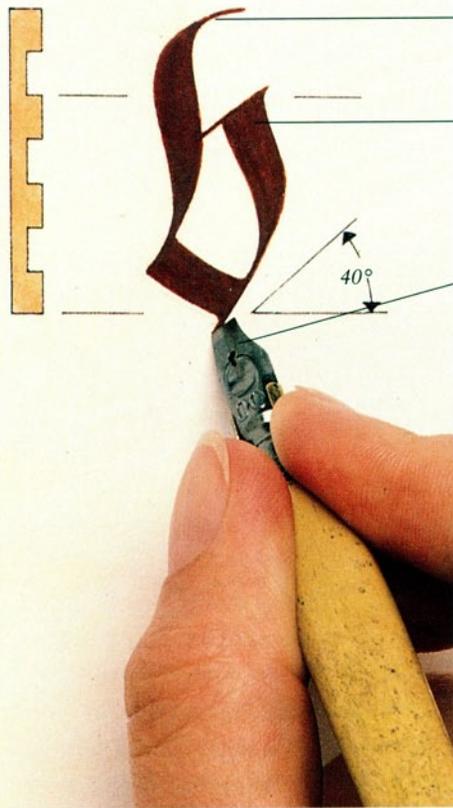


Fraktur

THE UPRIGHT, COMPRESSED letters of Fraktur are closer in appearance to the Gothic Textura scripts (pp. 50–57) than either the Bastard Secretary (pp. 68–69) or the Bâtarde (pp. 72–73). The hairline spikes, such as those on letters *b*, *g*, *h*, and *q*, are a distinctive feature of Fraktur and do not tend to occur on the rounder Schwabacher letters. The pen angle of about 40° is altered only for drawing the pointed descenders.



The ascender can be drawn with a single rounded stroke or with a split serif

The minim height is about five pen widths, with a further two for ascenders and descenders

The pen nib should be square-cut for drawing Fraktur letters

Rounded strokes
Despite the Fraktur letter's upright aspect, many strokes are actually rounded. Here, the ascender of the letter *b* has been drawn with a curve to echo the rounded stroke of the bowl. Whether you choose straight or rounded letters or split or pointed ascenders, it is important to be as consistent as possible throughout the text.

The crossbar is a common feature of the letter *g* in both Fraktur and Schwabacher scripts

Spike strokes

The distinctive Fraktur spikes are made by extending one stroke over the previous one. The more pen lifts there are in a letter, the more spikes are created.



Alternatively, the hairline can be drawn as a continuation of the first stroke (see *g*, opposite)

The spike stroke overlaps the bottom of the rounded stroke of the bowl

The tail of the *g* can finish with a short hairline, a blob, or a backward sweep; alternatively, it can be looped (see *g*, right)

Fraktur descenders are restrained, except on the bottom line of a page of text, where additional flourishes can occur

Alternative *a*

Either of these two forms of *a* can be used

Curl the ascender of the *d* back to the right to avoid the letter tilting to the left

The first and second strokes of the *f* can be drawn without lifting the pen

Twist the pen from 40° to near vertical for the descender of the *f*

The second and third strokes of the *g* can be drawn in one continuous movement