
Daily Lettering Challenge: 30 Days of Lettering with Sakura with Michaela Yee

Chapter 1 - Daily Lettering Challenge: 30 Days of Lettering with Sakura

Series overview

(digital piano music) - My name is Michaela and I work at Sakura of America. We make a bunch of products that are favorited by many Creativebug artists including Gelly Roll pens, Pigma Micron, Koi Coloring Brush Pens, and Cray-Pas oil pastels. Brush lettering is one of my favorite things to do, and I really enjoy doing it every evening. Sometimes it's really hard to come up with things to letter. I'll help you come up with things that you can do on the fly that are really satisfying and easy. So you won't have to think about that and you can just start practicing. We'll talk about what pens work well on different kinds of surfaces, such as glass, metal, journal covers, and even shrink film plastics so you can make your own key chains. I'll show you different styles of alphabets using different pens, common rules you can use so that you have a good, strong foundation. And once you have those under control, you can break the rules and do some fun things with your letters. Don't be intimidated. You can find inspiration almost everywhere. And if you get stuck, I'll be along to help you in this month's challenge. (digital piano music)

Day 1: Basic Brush Lettering Strokes

- For day one of our challenge, I'm gonna show you how to set up your layout to try some brush lettering. Brush lettering's been really popular. You'll see it everywhere on packaging, online on Instagram, and there's a lot of tips I can give you to kind of start out your practice, but first you want to start with the fundamentals. So, we're gonna set up our layout and I'm gonna show you how to do basic strokes with a Koi brush pen today. So, in front of me I have some Canson Smooth Marker Paper, and I've taped it to this handy guideline that I've made for you guys that's available for download on the Creativebug site. And I've taped it down with some washi tape so that you can see the lines coming through, which create really nice guidelines for you to remind you to hold your pen at an angle. To set up your layout, you want to do a waistline and a baseline. And I always like to mark with an X here just to know where the middle of my letters are going to be. Then you have an ascender and a descender. So, what that means is you've got your regular rounded letters, like an A, an E, or an O that are going to sit here between the waistline and the baseline. So, I'll just show you what that looks like. And then an ascending letter is gonna hit your ascender line, like a B. And you've got descending letters, for example, like Y. And sometimes I like to make those go down low. Those are three basic types of letters that you'll be practicing. The next thing you want to practice that makes brush lettering look so impressive is the difference between the thin and the thick strokes. So, anytime you've got your brush going upward, you want to make a thin line. And anytime it's coming down, you want it to be thick. And you can push this Koi brush pen full on its side to get the most pressure possible. Let's practice our light and heavy strokes. So you're going to go up. And just try and use the tip of the pen. And anytime you're going down, you want to pull it towards your elbow. And this brush pen is really great for beginners because it can take full pressure and it doesn't bend too much. Let's practice our mountains. So, you're going to go up on this line, the guideline, and then you're gonna pull down towards your elbow. Up on the guideline. Down towards your elbow. And just try and keep the same angle. It may be helpful for you to turn your paper at an angle so that the guidelines are pointing straight away from your chest or move your arm, so that you're more comfortable. So, let's practice our valleys next, and I want you to pull

towards your elbow on your first stroke. And you're gonna come up light on the upstroke, full pressure down, light up, full pressure down, light up. One thing I'm gonna keep reminding you as we letter is to be mindful of the space between each of your strokes. If you keep this consistent, this helps to create muscle memory. I like to make circles in between my practice to see if my circles are all about the same size, so that I know that I've done a good job of keeping the spacing between all of my strokes. Let's switch to some fresh paper and I can show you some of the basic strokes you're going to be using for your lettering. Okay. So, the first thing I'm gonna show you is your entering stroke, and what that is, it's gonna hit from your baseline to your waistline. So anytime you start a new sheet, you're gonna want to mark off your four lines again, just to remind yourself of where your baseline and waistline are. And I'm just using my Gelly Roll pen here to make a bright X, so I know where my center line is. And we're gonna do our entering stroke. So what that is is a slightly curved line and it's going to help you do all your entering strokes for letters like A, E, J, anything like that. So you're just doing it slightly curved. And try and keep just the tip of the marker to the paper really light. Okay? And we're gonna mark it off again. So here's your ascending line, waistline, baseline, and your descender line, mark off between your waistline and baseline again. Now we're gonna practice some under turn strokes. Now, I'm using the Bristol Smooth Marker Paper, but you can use regular printer paper if you want. Just make sure it's transparent so you can see all the grid lines underneath. So next, we're going to practice our under turn strokes, and you're basically gonna just be making a bunch of letter U's, practicing the thick stroke down and the light stroke up on the curve. So you're gonna pull down, raise the pressure, and then go up light. Pull down, turn, up light. Pull down, turn, up light. Okay? Again, mark off your page. So you've got your ascending line, waistline, baseline, and descender. Get in the habit of knowing where your waistline and baseline are. Next, we're gonna do our over turn stroke. With the over turn stroke, you're gonna start from the baseline, go up light, and pull down full pressure. You're just making curved mountains this time. Up light, turn, pull full down. Up light, turn, pull full down. And I want you to take note of how much space is between each of the lines. This one's a little skinny for me. This one's pretty good. This one's a little skinny. So, keep in mind the space that you're doing between each of your strokes for better consistency. All right, next we're gonna try a compound curve. So you got your ascender line, waistline, baseline, descender again. Mark off your base and waistline. And your compound curve is gonna combine both of the strokes we just did. So you're gonna go up light, pull down full, and come back up light again to create sort of this squiggly line. And you want to practice making your entry line even with the top of this one. So up light, pull down, curve it up. Up light, pull down, curve back up. Up light, curve down, pull back up. And again, take note of the space between your lines. So this one's a little bit wider than this one here. This one's probably the best one I've done. So you want to mimic the movement of your best strokes. Okay? Now we're gonna do an oval. And since I'm running out of space on my page, I'll just pretend this is my base and waistline. You're gonna start on the right side of where your O center would be. Curve around light, pull down for full pressure, curve down and connect. Pull down, connect. Pull down and connect. And so, you're starting to see where you'll be able to build on the shapes. For example, this can become an A. This can become a Q. Or this can become, let's see. Letter D. So you've got your fundamental shapes and we're gonna keep going with a couple of ascending and descending lines. So, I've already set up my page and I've switched to a fresh piece here. Marked off all my baseline and waistlines. I'm gonna use this bright orange color. And we're gonna do an ascender line. So, you're gonna use all the things that you learned from the last few strokes. It's kind of like a candy cane shape. And I like to start my ascending letters about halfway between the waistline and the ascender. So about there.

You're gonna touch your pen down. Go around in a loop like a candy cane, and pull down full pressure. So these will be like the tops of your H, or your L's or K's. And remember to use the guideline underneath your paper to make sure you're on the same angle. Now, I didn't do such a great job here of staying consistent, but that's something you can learn from. And now we're gonna go and do our descender. So, that one's gonna start touching the top of your waistline. You're gonna pull down through the baseline and loop back up. So, it's like an upside down candy cane. You're gonna pull full pressure. About halfway, start to release and go up. Touch the waistline again. Pull down full pressure, touch. And you can actually pick up the pen here, crisscross it, and pull up. And don't be afraid to do really full pressure on these nibs. They're really sturdy. And I love how the ink just kind of, it's really bright. So we're gonna do one more thing that sounds easy but is actually pretty tough. We're gonna do a full pressure stroke. And I'm gonna want to do it through about three lines here, just to make sure you get a really good feel for it. So we're gonna do our full pressure stroke, go through three lines, and really try and make that straight on the side of your marker. Use your full arm to pull it all the way through. You hear that squeaking sound, but that means that the pen's really holding up to all this pressure I'm putting on it. And those are gonna be your basic strokes. I always like to start my warmups with these and practice, make note of the space between all of my strokes to make sure I'm building muscle memory and getting good consistency with all my letters.

Day 2: Slanted Brush Lettering Alphabet

- We're gonna do an alphabet with the Koi Coloring Brush Pens and we're gonna build on the fundamentals we learned about strokes. So I'm just gonna get started with the alphabet beginning with letter A. And you go entry stroke, and we're gonna do an O shape that we learned before. We're gonna start right of the center and we're gonna touch town bring it around the top, full pressure, finish connecting, and make that O shape. And to make the stem of the A you're gonna land your pen a little bit to the right of the O so not overlapping but just slightly to the side so that it's barely touching. And bring it up. So that's your first letter A. B is an ascending letter so you're gonna start about halfway up here between your waist line and ascender line. Loop it around, pull down, curve, light pressure, full pressure here, finish the B. C you're gonna start slightly to the right of your center. Light pressure, curve it around, full pressure, lighten up, touch the top of your waist line. For letter D you're gonna do an entrance stroke. Slightly to the right of the center create that full oval shape, complete. And you're gonna to go the top of your ascender line, pull down full pressure, and pull up. Let's change colors. So we're gonna do E next and you might think it's one full stroke but it's actually broken up into two. So you're gonna go up, stop about halfway, start your E center, slightly to the right, pull up, light pressure, full pressure, pull down, barely touch your entry line, pull up and touch the top of your waist line. So E is actually two strokes. For F you're gonna do your entry line, start at the top of your waist line, curve up for your ascending stroke, pull down full pressure, move your arm, curve, touch the bottom of your baseline, pick up the pen, and then do another entry line touching the baseline. So these entry lines here are just meant so that when you're writing full words they're connecting in a nice way. Next we're gonna do letter G. Entry line, gonna do an oval shape so start slightly to the right of your center, up, pull down, full pressure, lighten up, close out your O. And then you're gonna touch the top of your waist line, pull down full pressure, lighten up, curve, finish here, and then do another entry line. Pick up your pen for the entry line. Well you're gonna not have enough space for the H so I'm gonna go down one more line here. Entry line, pick up your pen, and you're gonna do an ascending line here, curve, full pressure down,

touch the foot of the H here, up light, full down, and this is where your compound curve practice comes in handy. So H is probably one of the most complex letters because it builds upon all the strokes you learned. Next we're gonna do I. You're gonna do an entry line, full pressure, and almost like a U shape, so if you were connecting the I to the next letter you'd already have something there. Dot it with full pressure so you make like this nice angled tear drop shape. J is really similar to the I except you're gonna do a full pressure stroke on the descender. So entry line, full pressure all the way down, connect it back to the bottom of your baseline, let go of the pen, and then connect back up to your waist line and dot the I. Okay let's switch colors again. Let's do a bright blue this time. K is also a pretty tough letter to do. You're gonna do an entry stroke, you're gonna touch about halfway between your waist line and ascender, come back and try and hit that entry line, pick up your pen. Now you're gonna do two shapes in between this line here and this line here. Start about the middle, make a small tear drop, full pressure which is kind of tough to do, and then there's a couple different ways you can do your K but I like to just do full pressure here, light. Let's do the K one more time. So you're gonna go up entry stroke. About halfway between your waist line and ascender, pull around, full pressure, touch the bottom of your baseline. About halfway you're gonna come up, full pressure, and then pull down and up again. Let's do that K one more time. Entry line, let go of the pen. Midway, pull up light, full pressure down, stop at the bottom of your baseline. Halfway between baseline and waist line up light, full pressure down, stop here, let go. Put your pen down on it's full slant, full pressure, up light. That's one of the tougher letters. Now we're gonna move on to L. And I've switched to a new piece of paper and a new pen. I like switching off all the colors because it's just fun to have a big variety. So for L you're gonna do your entry stroke, put your pen down between the waist line and ascender, loop up light, full pressure down, finish your line here at the top of the waist line. So M's a really fun letter to do because it really helps you practice all your curves. You're gonna start at the bottom of your baseline, up light, pull down full, pick up your pen, and you're just gonna touch the tip of your pen to the bottom of that stroke up light, pull down full, touch down at the bottom of the baseline. Pick up your pen, and one more, pull down full, and then up again and I'm gonna use my gelly roll pen here to mark off and make sure that all the shapes are pretty similar. So M takes up a lot of space but if you get this one it's really satisfying. So we're gonna go back and do N next. Up light, pull down full, up light, pull down full, up light, and finish that curve. Okay? So that's N. Similar to M you wanna make sure that your spacing is consistent. These are fun ones to practice. Next we're gonna do O and there's a couple different ways you can do it. I like mine to have a big curve at the top. We're gonna do our entry stroke, stop about 3/4 of the way up to your waist line, pull down full, lighten up, do it over the top of that line, and finish again at the waist line. Or you can do an entry stroke, start over to the side here, pull down full, finish your oval, press full about halfway and then come out and finish that stroke. So those are two different styles of Os you can try. Next we're gonna do P. Entry stroke, full pressure down, lift up your pen and for this one you can do your O slightly off to the right, curve, pull around this way, and up again or you can do an entry stroke, pull down, start here in the center, curve around to the right, and finish here. I like the way this one looks a little better. So that's probably the one that I'm gonna stick to from now on. Finish your stroke. Next we're gonna do a Q which is a little tough. Entry stroke for the Q, slightly to the right of your center pull around, full pressure, light, finish the oval. Now you're gonna do a full pressure stroke again and then curve up. So start here, pull, pull, pull, pull, lighten up, finish your stroke, and then do another entry stroke. So let's practice Q a couple more times. Entry stroke, oval, full pressure, release, light pressure, pull down full pressure, curve up, finish your stroke, pick up the pen. One more time. Entry stroke, light pressure,

full pressure, oval, full pressure, light, lift, and finish. Okay? R is next. This one's kind of an angular letter so it also takes a little bit of practice just because it's slightly different. Gonna do an entry stroke, a little bit above the top of the line there, pull full pressure here, pick up your pen, so you have this kind of horn shape, then you're gonna do full pressure and come out of it and touch the top of the waist line. With a fresh piece of paper we're gonna do the letter S. You're gonna do an entry stroke light. Full pressure, now this one requires you to kind of move your wrist a little bit. Full pressure down, inward, out, and then release pressure. Then you're gonna do an entry stroke here. Let's do that one again. Entry stroke, full pressure, squiggle, kinda make a belly shape. So the shape in here should be like a teardrop. Let's do it again. Entry stroke, full pressure, release, in. Okay. Next we're gonna do the letter T. Entry stroke, full pressure from the top of your ascender line all the way down to the baseline, release, up, and cross straight. Or if you prefer, you can do kind of a more stylized T like that. Next is the letter U. Entry stroke, pull down, curve, up light, full pressure again. So you're basically making two curved shapes. Next is gonna be V. Up light, pull down, curve, and stop here. Then you're gonna do a full pressure dot and pull it out this way. Let's do that one more time. Up, curve, pull down, up light, full pressure, and like a small hook. Next is W so you're basically just doing three full curves. Entry stroke, full pressure, curve up, stop and pick up your pen. Make sure the tip of your nib is touching just barely. Full pressure stroke, up, and then the same thing. Full pressure and a small hook for W. Next is X which is a little tricky. You're gonna do a curve, pull down, curve again, and then come back and cross your X. Try that one more time. Curve up, pull down. And try and make sure this space here is the same. Cross your X. Last two letters, Y. Up curve, pull down full pressure, up curve again, lift up your pen. Now you're gonna do a full pressure line, curve. Don't forget these markers really hold up to the pressure. Finish your shape. Lift up and do an entry line. Let's do Y one more time. Light, full pressure, curve up again, pick up your pen. Full pressure down, curve, finish your shape, and entry line. And next is Z. You're gonna do an entry line, pull full pressure down here, stop and pick up your pen, touch your tip to the bottom of that line, light, full pressure again, curve back, touch the bottom of the baseline and finish your entry stroke. And that's your complete slanted letter brush lettering alphabet.

Day 3: Favorite Words

- One of the first ways that I got into brush lettering, was that, before I had my baby, I took a lot of calligraphy classes with pointed pen and broad nib, but it required a lot of ink and set up. So, late at night, when he'd go to bed, I would try and find ways to practice, and not have to have a lot of mess out, so it'd be easy clean up. And one of the things I started lettering were his first words, when he learned to talk. So, I did his favorite foods to eat, and I started keeping track of them by making myself post them on Instagram with his own hashtag. And so, every night I would practice and take a picture of my lettering. And I got a lot of great feedback, so I kept practicing, and had a lot of content. To practice, I'm gonna letter some of his favorite foods, including melon, which was his first word, tofu, and lasagna. And we're going to do in a brush lettering style, also picking colors that relate to the foods. So you can have some fun choosing out favorite colors. One of the things I like to do to make my brush lettering more interesting is to mix colors. So since we're going to do the word melon, I'm gonna pick a couple color that look like a melon. Gonna do Ice Green and Pink. And I'm gonna color the lighter color with the darker color. Just on the tip of the pen. And because these are water based, they'll blend really nicely, but also lift as we go along. So we're gonna start the M. Light pressure, pull down. Pick up your pen. Light pressure up, pull down. Pick up your pen. Light pressure up, pull down, finish your curve, and you'll start to see the color changing. E is around. Up

here. L above the top line, pull down, stop about halfway for your O. Full pressure, loop it around. Full pressure for the N, Pick up your pen. Light, full pressure, and finish your line. That's melon, one of his favorite foods. I'm gonna show you how to clean off your brush pen, so that you can use it fresh for next time. Just run it on all sides, until the original color comes back. Now we're gonna do another word, Tofu. You're gonna go on entry stroke, light pressure, Full pressure down. Light up. And I'm gonna stop the T cause I'll show you something fun you can do with that letter at the end. Pull down for the O, around, light pressure. F, pull down, light pressure up. Light pressure. Full pressure for the U. Finish your curve, and then touch the tip of the pen, right to the edge there, pull down, pull pressure, up. You can use the tail of this F, pull back, and cross your T. And that's tofu, another one of his favorite foods. For the last word, we'll do lasagna, which is one of his favorite things to help me make. For this one, we'll blend orange and red. Entry stroke. Curve, full pressure. Up, pick up your pen. Oval for the A, finish the oval. Pick up your pen. Full stroke down, light pressure up. Curve the S. Entry stroke, finish the curve on the O. Add a tail to the A. Another O for the G. Full pressure down, curve up light. Entry stroke, pull down for your N. Pick up your pen, another curve, light pressure. Finish the curve for your A. Now we're going to use red to blend the top parts of all your letters. Go to the fullest part of the downstroke, and feather it off. Let's try and get them all to land about the same spot. So just on the downstrokes. And I love how the Koi Coloring Brush pens just blend together so easily, you can come up with so many different color combinations. So at this point you're basically just coloring, which is also really fun. And those are his favorite things to eat.

Day 4: Adding Flourishes

- Brush lettering has a lot of foundation in traditional calligraphy scripts like Copperplate and Spencerian. A lot of the things that make those hands so impressive is flourishes. Today, we're gonna go over some flourishing, and I'll show you some simple ways to use the brush pen to create thin and thick accents to kinda make your letters stand out and look more impressive. For this lesson, we don't need our guides, we just have blank paper. This is the Canson Marker, so it's very smooth. And, we're just gonna get comfortable making big circular motions with our Koi Coloring Brush Pen. Start with a thin upstroke and a full-pressure downstroke, and for this you're gonna wanna use your entire arm to move the pen around the paper. So we'll start with some curves. Thin, full-pressure, thin, full-pressure. (pen squeaks) Now, we're gonna start and make some teardrop, upside-down teardrops. (pen squeaks) And do light-pressure, full-pressure, light-pressure, full-pressure. (pen squeaks) Now, we're gonna start doing the pen side-to-side. So, you're basically making sort of these loops like a rope. So you do light, full, bring it around, full, light, full, bring it around, full. And then, to end it, let's do some more circles downward. I always like to end my flourishes with a water drop, just to give the mark more of a final, complete look. Let's do some more on this side, and maybe switch directions, let's start on the right-hand side. Full-pressure, light, full-pressure, light. (pen squeaks) And really take your time, it looks like you would do these quickly, but you actually wanna do them pretty slow, and have full-control of your pen. Now, I'm gonna show you how add flourishes to a letter, to give it a monogram look. Let's pick a letter, like H, that has an ascending line and also a footer that you can flourish off the tail of. So, just draw your letter as you normally would. Let's do H, so we'll start in the middle, here. Up, full-pressure stroke down, lift the pen, tip of the pen at the bottom, curve, stroke and lift. So, now we have a couple options for where we can flourish; we can come here at the top and we can also build here at the bottom. So, let's do our top one first. And for this you can turn the paper, and have some fun with it. So stay

kind of loose, and just use your whole arm. (pen squeaks) And now we can do our descending stroke. (pen squeaks) So that's the letter H with the flourish. There's not that many letters you can do an ascending flourish on, maybe D, maybe a T even. Ys are really good for the descending flourish, and anything with a tail like M or N. Yeah, have fun with those.

Day 5: â œDaydreamâ • With Flourish

- A fun way to practice your lettering and flourishes is to build on a whole word. And today, we're going to build on all the things we've learned so far, including our strokes, flourishes and connecting our letters. So, pick a word that's got some ascending letters, as well as some descending letters and I'll show you how to connect them and add flourishes. I'm gonna pick the word daydream. It's got two D's, which are ascending letters, and a Y, which is a descender, as well as an M at the end, so you can have a little fun with the tail there. So, just letters you normally would, you don't need guides for this. This is the Canson smooth marker paper. And, have more fun with it. Get a little loose, now that you know some of the rules you can break them. So, we'll start with the D, full pressure, upstroke, light pressure. Full pressure down, lift up your pen. A's a full pressure, and then lift. And then let's go a little low on the tail of that A, just to make it a little more whimsical. Up. Full pressure for the Y. Now, the Y has a tail on it, so we can leave that one open instead of connecting it, and that will give us an opportunity to flourish there. We'll just connect it right here and stop, instead of doing an upstroke. And then, on the D here, you can also do a bigger flourish that goes through the whole piece. So, we'll just leave this like that, and we'll do a downstroke here for now. Finish out the word. Full pressure on the E, up. Finish your oval on the A. Go a little low on that, for some whimsy. Be careful not to smudge, it's still drying since these are water based markers. Full pressure down on the M, up, down again. Let's curve it a little, in, and add the tail there. So now you've got a few opportunities to flourish. You've got this ascending D, this Y here, and the tail of the M. So, let's flip this around. Full pressure, full pressure, light, lighten up. Flip it back. We've got this Y here, we can do full pressure, light, full pressure, light, full pressure. Get smaller as you go. And then, let's do something fun on the end. Full pressure, full pressure and lighten up. And, it looks a little plain, so let's add some embellishments with Gelly Roll Stardust. And if you've never worked with Gelly Roll pens before, these are really great. This is the Stardust, it's got a little shooting star here on the cap. And we'll just draw inspiration from this and make some shooting stars on our flourishes. You can see that there's a lot of sparkle and color in this Gelly Roll pen. Let's add a few more stars. It's just really smooth. Now I'm gonna add some outlines with the Gelly Roll Metallic. And this is similar, but it's more of a sheen, so the cap on this has a lot of glitter dots. And that's how you can tell the difference between the two different pens. Just outline the stars. Let's switch colors and go back to a Gelly Roll Stardust. We'll do pink, and just add some sparkle. And that's your word with flourish.

Day 6: Thank You Card

- One of the great things about brush lettering is all the different ways you can use it, and that includes just using a paintbrush and some paint. So we're gonna go over the Koi Water Color pocket set. These are really popular for field sketching, urban artists, and any time you want to paint on the go. It's got everything you need to have a small studio wherever you go, including a pallet for mixing your paints that clicks on here. There's a thumb ring on the underside. You've got 48 different colors you can use straight out of the pallet, or you can use to blend and mix anything you want. A water brush, which comes in two parts, and also a blotting sponge here, to sop up any

excess water. So, to start the brush pen, you're just gonna unplug here. Fill it with water, then attach the brush tip and you might want to screw it on the right intuitively, but you actually should do it counterclockwise. And the reason for that is most people are right-handed users and once you start using the pen, it's gonna unscrew if it would be the other way. So this is to help keep the water secure so you have no mess. Uncap it. And get started. Let's do a quick thank you card with two colors. I've already mixed some here, but feel free to dip into any of the colors you see. And we're just gonna grab some paint. And try and keep the same principles that we've learned throughout our brush lettering lessons to do thick downstrokes and thin upstrokes. Full downstroke. Then up. Curve the H. Full down. And I like how this is showing a little bit of the texture of the watercolor paper. I'm just using a Strathmore watercolor paper. And you can use this H to flourish the T a little bit. Full downstroke on the A. Full N, curve. Full down, thin up. Curve the K, downstroke. Then, up. Full down. I'm gonna give this a few minutes to dry and show you how to do a drop shadow with a Pen-Touch gold paint pen. So this is an action valve marker, and you want to shake it to get started. You'll hear the little ball inside as you're shaking the paint. And give it a couple pumps to get the paint flowing. Try it out on some scratch paper to make sure it's nice and smooth and that it's mixed well. So for a drop shadow, you wanna pretend that you have a light source coming from one side of your letters, and it's gonna cast a shadow on the left side. So we'll do everything to the left that's a downstroke, we'll add a drop shadow to. So go down. Anywhere it's thick, so top of letter, and we'll do it here. Skip over that flourish piece. Skip over that connecting piece. And it just gives the illusion of a shadow. And this gold is really bright and vibrant, and it's also waterproof so if you do the paint first and then watercolor over it, you'll get a really cool effect with the foiled gold look. It also comes in silver and copper, and a lot of other colors. Now that you have your basics down, you can do your thin strokes and full down strokes. You can try different mediums like paint, and different pens like paint pens. Try drop shadows, try flourishes, and have a lot of fun with your lettering.

Day 7: Springtime Quote

- Now that it's springtime, let's do a quote about spring. So I picked today's quote by Claude Monet, "I must have flowers always and always," and I'm gonna add an illustrative element to it when we're done. I've got my marker paper laid out, it's a big sheet so that I don't run out of space when I'm doing my quote 'cause it's longer. And I have my guidelines laid underneath so I can see them. And we're doing Koi Coloring Brush Pen, we're gonna do full pressure down strokes, light on the upstrokes. Try and keep in mind your spacing between your strokes for consistency and muscle memory. Full pressure up, full pressure down. Light on the upstroke, full pressure down, light up. And let's do something flourish for the cross. Full pressure down, curve up. Full pressure, full pressure down. Light. Full pressure down. Now remember when you're connecting your letters, you wanna make sure that just the sides of it touch your upstroke. So right here we're gonna put a full pressure here, up, full pressure, up. And be sure to pick up your pen in between each letter to remind yourself to slow down. Full pressure down, up. Curve the S, add a little comma. Now I've got a descending letter here, and a L for always, so I'm gonna try and make the L before I hit this, and lay it out so it all looks really centered. Quotes are really good for framing and adding a little decor to your house or your work space. Full pressure down, full pressure soft up, curve. Full pressure all the way down. Full pressure on the S. Full pressure. Full pressure. And we're gonna run into the Y, but that's okay. Full pressure on the W. Round on the A. And now you can look back and check the spacing in between your letters. The more even they are the more attractive your quote's gonna

look. And now since it's about flowers let's do an illustrative flower element. These Koi Brush Pens are really great for illustrating and also coloring in larger spaces. You can use the tip just for the drawing part, and the full side. It just gets it done really quick with a lot of color payoff. They also layer really well. And blend into each other. You can use lots of different colors combined together. And once you color some in, you can actually go back in and add some depth. Let's flourish this F and this Y here. And maybe this Y as well. And why not do this H. And I'll move these guideline sheets. Now you've got something pretty that you can frame or give as a gift. And there's your springtime quote.

Day 8: Upright Brush Lettering Alphabet

- Let's take everything you learned from slim-tip brush lettering alphabet, and do it upright! So you're going to apply the same principles of bold downstrokes, thin upstrokes, but just doing it in up-and-down lettering style. So I've started my guidelines here, and I'm on Canson marker paper which is smooth, with my guidelines underneath. And you're gonna ignore the slants on this and just use the horizontal lines as your guides. Let's do it in an ombre style, so you can see how the different colors can blend together. We'll just do our alphabet straight through, connecting all the letters. So let's start with the light sky blue, entrance stroke. Full pressure. And you're gonna see that this is kind of a tighter curve. But you'll get used to the way it feels. B full downstroke, up, full pressure out. Pick up your pen, C full pressure, D, full pressure. And let's stop there and switch colors. D, full pressure. E, F. Let's go above that top line, down, full pressure, G, full pressure curve, down, full pressure up. Let's come down on this H and switch colors again. H, full pressure up. I, full pressure on the J all the way down, curve up, pick up your pen, let's dot those two. Remember the K's a little tricky, so curve up, full down, and this is gonna be really tight in here. Full pressure, full pressure pull out, into your L. Pick up your pen, full down. Full pressure curve down, pick up your pen, now touch the tip right to the base there, up, full pressure down, and back up again. Make sure your spacing is even between all of those. Let's do the next line of the alphabet, back to light sky blue for the N. Light pressure up, full pressure down. Pick up your pen. Light pressure up, full pressure down curve, stop about halfway for the O, full pressure, curve a little bit above, full pressure down, P. Let's switch colors. This is sky blue. Full pressure curve, all the way down, full pressure, full pressure, lift. Up light, full pressure. Lift up your pen, curve the S. Full pressure on the T, cross. Now switch to Cerulean blue. Full pressure up. Full pressure. Full pressure down, let's switch one more color, to blue. Curve, cross your X, full pressure Y, up! Full pressure down, full pressure down, lift your pen, touch, full pressure down, lift up, and an entrance stroke. And that's your full brush lettering upright alphabet in an ombre blue.

Day 9: Lettered Quote

- Let's do an inspirational quote for today, and we'll do it on a hombre background. So we're gonna use the Koi coloring brush pens, and the great thing about these is you can throw them in your bag, and there's no mess to clean up, and they also blend with water, since they're water based. So let's start with shading, and you wanna pick three colors that'll blend well together. So I've done Naples yellow, next I'm going to do pale orange, going back into your first color a little bit, and just shading, and next I'm going to use lilac. This is on water color paper, which is optimal for when you're using water to blend so that the water doesn't make the water pill or bubble up, and you can see how it's just pulling the color, and just using the water brush to blend it all together. You can come up with a lot of different color combinations with this, too. There's 48 different Koi coloring brush pens, or you

can use a water color palette. I like these because they're portable and really easy. You're gonna want to let this dry before you move on to your quote. I've got a dry one here, and we're gonna do our upright letters. Let's do this cool gray. We're gonna do the quote "start somewhere", and add some decorative elements to it. We're using full down strokes for upright lettering piece, and you notice, I've left the T's uncrossed. So let's pull that through in a straight line, and do full down strokes, full pressure, and your H is an opportunity to do a decorative element coming off the back of that. Let's do an arrow. A good way to keep practicing some of your brush lettering is to write down some of your favorite quotes, or copy some packaging or signage that you see around town.

Day 10: Bookplates

- Let's make some book plates. They make really great gifts. You can give a sheet to a friend to put in all their books, or you can purchase a book and put that in there to personalize their gift. Let's start with drawing some straight lines and I'm gonna teach you how to do some calligraphy-style patterns. I'm just working on regular white paper and I'm gonna make some pencil lines to give myself a center mark to practice some calligraphy-style borders. We're gonna be using a broad-edge nib called Pigma Calligrapher and the great thing about this pen is it contains Pigma ink which is archival, which means it won't fade, it's also waterproof and it's archival. You'll be able to erase these pencil marks when you're all done. So to start out with this nib, it's really unique because it's a plastic nib, unlike a fiber bundled nib, which can get mushy over time. So this is built to withstand pressure. You can be really firm with it, and it releases a lot of ink so it's got great color payoff. So one of the things we'll try is just arches. I'm just making a scallop pattern, and I'm putting the pen nib down right where I ended and doing another arch shape. Make sure you do firm pressure throughout both edges of the nib. It can be a little hard to get used to, but with a lot of practice you'll get the hang of it. Let's add some diamond shapes here. And I'm just touching the corner of my nib to the bottom of the scallop shape. That's one style of border you can do. Let's try another one. This one will be like a rope-type texture. So we'll do an s-shaped curve that crosses over the pencil line, and then touches again. And you're gonna start in the center of that s-shape curve, pull down, do it again, touch the bottom of the pencil line. And you'll notice that I'm not putting full pressure on this but it's giving this kind of cool dry brush effect, which sometimes I like. Let's do one more. Keep it simple and just do three diamonds and we'll leave space to do a colored dot in between the three sets. So you're just touching your left corner to the pencil line and matching your right corner to the pencil line. And I'm being really firm on this pen, 'cause it can withstand a lot of pressure. Now let's decorate in between with a stardust Gelly Roll which gives it some sparkle, and also covers the pencil line so you don't have to erase this one. Now that our pigment ink has dried, I'm gonna go ahead and erase the pencil lines that I used as my guide lines. I'm using a SumoGrip eraser, which is a retractable. So it's really great for traveling and just throwing in your bag. Plus, it rolls up in little pieces, so it's really easy to clean up. You don't have to have a lot of that dusty mess that some other erasers have. And those are three simple borders you can try to make our bookplates. I've switched to my label paper, which is just, you can get these at any office supply store. And they're just sticky so these make great bookplates. And I'm just gonna pencil out some guidelines for myself to do my borders. And then the spot where I wanna do the name. So we're gonna do two lines of borders here, we're gonna do a phrase here that says something like "this book belongs to" and then the name is left here. I'm gonna do a monochrome bookplate, so I'll do all brown tones. And let's do the rope border that we learned with the curves. Touch the left corner of your pen down on the pencil line. Make that S curve come across, touch the

top corner with the right nib. Start in the center, same shape. It's just the same shape over and over, but you're just touching down in the center and pulling the pen. We're gonna do the same thing down here on the bottom border. And let's take the Gelly Roll metallic in sepia. And write "this book belongs to." So we'll just do it in a natural cursive-style writing. And it gives a nice little sheen to the paper. We're also gonna use Pen-Touch in copper and remember to shake this, and you'll hear the ball mixing the paint in the barrel. Pump it a couple times on a piece of scratch paper to get the ink flowing, and make some marks just to make sure that the paint is mixed well. Let's do a big block print for our friend Courtney. And I'm trying to make sure that all of the bottoms of my letters touch that pencil line and that the tops are all about the same height. I love how shiny this pen is. We'll wait for the ink to dry and then erase our pencil marks. While that dries I'll show you a few other patterns you can try. You can do that diamond one we did before and embellish it with a bright Gelly Roll in between. To bring out the colors. You can do long lines and three slashes across here for a really simple border. And a script style for the name. You can do a full border all the way around and do squares on the corners. And I like to add little embellishments in between these ropes. With sparkly stardust Gelly Roll to kind of give it a little shine. Now that that's dry let's go ahead and erase our pencil marks. And let's add some sparkle in between these ropes. This is just a clear Gelly Roll stardust. So there's no pigment in it, it's just pure sparkle. I missed a few pencil lines but I'll just go ahead and erase those later. And that's your customized bookplate.

Day 11: Congratulations Card

- Let's make a greeting card. We'll do a watercolor background in an ombre style and then we'll do a faux brush calligraphy technique using a gold Pentouch pen. It's a paint pen, so it'll give off a lot of shine and then we'll do a drop shadow using a Koi coloring brush. Let's start with a wash of color. You can pick two to three and you're gonna do one wash first. So I'll do this fuchsia pink color. This is a Koi field sketch box set. It's got 48 colors. So it gives you lots of options for different combinations. You can use them straight out of the palette, they blend together really well and it also comes with this handy water brush. You can squeeze the water out... To give you a nice wash. And I'm gonna pick another one. Just touch it into the water. You can be kind of messy with this. Doesn't have to be really precise. While that dries, I have another one I'm gonna show you and you're gonna go ahead and fold your piece of paper in half. This is just watercolor paper, which will give you the best results when you're working really wet with the brush. So you're gonna get it folded so you know how much space you have to work with and we're gonna start up our Pentouch paint pen. Prep your pen. Make sure it's flowing really nice and smooth. We're gonna go ahead and write congratulations. So remember everything you used for your brush lettering, you're gonna use the same principles with thin upstrokes and then we're gonna double back and outline on the downstrokes to create that faux brush lettering look. You can be kind of loose with this. It can be sort of more of a whimsical design. So just start out by writing the word. Give yourself a little space between the letters 'cause you're gonna make these lines coming down bold. We're gonna go really big and dramatic on the G, create a flourish. Drop the A down kind of low. Come up for the T. Trace that line back. Drop the tail for the U. Come up high for the L. And let's use the L to cross the T. So you see I'm a little off center here. One trick I like to do is add some energy lines to the front of your word to help take up some visual space. It kind of gives it like a little shout like you're shouting to the person congratulations. So we're gonna double back on all of our downstrokes and color in there. So that'll give you that faux brush lettering bold downstroke. It helps to retrace your letters so you know where the downstrokes are. And I like to go a little bit to the left of the letter so that

doesn't get too squished in the negative space in between. Up. Downstroke on the R. Around on the A, tail. Down on the T. Sometimes if it gets too squished, I'll go a little bit to the right. Look how shiny that is. Here we're gonna let that paint pen dry and then we're gonna add a drop shadow using the Koi brush pen, which is also a water base, so it'll blend right into the background and it'll actually be resisted by the paint pen, which is oil based. So using the Koi coloring brush in Prussian Blue, I'm gonna go ahead and color in my energy lines and then add a drop shadow to my lettering. So I picked a color specifically that's darker than what's in the background. Remember, your light source is coming from your right. So you're gonna go ahead and do a drop shadow on anything... That's rounded. And as you can see close up, the gold is actually resisting this water-based pen. So you can kind of just trace right over it. I like the drop shadows 'cause it gives your lettering a lot of depth and dimension. Go back in and make any final details and there's your greeting card. I like to use these when I'm in a pinch and don't have time to run to the store. I'll just go ahead and make this really quick and it's ready to go for whenever I give a gift.

Day 12: Welcome Baby Card

- For friends and family, I like to make a customized card for baby showers and gifts. So I'm going to show you how to make one with the baby's last name or, if you know what their name's going to be or if it's a gift for a first birthday, you can go ahead and letter their name instead. We're going to use Pentouch in silver. I'm going to use this bold nib, which is going to look really great on this brown craft paper. So go ahead and letter the word baby. And at first, you just want to do kind of a loose cursive style. Make them kind of wide, because we're going to double back in and use a thinner nib to re-trace some of the letters to create some dimension. I'm going to make this card for baby Lew, which is the baby's last name. And I've got some extra space here to add some illustrative marks. I'm going to change nib sizes to a fine point. I'm going to go back in and re-trace my downstrokes. This is actually really good practice for you to learn where your downstrokes are for when you practice your brush lettering, too. Now you've got all this empty space here, which gives you an opportunity to color. I'm going to mix two Gelly Roll pen colors to create some depth. And it's going to go from dark at the top to light at the bottom. You can pick your favorite colors. So we'll start with the dark stardust blue and we'll go about halfway down on the letters. And you can see that these are sparkly, which is really fun for baby gifts. And we'll switch to the green, and I'm going to start at the bottom and then color up back into the blue. You can have fun coming up with a lot of different color combinations. If you know the theme colors of the baby's nursery, that's pretty fun to add in as well. And there's your sparkly metallic customized baby shower card.

Day 13: Custom Gift Wrap

- If you're like me, you have a lot of fun wrapping gifts for friends and family, but sometimes when you buy too much wrapping paper, it can take up a lot of space. So, I figured out a way to make my own patterned wrapping paper, and you can use lettering techniques that we've learned and a lot of fun different colors and markers. I'm gonna use Permapaque marker, which has no smell, and it's dual tipped, so you can do big, bold marks or thin small ones. It works well on paper, wood, metals, and vellum. So let's just start writing some of our favorite Internet phrases. I'm gonna do OMG, and I'm gonna do all of them in one direction, then I'm gonna rotate my paper and then do some more in another direction. I'm using craft paper that you can find either in the mailing section or you can get it at the hardware store. You can have a lot of fun coming up with different things to write on your paper. You could write happy birthday. You could write the person's name. For babies, I like to just

do the alphabet sometimes. You can do a different combination of different words. Try and keep everything spaced apart evenly and your letters about the same size. Now I'm gonna rotate my paper and write some more going the other way. I really like the way this blue looks on the craft paper. Let's rotate it one more time and use a Gelly Roll Moonlight pen, which has a little moon on the cap. These fluorescent colors are really bright and fun and really pop on craft paper as well as black paper, and these pens are really smooth, so you can get it done pretty quick. I like this 90s throwback neon color, that combination I have. Now let's add some marks just for some more color combo and fun. We'll do the bright pink Gelly Roll Moonlight. So I'm just putting dash marks in any empty spaces, and let's go back in with the white, just do one big line of that. I'm using the chisel nib side of the pen. This is a lot of fun. When you're all done, go ahead and wrap and add your favorite bright colored yarn or ribbon, and there's your custom wrapping paper.

Day 14: Metallic Monogram

- A lot of these pens work really great on black paper and they show off the effects really well. Let's do a monogram letter and practice our flourishes as well as monoline drop shadows. I'm going to be using black Artagain paper by Strathmore. They also make a lot of really great toned and colored gray papers. And we're just gonna start out with a basic capital letter first, and then you can add your flourishes after you've laid it out. So I'm using a gold Pentouch pain pen. I've already shaken and pumped it so it's ready to go. And let's just do a simple curved letter C. So we've got it on an angle, and from here you have a couple different opportunities to flourish here at the top. And you wanna kind of think of your flourish the way you would a rope. If you're tying a knot, sometimes the rope goes behind the other piece, and that's what you want your flourish letter to look like. So we're gonna go ahead and swirl the top of the C, we'll go down, and tuck it in. And then we're gonna come back out here just to create a little more visual interest. And really curl that in. Then we're gonna tuck this one and make another loop down here. So that looks pretty good, but let's give it some more dimension. Gonna go back in and double up on the downstroke. And let's color that in. I love how much contrast you get of the gold pen on the black paper background. And this paper's so smooth, so it really takes the ink well. And I'm just fine-tuning some of my lines. That looks pretty good too, but I think it could be more interesting. Let's do a typography style monoline with the white Gelly Roll. And you're gonna treat it the same way we've done the drop shadow in the past, so pretend like you have a light source coming from your right, and then double line everything that's on the left. The white Gelly Roll's actually one of my favorite pens, because it really helps things pop off the page. When I'm illustrating I like to use it as a highlight to show a light source. And it's so smooth. You can add it to the whites of eyes. It's really nice on this black paper. Sometimes it's hard to figure out where your drop shadow should end, so as soon as your pen starts curving up, that's about where you should stop. And when the pen starts curving down you should stop there, too. So right here is a good place to show you where these two shadows could meet in the middle, and let's add one more element to give a little shine. And we're gonna do a Moonlight Gelly Roll in green. So we'll just add these illustrative stars. And that's a fun monogram card you can give to someone for graduation or a wedding, or any other special event.

Day 15: Stone Place Card

^- Let's do some painted rocks, and you can letter ^someone's name or you can create something ^special for your garden like a label that says ^lavender or basil or something for your spice box. ^Let's do something for a wedding party, and you ^can use these as place cards to help signify

^where people will be seated. ^So, we're gonna use our Pentouch gold paint pen ^in extra fine, shake it, get it going and make ^sure it's flowing really smooth, ^and these come in a lot of different colors ^but you're gonna want to pick one that contrasts ^well with the color rock you're writing on. ^With the found rock, you want to wipe it off ^if it has any residue and clean it for any dirt. ^I like to go find rocks that have a smooth, ^flat surface, it makes it a lot easier to ^write on rather than something that's too bumpy, ^and pick the smoothest side of your rock. ^You can also nest the rock in a towel or cloth ^to help get your hand level with the surface ^rather than it being lower than the rock. ^I'm gonna letter my friend Katie's name, ^and I'm gonna do an entry stroke, hold down ^for the K, and I'm gonna bold up on that line ^just so I know how much spacing I have left ^on my rock. ^Bold on the down stroke, up, round on the A, ^bold again, up for the T, ^bold on the down stroke ^of the T, bold on the I, curl the E around, ^bold on the E, dot the I, and cross your T. ^That's a nice thing you can have at your wedding ^for a place card, and they can have a keepsake ^to take home when it's over.

Day 16: Easter Egg

- Today is Easter, so let's letter some plastic eggs. You can customize it with somebody's name and give it to your favorite kid, put some candy in it, or you could do some fun words like 'bunny' or 'hop' and hide them around your garden for a fun Easter egg hunt. I'm gonna use Pen Touch Paint Pen in purple, which writes really great on slick surfaces like plastic. I wanna make sure it's smooth and flowing before we start our letters, and let's write a name. We'll just do block print for this one, and I'm trying to make sure all my letters are spaced evenly and are about the same height. Add some bunny ears, and some whiskers, and we're gonna put it off to the side to dry. To make it more comfortable for me to write, I'm gonna nest the egg in the towel and I've already rolled up some of it to place under my hand to make it more comfortable, and we'll do a script for this one. This is a nice, fun blue color, and I'm just rotating the egg as I'm lettering. So, go ahead and fill these eggs with some candy and go hide them around your garden for some customized fun Easter egg hunts.

Day 17: "Make Something" Metal Pen Cup

- Sometimes it's fun do things that are not just on paper, and a lot of these pens work well on metals, plastic, glass, and other surfaces. I'm gonna decorate a pen cup with an encouraging quote and write something fun in pastel, and also embellish it with some raised souffle 3D pens. I'm gonna level my arm out on one of my pen cases. You can use a stack of books or a telephone book. And, let's do a quote by Matisse, "Creativity takes courage." So, I'm gonna rotate to where I wanna put my first letter, I'm gonna do an arc shape, and then a straight line, and then a word in script underneath. And, I've already got my paint pen going, so it's gonna be nice and smooth. I'm just gonna do some simple block letters. And, I'm just moving the cup around as I letter. This one's gonna be straight. And, let's do some script lettering here. And, a little off-center, so let's make some extra marks to balance it out. I like it, but it's a little plain, so let's add some embellishments in different colors. Let's use these souffle pens to help embellish. These pens look like gelly roll pens, but they're actually a little different. They offer a raised texture, so when you write, you wanna go really slow, to get that raised, embossed look. It doesn't require any heat, so, you can just go ahead and write as you normally would. To start, you're gonna take off the cap and remove this small plastic covering on the nib. After that, you can just throw it away, you don't need to save it. And, you wanna write really slow. The slower you write, the more raised it will look. It'll also come out darker than the way it looks when it's dry. Once it's dry, it'll look more like what you see on the cap,

more of a pastel look. Let's add some embellishments to this quote. What's really cool about these is they write super smooth on nonporous surfaces like this metal cup. You don't want to use it on anything that you're gonna be eating out of, and it's probably best to use on something that will stay put, that you're not handling a lot, 'cause you don't want anything to have to scratch off. Remember to write slowly, so that the ink comes out nice and smooth. And, let's switch colors to a pink. This one already has the little ball taken off, so you can just go ahead and write. Need some down here. And, do one more over here. As you can see close-up, as it starts to dry, it becomes to look more like its true pastel color. You can use these pens on different types of nonporous surfaces like this glossy metal, and you can see from this purple, the dark will dry to this pastel, soft purple here. And there's your final pen cup. Put it on your desk for some extra inspiration.

Day 18: Canvas Beauty Bag

- A lot of the times you'll find yourself needing a permanent marker but sometimes you don't like the way they smell. This is a really great option it's called Identi-Pen and it's got dual tips one with a fine fiber nib and one with the extra-fine plastic point nib for when you need to write small. They have low odor and they write on multiple surfaces such as plastic and anywhere else you would use a permanent marker. I'm gonna letter on this canvas pouch. Be sure to wash it so that you remove any sizing or any stiffeners that are in the fabric. And this will be a good cosmetic pouch or a good traveling bag where you can tote your chargers lipstick, pens, anything you need to get on the go. We're gonna use the fine point on the Identi-Pen. And let's do a faux brush lettering style again where we do thicker on the downstrokes and fine on the upstrokes. I'm gonna letter the word Beautiful. So start with the B. And I picked the red to match the zipper on the top of my pouch so it's color coordinated. Bold on the downstroke. Up for the u. Bold on the downstroke of the u. Up for the t, let's make that one curve a little bit. And I think I'm gonna use the f in beautiful to cross the t so I'll hold off from crossing that for now. Curve around for the f. Practice your full pressure downstroke. This pen is great but you should probably not use it on anything that you're planning to wash often. And let's dot the i with a heart. And we'll just cross the t. Let's add an eye and some lashes. And we're gonna switch over to the extra-fine nib. Present the nurse strokes. You can go ahead and color that in but I kinda like the way it looks left open on the downstrokes. Pick your favorite word to letter. This also make really great gifts.

Day 19: Glass Planter

- Sometimes it's really great to give customized gifts like air plants. And, the glass surface is a really fun thing to letter. Let's use a Pen-Touch paint pen to write on the glass surface. I'm gonna wipe it down to make sure it's free of any debris or oils. And, since it's a plant, let's do the word bloom. We'll do it in a script style. Glass can be a little challenging since it's so slick and, since this is an orb shape, I've got my arm rested on my pen case to keep it level with the top of the air plant holder. So, start with the letter B. And down. We'll do an L, two Os and an M. And we'll flourish the top of that. Making a customized vase or air plant holder makes a great housewarming gift and it'll live on after you give the gift as long as they good care of their plants.

Day 20: Shrinky Dink Key Ring

- For a little nostalgia, let's make some shrink film charms. You can either make some lettered key chains or some pieces to put on a greeting card. I'm gonna be using Grafix Shrink Film Plastic and the pens that work really great on this are Permapaque Dual Point Marker as well as various Jelly

Roles including Stardust which gives a lot of sparkle. I'm gonna make a charm that can be used as a zipper pull for your lunch bug. You can even put a phone number and name on it for your kids jacket in case they go wondering off somewhere. It'll be helpful to find them. So you can just go straight onto the plastic with the Permapaque. It writes really smooth and opaque. There's no smell. I'm gonna draw a paper airplane. That'll give me some space to letter in between. You wanna leave some space where you can also punch a hole for your keyring or ribbon, whatever you wanna use. And since the paper airplane has some fold, I'm gonna create some shadows by just doubling up here and coloring that in. I'm gonna switch colors to blue. And we'll just do a name of one of the kids I know and phone number so we can find his mom just in case he wonders off. Let's add a sparkly heart with the Jelly Roll Stardust. Once it's dry to the touch, you can go ahead and start cutting it. The colors will definitely appear a little darker after it's shrunk down. So the blue will be a little more vibrant. Keep that in mind if you're choosing specific colors. The plastic can be a little sharp so be careful. You can even round the corners a little bit. Let's punch a hole for our keyring. Now's the fun part. You can go ahead and shrink it down. I'm gonna be using a hand held heat gun. And while it's still warm, I'm gonna press it with some paper to make sure the edges aren't curled too much. Now after it cools, you can add a jump ring for a key chain or a zipper pull or a string if you'd like. Have fun creating different key chains and charms like this one I've made for a greeting card. You can just glue it down. You can make key chains, luggage tags, anything you need to help label your belongings.

Day 21: Watercolor Phone Case

- If you're anything like me, committing to a cell phone case can be difficult. There's always new designs, new words, new patterns. So, I've come up with something fun that you can do to swap out and have different options for any day of the week. You're going to need a clear cell phone case, which is what I use to trace out my template. And, I'm using Strathmore watercolor paper. Let's start with a watercolor wash in the background. You can pick your favorite color, you can do an ombre, you can lots of different combinations. I'm just going to do this pretty teal color. It doesn't have to be really perfect, you're just creating an interesting texture backdrop for your lettering. You're going to let that dry. Mine's dry right here and I'm going to pick this bright Gelly Roll Moonlight with the little moon on the cap to letter a phrase or word. This is actually my favorite pen of all the Sakura products, it's a Vermilion Fluorescent Gelly Roll. And, let's just do something loose and fun. So, by special request, I'm going to letter the word Yaaas! And I love how smooth this pen is. It gives really great contrast and it's really opaque on top of this watercolor. I'm going to color in my down strokes and make it really bold so that it pops when I'm texting or chatting on the phone. You can create a little visual interest by having your letters fall off the paint a little bit onto the white paper. This is a non-traditional yes that's trendy, but that's the great thing about these swap out cell phone case inserts is that you can stay on top of trends and change it out whenever you want. Let's put an exclamation point. Let's color in all our bold down strokes. So with this faux brush lettering style you can have a lot of fun with the thin and thick widths of the curves of your letters. These moonlight pens are one my favorites because they act almost like a paint pen but with very little drying time. That looks pretty good, but let's make the letters pop a little more with a mono line drop shadow. And, I'm going to use the Gelly Roll Moonlight Blue. Just slightly darker than the background. Remember, we're pretending we have a light source coming from the right, so you're going to drop a shadow anywhere on the left of your letter. Let's add a little sparkle with Gelly Roll Stardust. And, I'm just coloring in all the negative space in the a's and a little in the s. And, let's just

make these letters a little more active by adding some flair. While that's drying, I'm going to show you how to pop one into your phone case. So, go ahead and stick it right here. And you can actually use a razor blade. Pencil this off and mark off where you would cut the hole for your camera. Pop your phone in and you're ready to text or call.

Day 22: Faux Chalkboard Menu Cards

- I love to throw dinner parties and have my friends over. One of my favorite things to make includes salads and cheese plates, but sometimes you have people while you're hosting asking what's in the salad or if they have an allergy you want to make sure people know what they're eating. So, an easy way to do that is to create these mock chalkboard menu cards with a white Jellyroll pen on black paper. The white Jellyroll pen is really versatile. It's super smooth to write with. It's waterproof and archival and it looks really great on black paper. To start our lettering card, we're going to fold this into a tent card. So, that'll give you an idea of how much space you have to letter. Let's make a menu card for spinach salad. And I'm going to do one style with upright script and then another one with a more free form slanted script. You want to make sure your menu card's easy to read. I'm doing really smooth strokes using an upright cursive based font and adding little tails to the end of each letter. And let's add with in a block font and we'll make it a little darker too with a banner swirl. I love going into cafes and restaurants when they have chalk board menus, so I draw a lot of inspiration for that for my menu cards. My lettering on salad is a little light, so I'm going to go back over it with my pen. Let's do a script style more free flowing font. This will be a good one to do for your cheese plate. I'm going to go all the way to the edge of the card and be really loose with these. Come back around for the D flourish. D flourish again. And let's add a long tail to this A, tucked all the way to the end of the paper. Two kinds of cheese on this cheese plate, so I'm going to do both of those. Some fun with the V. Long tail on the E. And olive oil toast. Long L. It can just be really exaggerated anywhere there's a downstroke or loop. Like this T will go really low. Up back for the O. High on the A. Low on the tail. And long tail on the T and then let's do a big flourish across both those Ts. These are your mock chalkboard menu cards. You can also try this technique for place cards or other signage. And I hope you'll try them at your next dinner party.

Day 23: Heirloom Recipe Card

- I'm gonna make a recipe card based on one of my cousin's most famous recipes. Every time she brings this to a party, always has somebody asking her, How do you make this and what are the ingredients? So, to make it easy for her, let's do a recipe card that she can scan and send out to anybody that asks. I'm gonna work on a sheet of Strathmore drawing paper, and I'm gonna letter the name of her recipe here at the top, with her name. So, this is her famous coconut butter mochi which is a chewy dessert from Hawaii. So her name's Melanie so let's letter her name. And we're gonna use all of our brush lettering practice. To make this header. And I'm using a Koi coloring brush in Pale Orange. Let's flourish the L. I'm being a little looser with the style here, 'cause I want it to have that homemade, hand-touched look. So you don't have to be super perfect. Just remember your bold downstrokes and your light upstrokes. And I'm kinda just flicking all the tails so let's do a flourish off the H. And that color is pretty but it's a little light so I'm gonna do a drop shadow using the new Pigma Micron PN pen. If you're familiar with Microns, this pen has the same Archival Ink. Great pigment color, and it's waterproof. It's got this really durable, bouncy plastic nib, that's great for people who use a lot of pressure or are heavy-handed. I'm pressing rather hard and it's really holding up. You can even vary the line width on this pen depending on how much pressure because

the nib is so flexible. I'm going back over any spots I've missed. That looks pretty good so I'm gonna go ahead and letter the recipe and ingredients. So I'm gonna do this header here, that let's you know what are the main ingredients in the mochi. Two favorite things, coconut and butter. And let's switch to a darker color, I'm gonna do sepia in the Micron PN, and I'm gonna go ahead and just start listing out the ingredients. And, really give it your own handwriting so that it gives that homemade, hand-felt touch. (pen scratching) This has a lot of indulgent ingredients, which makes it perfect for kids going off to college who need to take their favorite recipes with them, or friends who are moving away. I'm gonna go ahead and do some tips next. (pen scratching) Tips are a really great way to help people figure out things that you've had that have worked for you, and they might wanna try themselves. Next we're gonna write some directions. And let's number them to keep it really easy and helpful. Let's have some fun with our Koi coloring brush pens and add some illustrative elements to the recipe to really personalize it. Since this is a coconut and butter recipe, I'm gonna go ahead and draw some coconuts. I love how quickly you can color in spaces using the side of this pen. Let's add some texture on top. And we'll add a little bit more dimension with a pigment PN. Gonna add some texture to the coconut. And the inside coconut is white but let's do a little shadowing with the Light Cool Gray brush pen. And let's add some palm leaves to give it a tropical feeling and to add some green to the colors. Switching it up to sap green. To pull all the colors together, let's frame some of our steps out and color code the dots of the numbers. We use Naples Yellow. Just helps to break up the instructions a little bit. And let's color these in. Got some extra space here down at the bottom so why don't we letter in "Enjoy." Light pressure, full pressure. Light pressure, full pressure. Light pull up. Full pressure on the J. Flick it back. O. Full pressure on the Y. Up. Try customizing some of your favorite recipes and scanning them, then sending them out to family and friends.

Day 24: Block Letter Alphabet

- We've done a lot of script fonts, but let's try doing our own stylized version of a block print. So you're gonna wanna do big bold lines, and try and make consistent marks throughout all of the letters, so you come up with your own style of typography. Let's use the Pigma Pro Brush in a medium brush size. This brush pen comes in three different sizes, they all have really flexible nibs. And you can make really small thin lines with this, you can do medium pressure, or you can do full pressure. So this is really great for illustration or brush lettering. It gives you the same function as a dipping brush in ink but with less mess and cleanup. It has the same great Pigma archival waterproof ink that's in all of our Pigma Micron products, and you can use it with watercolors before you color over 'em, or after once they're dry. Let's do some capital letters, which are big and bold, and they're really fun to mix in with your script lettering when you do birthday cards or anything like that. Starting with the Pigma Professional Brush in medium, we're gonna do some big bold lines and do a stylized version of the alphabet. I've prepped my page with a smooth marker paper from Canson over the guidesheets, and I'm gonna use this slant sider here in the background. So we're gonna do big bold downstroke for the A, and touch about to the middle of that line with the tip of the pen, and down for the other side. And because I want it to be sort of stylized and unique looking, I'm gonna do the cross for the A really down low. I encourage you to come up with your own little tricks and unique characteristics for your own letters. For the B, we're gonna think about these letters in different parts and not do it as smooth as the brush lettering, only because you wanna think of it as shape, so you're actually drawing the letters rather than writing them. And for the C, instead of having one smooth line, we're gonna make it into three different parts. So we'll

start in the center here. Come down to the bottom, pick up the pen, and just finish out the curve. And then hook the top like this. You can see sometimes on block letters that it's not a smooth transition between the shapes that you draw, and that's okay 'cause you can use the fine tip on this brush pen to fill it in. Or you can use the Pigma Micron 02 which has a very small, thin nib that you can use to fill in tighter areas here. The Pigma Micron pen comes in all different colors and all different sizes so you'll basically have everything you need to complete any project for lettering. I'm just fine tuning this C. The great thing about these bold letters is that after you're all done with your alphabet, you can scan them and create your own fonts. C looks a little unbalanced so I'm gonna go ahead and fill in this bottom. Move on to D. Bold line down. And I'm also gonna break this one up into three strokes. And I'm gonna turn my wrist so that I can get a bold line on the top and bottom, and copying my A I'm gonna do a stroke down low for the E. Same thing for the F. Turn my wrist. And down low on the F. I'm gonna go ahead and finish up the alphabet and then go back in with the Pigma Micron and fine tune all the corners that I see where maybe the brush pen didn't meet up or just need it to be a little sharper. Let's look for some spots that aren't quite what I like yet. So the top of this N, I really want it to meet the guide underneath, so I'm gonna square this off, and at the bottom. And making this consistent is what's gonna make all your letters look like a family. We're applying the same principles as brush lettering where the downstrokes are bold and the upstrokes are light, and we wanna look also at the negative space here in here to make sure it's even. To make coloring in faster, I'm gonna switch to the Pigma Graphic 1, which is more of a marker nib, but has the same ink as the Micron 02 and the brush pen. Now I'm looking at the O and I'm seeing that the negative space here in the middle is a little uneven so to even it out we're just gonna touch it up here in the center. And up here at the top and bottom. There's a lot of ways you can write the alphabet. I encourage you to try out new styles on your own and draw inspiration from nice signage or packaging that you see around you. Take a look up while you're on a walk, at the store, and you'll see that letters are everywhere. Feel free to come up with your own fonts.

Day 25: "I Love you, California"

- Now that you've built up your library of different alphabets, you can use them as references to make different projects. We're gonna do a hometown quote. So pick where you live. Pick your favorite city. And we're gonna letter it and then add water color for a nice frameable piece you can put up in your home or office. I'm gonna combine both the script font and the block font to create a unique piece. We're gonna start out with the brush lettering alphabet, and then do some thicker font above it. You can do a pencil line here. I'm just gonna kind of eyeball it and I'm gonna create a quote that says, "I love you California", and do a sunset and a water horizon. So the nice thing about the Pigma ink is that they're both waterproof and archival. So once they're dry, you can paint over them with watercolor. Let's do the word California. And we're gonna do our thick down strokes and think up strokes. And also try and keep even space between all of the letters and the negative space inside of letters. Down on the "C", lift up light Come around. Heavy pressure. And, since you're framing this, you can go back in and fine-tune everything to be a little tighter. Make sure you're going slow so you have good brush control. That looks pretty good. Let's go in with a smaller nib and fine-tune any of our edges. Let's use our block font to do an accent phrase over our main word. You can use your alphabet and keep it out for reference if you have trouble trying to figure out how to form your letters. If you're curious about how to do your layouts, you can always sketch it out in pencil beforehand to make sure you have a general idea of where you're gonna place everything. Let's tighten up our corners by switching pens, and coloring in any spots. These make really great

gifts and are a little more personable than just store-bought prints. Once that's entirely dry, you can go ahead and watercolor over it. If you'd like, you can do a watercolor background first. Wait 'til that's dry, and then letter over that instead. Since California's known for being sunny, let's do a beach scene with a sunset and water. I'm gonna use my water brush from the Koi palette, and I'm gonna just grab a sunny yellow color. I'm gonna try it out on my paper towel to make sure it's the right color I like. And not too much water. So the center is about right between the "F" and the "N". We'll go ahead and make a half-circle. See how that black ink is staying nice and put, while you watercolor over it. Now we're gonna just squeeze out the water onto the paper towel to make sure the brush is clean. And switch to blue for the water. And we'll just go straight across like a horizon. And taper off the blue. You can mix a couple colors. And I like this dry brush look. It starts to look like sea foam. That looks really good. Wait for it to dry and then pop it in a frame. Put it up on your wall, or give it as a gift. If you're stuck on what other places to do, you can choose a place that is your hometown or someplace you'd like to visit. I did these with the Koi Coloring Brush Pen in the background, and then lettered over it with a bolder color in the front. Have fun picking your different cities.

Day 26: Happy Birthday Card

- A customized birthday card is always a great way to show somebody you really care about them. I like to pick the recipient's favorite colors and really personalize the card with a lot of details. Let's do a happy birthday card using of combination of Koi Coloring Brush pens and Gelly Roll pens. The nice thing about all the Sakura products is that there's the same color across multiple product lines, so you'll never have trouble combining products. We're gonna make a happy birthday card, and we're gonna combine both an upright script stroke and a bold font that we made earlier. Keep your alphabets handy, so you can refer to them when you're doing a card. Let's start with the bigger word first, which is going to be birthday. And I've picked two similar colors, but they're a little different, just for some visual interest. So we're gonna letter the word birthday, and remember all the things we learned with thick downstrokes, thin upstrokes, and keeping spacing even between all the letters. This is a birthday card, so you can have a little fun with it and be more whimsical with your slants and swirls. To create a lot of energy, I'm just flicking upward on the tail to do a nice brushstroke. And let's flourish the bottom of the y a little bit. Dot the i. And wait for it to dry before you write above that word. Let's mix our fonts together and do a bold happy over the top. And I'll show you some fun things you can do to create more of a typography sign painting style. So we'll go bold on the downstrokes, and we're gonna do that low cross on the H and the A. Use the tip of the brush pen to touch up any spots. The thing that makes your work look more like typography is finding opportunities to fit the letters in tight with the other words. So for example, between the t and the h here, I fit the tail of the A and the bottom of the P. The space between the h and the d has a P. And now that I'm gonna do the bottom of the Y across an extra space, so for fun, let's go down really far on that. Tighten up my corners. And since these are water-based pens, they blend really nicely like watercolors. You can go back in and color over your brushstrokes. You can leave it as is, or you can embellish it with some Gelly Roll pens. To create a different kind of drop shadow, we're gonna use two different nib sizes of the same color of Gelly Roll Moonlight. The same color comes in a bold nib and also a fine tip, and you can tell the difference on these, what's on the barrel. There's a O6, and that's the fine. So let's use the bold to do our drop shadow, as we've learned before. And just color to the left of the letter. Then let's switch pens to the O6, and we're just gonna do some light lines coming off that drop shadow line. Let's do the rest of the letters with the bold first and

then switch back to the fine. One of the things about typography that makes it so interesting is thinking about the letters as three-dimensional shapes rather than flat. So where the d and the Y collide here, I'm gonna pretend that the d is more in the foreground and the Y is receded back. Instead of going over the d, we'll go behind it. And that creates some dimension. Let's finish the drop shadows on birthday. And we'll just do a monoline for these. Let's do a highlight using the Gelly Roll Metallic in Silver. Remember, this one has a sparkly cap. And we're gonna pretend that a light source is shining directly in front of the letters and pretending that they're mirrors. So they're just gonna bounce light back off to us. And we'll go straight down on any of the downstrokes. Make sure your ink's dry before you put your hand back down into it. You can also do this with white, gold, or any of the neon Gelly Roll Moonlight colors. And let's add highlights to birthday, but add some dots at the bottom instead of just a straight line. Give it some more energy by adding some lines, coloring those in, and some sparkly stars here. I love it. It looks great. You've got a custom teal card for anyone that likes teal or whatever color you choose.

Day 27: Gift Tags

- Let's practice some common phrases you can use for greeting cards, gift tags or wine bottle tags. We'll use a combination of archival ink, pigma brush pen and gelly roll pens with different textures like metallic and stardust glitter. I've got my guide sheet down under my marker paper. Now this is just for practice, so you can come up with different color combinations, but then you're gonna transfer over to watercolor paper which won't be transparent. So make sure you get a lot of practice in before you do your final project. Thick down stroke, light up. I'm writing the word "thanks." And we'll just do a straight N instead of a curved one. Gift tags tend to be a little shorter, so you don't have as much space on them. Curve the S. And let's cross the T with the H. Next we're gonna do the word "celebrate" in this fun purple color. Up on the L, pull down for the full pressure stroke. Lift up your pen for the E. And let's do a rounded B with a tear drop. Pull down on the R. Light stroke up. Rounded A, close out your circle, pull down. T and E. Last word we'll do is "hello." Do an entering stroke. Start about midway here. Pull down for the H. Second stroke. E, L. And practice your full pressure stroke. And we'll curl that O. These are really fun but you can add some more color combinations in the negative space to do some unique color combos. These look great on their own, but you can add some sparkle and shine with metallic gelly roll pens. Let's pick some accompanying colors to go with this orange. And we're gonna use the stardust pen which has the shooting star on the cap and the color ball on the lid. So, I'm gonna look for negative space spots here which is here in the H. So let's color that in. And this is a really vibrant, glittery ink. We'll switch to a pink color for the A. Let's do blue again for the K. And green for the S. This is also a really good way to tell if your keeping consistent on your letters. So, for example, the negative space on my H and my K should be about the same size, but I went a little tight here on the K, so I'll remember that for next time. Let's do some bright colors for "celebrate," which is a dark purple. We'll use these vibrant, fluorescent moonlight gelly roll pens. These actually work really great on black paper and the fluorescent colors glow under black light. There's a lot of negative space in the word "celebrate" so you're gonna pick a few different colors. I'll use my favorite vermilion. And we'll finish with the fluorescent yellow in the E. Last, we're gonna do gelly roll metallic, which gives a nice shine to your letters. And we'll start with the green. Metallic's a little different from the stardust. Stardust has glitter in it. This gives more of a foil shine. Switching to blue. Now since this is the same color, it's really great that it has a contrasting texture 'cause it gives a little shine to the color. Let's take a look without the guidelines. Looks really fun. Another fun project you can do with these common phrases

is gift tags. So you can water color a whole background on one piece of paper, cut it up into your desired size, and the edges actually create really interesting backgrounds. This is all from the same sheet of watercolor paper, using the koi palette. Next, you can letter on top and fill in the negative space, and then add a fun yarn or ribbon, whatever you like. Whoever receives these will be really excited.

Day 28: Custom Notebook Cover

- Now that you've had a lot of practice, you can move on to some more permanent projects, like the cover of your notebook. I'm going to do a short phrase, have a good day. And I'm going to show you some ways I think about laying things out before I put them on my final piece. So let's just write out the phrase and see what kind of letters we have. Now what I'm looking for are opportunities to do flourishes as well as seeing where my ascending and descending letters are. So this is written out really simple. And if we look at our letters, we've got the opportunity to flourish off of an H, maybe the bottom of this G, D. The top of this D and the bottom of this Y. So we can now practice in a script like sketch font just to see what kind of layout we would want. I'm working on a similar size as this craft cover scout notebook and so if I place it here, I know that I'm going to want to lay out three lines because the notebook is not very big. And I want it all spaced pretty evenly. So I'll be able to flourish off of this. This here, this, down at the bottom. I want to say around this shape here on the notebook. You can sketch it out ahead of time if you'd like. But I'm just going to go for it. So before I move on to my next line, I'm going to go ahead and do those thick down strokes to make sure I leave enough space between the first line and the second line. Now we're doing the word good, which has a descending letter but the last letter is D, which is an ascending letter. So let's try and write it so that the D lands past the A, that way it all fits nicely in a layout. Make sure you go low enough, pretend you have a waste line and base line. And let's go big on the bottom of that G. So we've got a little space here to flourish. Let's get between those two Os, come back around and tuck it up next to the A. And let's do R with bold down strokes. We've got day as our last word. So we'll give enough space for the D, for the ascending part of it. And we'll tuck it around a little bit here, bring it straight back down. A and the Y and I'm trying to make this shape similar to the one I did on the G. Let's thicken up our down strokes. Now you can see I've left the tail of this Y closed off. But I have an opportunity to flourish here so I'm going to just make these big loops and I'm going to flip my book upside down so that's a more natural movement for my right hand. And this movement will start to frame out your letters. Let's finish that off with a tear drop shape. Flip it back around and we can see where it needs to be thickened up. Let's do another flourish here over the H. An we've got some spae between the H and the V and let's try to land the end of the flourish in there. Thickening up our loops. And a tear drop shape here at the end. That looks pretty good. But let's frame out some of the other pieces just so that it's more balanced overall. Just echo this G shape here and double stroke. And let's echo the top of the D here. I like that, let's have some more fun and add some Gelly Roll Moonlight to really make the letters pop off the page. Just going to do a drop shadow on the mono line. And writing with Gelly Roll Moonlight neon colors is one of my favorite things to see on craft paper. It almost makes the color vibrate off of the brown background. I'm going to do good in a different color. So I'll skip down to day. And I'm going to switch to green. Let's add a little shine with the Gelly Roll Gold Metallic. One of my favorite pens. I'm just going to do a drop shadow on the inside part of all of my curves. And this is a subtle detail but I really like the way it shines in the light. I'm going to turn it in a couple of different directions to make sure I like how everything is balanced. And I'm going to hold it back to make sure I like the way it looks. I think

I do, so I'm done. I really love the way that Gelly Rolls look on craft paper, especially if you do your base lettering in white and have fun with the colors around it. Another thing you can do with a blank book, like a scout book, is have fun journaling in it as well. Here's a spread I did using all of the principles we've learned for lettering so far. And you can fill in your own journaling pages. Go bold on your down strokes. Practice your thin strokes. Make some check lists, add some illustrative elements. And you'll have your own personalized journal.

Day 29: Bookmark

- People still read books right? Let's make some bookmarks and we can personalize them based on your favorite story, or you could do a movie, whatever inspires you. I'm gonna do a version on The Little Prince, and I'm gonna take illustrative elements to help embellish my bookmark and mimic the font that's on the book cover. I'm gonna be using Permapaque markers, because they're smooth and opaque and they're archival, so this bookmark will last a long time. I'm working on a textured canvas paper, I've already cut it down and punched a hole for my ribbon. But the hole is important to do first so you know how much space you have to letter on. I'm just gonna do more of a free form style, much like the book cover, you can kind of mock yours up based on what you see on your favorite book too. I like the whimsical element of this story so I'm going to try and convey that in the writing style I'm doing too. And I'm using the bullet end of this duel point marker to kind of do thin and thick strokes. I really like this marker because there's no odor, it dries quickly, and it's really smooth. Performs like a paint marker but it's not as messy. Now let's add some stars and moons and some flowers, much like what's on the book cover. Let's add the small flowers in this purple metallic color. Gives a little sheen. And the yellow looks a little soft so let's outline that in a silver. These layer really great. I'm gonna add a ring around this planet. Let's draw this little tree stump here. And last let's add a ribbon to help mark our page. And there's our bookmark. If you're ever feeling stuck about what to letter, just go grab your favorite book, or look at some pages in a magazine, pull out some words, and practice.

Day 30: â œThe Future Is Made Up of Nowsâ •

^- Today is our last day, and as a roundup ^we're going to do one big quote ^that encompasses everything we've learned this month. ^I'm going to combine a couple of my favorite products ^including Koi coloring brush and white Gelly Roll pen, ^show you some flourishes, ^and show you some things to keep mindful of ^when you're doing big quotes like this. ^So I'm going to do a quote by Emily Dickinson ^called "Forever is composed of nows." ^I've gone ahead and I've written it out ahead of time. ^And I'm going to look and check to see how my work's going. ^So I've got letters that repeat themselves here like the Es, ^and I want to make sure that they look equal. ^Another E here. ^I'm also going to look for opportunities ^where I can flourish. ^The drop on this R seems good. ^This one I could come back on a little bit ^and go this way on my flourish. ^This one I can go forward on. ^And I've got a little space, if I drop this N tail ^to come back here and flourish as well. ^And since this is a little off center ^I'm going to remind myself to start further over here. ^So we're going to go ahead and use ^the dark Prussian blue as my lettering, ^and then we're going to do a drop shadow ^and lighter color and add some highlights ^with the white Gelly Roll. ^I've got my guideline set up here ^underneath my smooth marker, paper by Canson. ^Let me get really comfortable and make sure ^I have a lot of movement in my arm ^and can keep really loose. ^You're going to want to do ^full pressure on your downstrokes ^and leave space for your flourishes. ^Since I'm going to flourish on this R ^I'm going to leave it short. ^Scoot over for my next word. ^Leave

some space for the flourish, ^so we'll go down two lines. ^And composed is kind of a long word, ^so that's going to stand alone on this line here. ^And leave room for your D to flourish at the end. ^We're going to flourish the P so we'll leave that tail open. ^And this is going to be a D but I'm going to leave it ^for now and come back to it later. ^Now we're on our last line. ^So since we came down two lines here, ^we're going to come down two here, ^and this tail's going to drop in between our last two words. ^Let's go back to our D here. ^And I think it'll fit really nicely past this S. ^Pull down, full pressure. ^And we can sketch that to match up a little better. ^Let's do a flourish down here at the bottom. ^Let's flourish this R. ^Pull down on the descender. ^Loop, full pressure, loop, full pressure, stop. ^And we'll finish it off with a teardrop shape. ^Last we have our P. ^So let's make it curve around to the top of this W. ^We'll wave it and then turn. ^Finish it off with a teardrop shape. ^Let's add a tail to this F here, ^and one more to this F. ^We'll let that dry and we'll add ^a drop shadow in a light sky blue. ^Let's make sure we really taper it ^to the same shape as the letters. ^So we'll start here on the curve ^and get wider where it gets wider. ^One of the things I love best ^about the Koi coloring brush pens ^is that really natural ombre look you get ^because the pens are so wet and smooth, ^and that's not really something ^you can replicate easily with digital work. ^It gives that hand-finished look ^and it makes each piece really special. ^We're not quite done yet. ^We're going to add a highlight using the white Gelly Roll. ^Let's pretend we've got a light source ^coming straight on to the letters, ^so we're going to add white highlight ^down all of the descenders. ^Wherever your bold lines are. ^Little details like this will help ^make your lettering look extra special. ^Now that I'm looking at this again ^I think I'm going to connect this N to the bottom ^of my flourish and then we'll be finished. ^Couple more highlights here on the flourish. ^This final piece has everything you've learned this month ^including downstrokes, light upstrokes, ^drop shadows and highlights, ^flourishes and color combinations. ^Learning anything new can be difficult ^but as you've seen this month, ^if you break things down they're pretty easy to learn. ^Just keep practicing. ^Make it part of your daily activities, ^and draw inspiration from everywhere around you. ^For me, I keep getting new ideas from my son, ^who says new words every day, ^but you can do something simple ^like your to-do list, grocery list, ^or anything you've got going on this weekend. ^Just letter something like, ^"I'm going to lunch with my friends" ^and work it in to your daily life.