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Hand-Lettering Ledger: A Practical Guide To Creating Serif, Script, Illustrated, Ornate, And Other Totally Original Hand-Drawn Styles



Synopsis

The ultimate tool for designers and creatives looking to tap into the trend of hand-drawn lettering, this workbook features step-by-step lessons on a range of styles plus more than 120 practice pages, making it the ideal place to learn and perfect this in-demand design skill.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Mary Kate McDevitt is an illustrator and graphic designer known for her text-based prints and Mini Goal Chalkboard designs. Her work has been praised by SwissMiss, Print, Poppytalk, Apartment Therapy, Design*Sponge and more.

Several of the other reviewers say there are "many blank pages" in this book. That's wrong. There are MOSTLY blank pages. Only ONE THIRD of the book has actual content: various styles of hand lettering. And not so much instructional, "how-to" content. The rest of the book (the MAJORITY of this "book" is lined pages, graph paper, and even some old school cursive writing paper. Even though I bought a used copy (in very good condition) I still felt a bit ripped-off, lied to ...in as much as I thought I was buying 190 pages of "Hand Lettering." Should have paid more attention to the word "Ledger" in the title. To bad. The publisher was on their way to created a good book, but stop 30% into the job.

Like the other reviewers I was surprised to see so many "ledger pages." I have a feeling that Comical Books (sick) (sic) has tracked the recent public interest in hand-lettering and rushed to fill

the need (cash in) a bit prematurely. Certainly Ms. McDevitt has her chops down and I do enjoy her work but clearly an editor could have shaped her instructive abilities better. I suppose I share the responsibility for my disappointment. In hindsight, I was clearly hoping I could avoid the years of practice necessary to do this kind of work well. Ms. McDevitt has logged in those hours and they show in her work but the book, as it stands, reminds me of the parody of the "Draw Me" ads that used to be appear in comic books. You know, the ones where Fig. A. is a stick figure an Fig. B is a Rembrandt. If you are serious about learning hand lettering this article might give you a few leads. [...]Some link rot has occurred since the article was written but archive.org has a few books that are not only more focused on the how to aspect they are also entertaining as artifacts of a bygone age. The age that hand-lettering beckons us to recreate in our image.

As a few customers have said already, the book is literally more than half blank, gridded & "practice pages" (filler basically). Do they assume we don't have a sketchbook or graph paper around? As a graphic design student I was happy with the actual information the book did contain however. But seriously the actual book is 63 pages out of 188!. If you're trying to work from the book with the techniques she provides its a lot easier to have a separate sketchbook while you're actually looking at the page from the book instead of flipping back and forth. In addition, the "practice" pages are obviously the kind of paper you'd find in a book, not good for drawing to begin with.

I wanted more entire sample alphabets and less practice pages. This book popped up quite often as a recommended reading for me based on my previous purchases and reads. was gracious enough to allow me to return the book. There was some good information, but it was mostly examples and I would have liked to see all of the letters drawn out in each style of lettering. I didn't check reviews and bought spontaneously; oops! I loved The Art of Whimsical Lettering by Joanne Sharpe; now that was what I was looking for! Also, Modern Calligraphy and Hand Lettering, by Lisa Engellbrecht was a great book on the topic.

Disappointing. Not much instruction, a lot of empty pages. I can buy my own tablet of empty pages. I would not mind some practice space, but this one has too much. More importantly, there is little actual content. A lot of examples, but frankly I have already found more in-depth information by searching in Google.

I wanted to love this book. As I read more and more, the greater my disappointment. It's great if

you're looking for a really expensive glossy paper practice sheet. This is of course assuming that you learned how to do it elsewhere. It is most definitely a ledger, but most certainly not a guide. It's basically a glossary of different styles of lettering with practice space. I'd keep looking if you're actually interested in learning how to hand letter.

I really like this book for the reference. The artist really knows her way around lettering - but if you're looking for a book that really teaches you how to do it, this is not the book. It shows poor step by step phases, where the lettering magically becomes good, instead of showing the whole process. In any case, if you're learning, this book has a very good amount of different types of lettering for reference and training.

The first third of the book is really good. Unfortunately, the other two-thirds are a joke. I wonder if I would have felt so let down had the book been 63 pages to begin with? As a professional designer/illustrator experimenting with hand-lettering, there is some great inspiration here. The book gives simple tips and tricks to help from sketching to final. Coming from an artistic background, I found it very easy to understand, with a decent assortment of examples and process techniques. Nothing revolutionary, just a short at-a-glance inspiration guide for when you're stuck or experimenting with type. It's not an in-depth guide by any means, and if you need that sort of thing look elsewhere. I would have been ecstatic and felt so much more value if it was filled with more examples, and no sketching pages. If the author released a similar book fleshed out with more examples, or cut the crap and released a cheaper first part, I would happily buy it and recommend it to other creatives. In its current state, it is just too odd to justify the price.

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