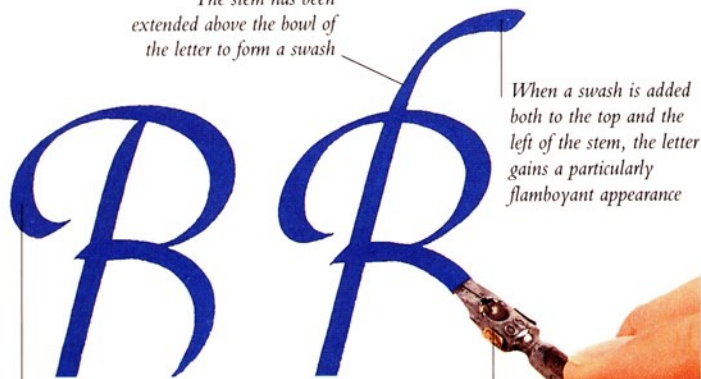


# Italic Swash Capitals

A **SWASH CAPITAL** is a flamboyant letter that traditionally served a similar function in Italic text to that of the coloured Versal in Gothic text (pp. 58–59). It should never be used to write a complete word, but can be combined with standard Italic Capitals (pp. 98–99). The Swash Capital's characteristic showiness is created by the extension of stem strokes above or below the capital line and the extension of bowls and horizontal strokes to the left of the stem. These extended strokes terminate with a swash or, alternatively, can be looped like Copperplate Capitals (pp. 106–107).

The stem has been extended above the bowl of the letter to form a swash



The swash to the left of the stem is a natural continuation of the rounded stroke of the bowl

## Left swashes

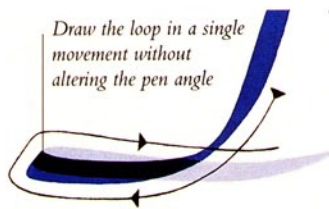
When creating a swash from the bowl of a letter, such as that of the B or R, it is important that the swash is a natural extension of the bowl stroke, with the pen pulled in a sweeping movement. The letters in the alphabet (right) show the swashes added as separate strokes.

To draw Italic Swash Capitals, use the same pen as for Italic minuscules (pp. 96–97)



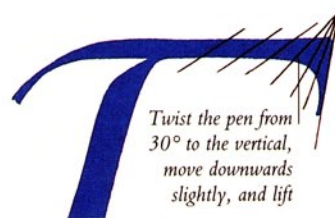
## Top swashes

The stem can be extended upwards and pulled to the right in the manner of a corsiva ascender on the Italic minuscule (pp. 96–97).



## Looped terminals

This clubbed, looped terminal can be used as an alternative to the swash in finishing the stem stroke. It works particularly well on a single stem letter such as an I or P. Create the loop by crossing back over the stem and pulling the stroke out to the right.



## Formal arm serifs

This formal type of serif provides an elegant contrast to the flourishes. In construction, it closely imitates the brush-drawn Imperial Capital serif (pp. 110–119). On reaching the end of the arm, begin to twist the pen from 30° to the vertical.

