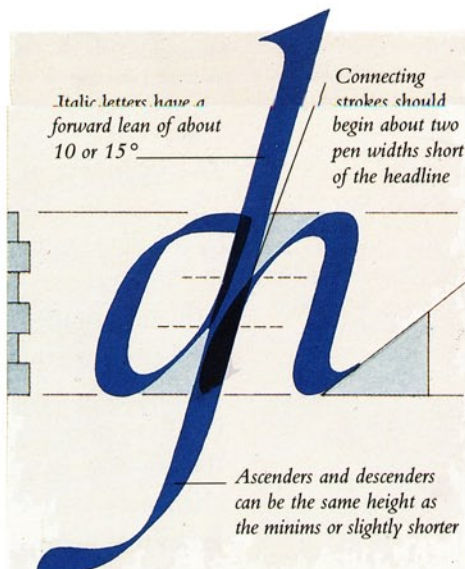


Italic

THE ITALIC HAND is written with a square-cut “slanted” pen, held at an angle of between 35 and 45°. Letters should be written with the minimum number of pen lifts – most can be written with a single stroke. The two traditional examples shown here are *formata* and *corsiva*. *Formata* letters are distinguished by the wedge serif to the left of the stem, *corsiva* by the swashes to the right of the stem. Ideally, the two different types should not be mixed. The *o* is the key letter of the script: it establishes the basic ductus of the hand, the curve of other letters, and the letter width (below).

Joining strokes

Where strokes spring from the stem of a letter, such as on *h*, *m*, and *n*, the stroke should begin about two pen widths below the headline. The bottom curve of the bowl of the *d*, *g*, and *q* meets the stem stroke about two widths above the baseline. All connecting strokes follow these basic rules.



This wedge serif, drawn in two strokes, is common in modern work

This serif can also be clubbed

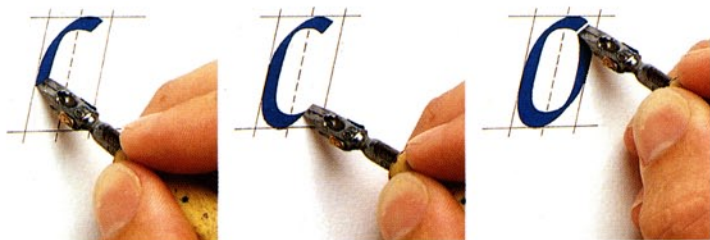
This cursive serif has been drawn in a single stroke

The clubbed cursive serif creates bold ascenders

Serifs

Serifs can be wedge-shaped and left-facing (*formata*) or right-facing (*corsiva*). On letters *b*, *d*, *h*, *k*, and *l* in the alphabet (right), both *formata* and *corsiva* types are shown.

Step-by-step o



1. To create the *o* in a single stroke, use an angle of 40°. Begin just below the headline and push the pen upwards to the headline, before curving down to the left.

2. Maintaining the 40° pen angle, curve the stroke downwards towards the baseline, before moving along the baseline and beginning to curve upwards.

3. Push the pen towards the headline in an arc, meeting the top curve just below the headline. Alternatively, draw the letter in two strokes (*opposite*).

a *o* *a* The Italic *a* is always a single-storey letter

b *6* *l* *6*

Formata form of *b*

Corsiva form of *b*

c *c* Alternatively, the top curve of the *c* can be drawn as a separate stroke

d *d* *o* *d* *l*

Formata form of *d*

Corsiva form of *d*

e *e* The top loop of the *e* can be drawn as a separate stroke

A tongue can be added when the *e* is at the end of a word

f *f* Without the crossbar, the *f* becomes the long form of *s*

g *g* Alternatively, the descender of the *g* can terminate with a swash (above left)

Corsiva form of *h*

Formata form of *h*

b *6* *l* *6* Alternatively, the second foot of the *h* can terminate with a flick (above left)

i *j* *i* *j*