

# TOOLS I RECOMMEND FOR LEARNING

I am a big believer in starting with what you already have, or at least starting simple. You don't need to go out and spend \$100 to get yourself setup to learn. Choose a few pens, one or two brushes and some watercolours or a black ink and you're well on your way. How much time you invest in practicing is far more important than the quality of the tools you begin with. That being said, there are some tools that will be easier to start with than others. Below are my suggestions as to where is best to start.

## Brush Pen Calligraphy

### Pentel Fude Touch Sign Pen

These come in 12 different colours. You really only need one to start with, they are very forgiving and can withstand a fair amount of rough treatment as you begin your practice. Please note, there are two varieties of Pentel Sign pen - you want the brush tip, sometimes called Fude, other times just Touch - but it has a slight glitter effect through the casing of the pen.

You can buy them online at [pentel.com](http://pentel.com), [jetpens.com](http://jetpens.com), [cultpens.com](http://cultpens.com), [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) or [officeworks.com.au](http://officeworks.com.au) (Australia).



### Tombow Fudenosuke Brush Pen, Soft or Hard Tip

These pens are very similar to the Pentel Touch Sign pen. I don't find a significant difference between the soft and hard tip. If these are easier for you to find and purchase than the Pentel, they're a great pen to start with.

You can buy them online at [tombowusa.com](http://tombowusa.com), [jetpens.com](http://jetpens.com), [cultpens.com](http://cultpens.com), [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) or [ebay.com.au](http://ebay.com.au) (Australia).

### Paper

There is a heap of debate around about the best paper to use with brush pens. Both of the brush pens I have listed here are fairly cheap and will happily withstand use on regular printer paper. And as I mentioned above, practice is what really matters - and I would hate your practice to be limited because you are scared to use the expensive paper you bought. So buy a ream of laser printer paper and get busy using up every page!

## Watercolour Calligraphy

### Paintbrush

My preference is for a size 2 round watercolour brush. Ideally, to start with, in white taklon, and slightly stiff. The brand doesn't really matter, and in the beginning even something from your local bargain store will work, but if you're happy to spend a little more, my favourite brands at the moment are Winsor and Newton Cotman 111, Micador and Jasart. If you're in Australia, I buy mine from [www.eckersleys.com.au](http://www.eckersleys.com.au) and [www.oxlades.com.au](http://www.oxlades.com.au).



### Paint/Ink

To start with, find some black ink. Either Art Spectrum Pigmented Ink (if you're in Australia), or Speedball Super Black India Ink. If you want to start playing with colours I recommend Ecoline Liquid Watercolours, or just grab a watercolour palette set - any brand will do, I use the one I bought for my kids from a local department store.

### Paper

Watercolour paper is a good option here. But as with brush pen calligraphy, it's the practice time that matters. So grab yourself some regular printer paper to start with, then start onto the watercolour paper when you're feeling a little more confident.