

Bastard Capitals

BASTARD CAPITALS HAVE the same ductus as the minuscules that they accompany (pp. 68–77), and are penned with the same nib. In most instances, they tend to be wide, expanded letters. The thick stem strokes are often supported by a thin vertical slash to the right, and the addition of a diamond stroke in the centre of the counter is also common. Like the bastard minuscule hands, the capitals were subject to a range of individual and regional variation. Because of this diversity, the alphabet shown here should be regarded only as a general guide.

Basic elements

The pen angle of the Bastard Capital is about 40° or the same as the minuscule that it accompanies. The letter height is about six pen widths. The characteristically wide letters, such as the *B*, are a direct product of downward and horizontal arced sweeping strokes.

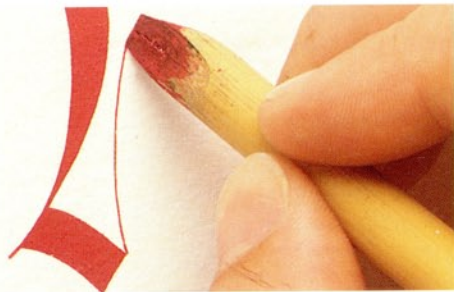


Draw the hairlines with the corner of the nib

Connecting hairlines

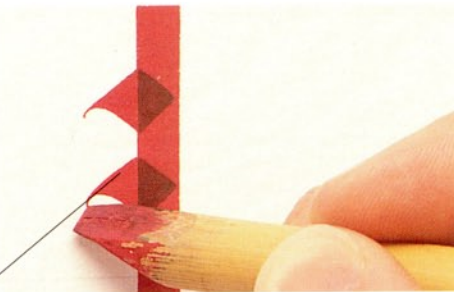
On letters *H*, *M*, and *N*, hairline strokes are often used to connect two main downstrokes.

This hairline should spring from the right edge of the baseline serif.



Spurs

Weight can be added to vertical stems in the form of diamond-shaped spurs. Each spur can be sharpened with a short hairline flick.



Limit the number of diamond-shaped spurs to two or three

“Elephant’s trunks”

The “elephant’s trunk” so characteristic of the Bastard Secretary (pp. 68–69) also occurs on capital letters *H*, *K*, *L*, and *X*. Draw the diagonal trunk with the full width of the nib, finishing with a short hairline.

