.

Tachikawa G Nib – Also similar to the Nikko and Zebra but the most flexible of the three.

Hunt 101 Nib – My absolute favorite modern nib. Very flexible for heavy shades but also produces fine hairlines. Very sharp tip can catch on the upstroke. May not be suitable for beginners or anyone with a heavy hand.

Hunt 56 Nib – Great nib for beginners. Not as sharp as the Hunt 101 so the upstrokes don't catch.

**Ink** – Any water based ink. Colored ink is just fine.  
(Acrylic and waterproof inks can get thick and gummy on your nib. Iron gall and true walnut inks are extremely acidic and eat through the nibs very quickly. So I personally do not recommend using these types of inks for practice, BUT many people love and use them so please feel free to do so.)

Higgins Eternal Ink – The best practice ink. Ready to use straight out of the bottle. Cleans up with water.

Ziller Glossy Black Ink – Lovely rich black ink with very fine hairlines. My personal favorite for both practice and finished projects. The ink comes in a powder form and needs to be mixed with boiling water before the first use.

Tom Norton's Walnut Ink – A lovely sepia colored ink. Not a true walnut ink so it is not acidic and great for practice and finished pieces. Occasionally needs a few drops of gum Arabic to keep it from feathering.

Bister Ink Powder – Fun ink to add some color to your work. All inks are powders and need to be mixed with water before use. Mix only small amounts at a time.

Fox and Quills ***Pigment based inks*** Handmade small batch inks. They also make iron gall inks though so be careful to select only the pigment based ones if you are trying to avoid acidic inks.

Ferris Wheel Press fountain pen inks. Pretty colors and fun packaging. Occasionally feathers on cheaper paper. (But I don't recommend using cheaper paper to practice with anyways)

**Paper** – Any smooth paper that can take ink without feathering.

These three pads are semi-translucent so you can see guidelines beneath them.

Borden and Riley #37 Boris Layout paper

JNB Practice Pad

Pro-Layout Marker Pad

Strathmore Vision Sketch pad (the orange and blue cover)

HP Premium Choice Laserjet printer paper 32lb – I print my guidelines directly on this paper for practice and handouts. Very smooth and it can handle thick ink swells without feathering.

\*\*\*Paper is a very tricky thing as paper manufacturers keep changing their formulas to make cheaper and cheaper papers. This usually involves using less sizing in the paper. Sizing keeps ink from bleeding. So if you are having an issue with feathering or bleeding try a different paper. It's not you, it's the product. \*\*\*

### **Other optional supplies**

Small screw top dinky dips with a wooden base– These tiny jars are great for holding small amounts of ink while you work so your entire jar doesn't dry out or tip over.

Jumbo dinky dips – Great for storing small amounts of mixed ink or gouache.

Pipet – Good for transferring ink from large bottles to dinky dips.

Gum Arabic – Always good to have on hand. Useful as a binder to keep inks from feathering and flaking.

Gum Sandrac – A must if you work on slick surfaces. Helps to absorb any grease from the paper so the ink will adhere without beading up.

Two finger drawing tablet glove – Skin contact can transfer oils to the paper which will repel ink. These gloves will keep you skin from touching the paper but won't interfere with your pen grip.

[https://www.amazon.com/Mixoo-Artists-Gloves-Pack-Rejection/dp/B07Z5Q5M9M/ref=sr\\_1\\_5?dchild=1&keywords=tablet+glove&qid=1593804405&sr=8-5](https://www.amazon.com/Mixoo-Artists-Gloves-Pack-Rejection/dp/B07Z5Q5M9M/ref=sr_1_5?dchild=1&keywords=tablet+glove&qid=1593804405&sr=8-5)

Blue shop towels – Shop towels are lint free so they are great for cleaning your pen nibs. Regular paper towels and tissues can leave fibers between the tines which will smear your ink. But if all you have are paper towels that's perfectly fine, just check the tines carefully before writing. Blue shop towels are usually available at any hardware store and places like walmart and target. You can also find them online. One roll will last you a long time.