

## Typography

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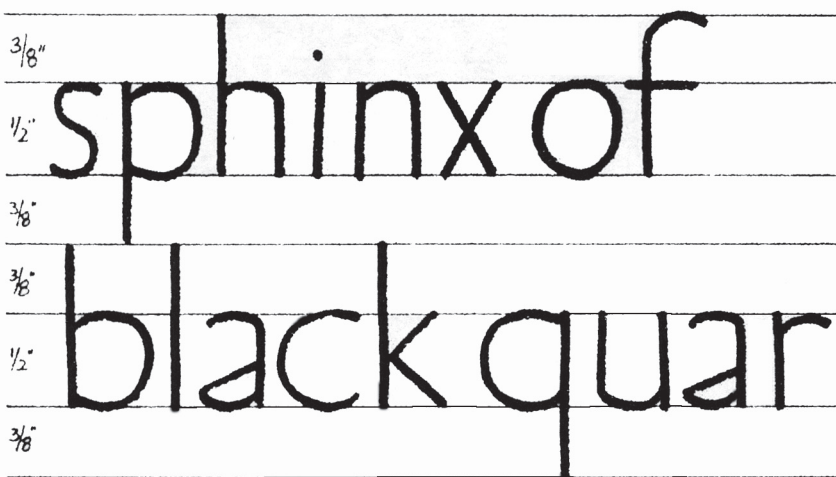
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# LOWER CASE EXERCISES

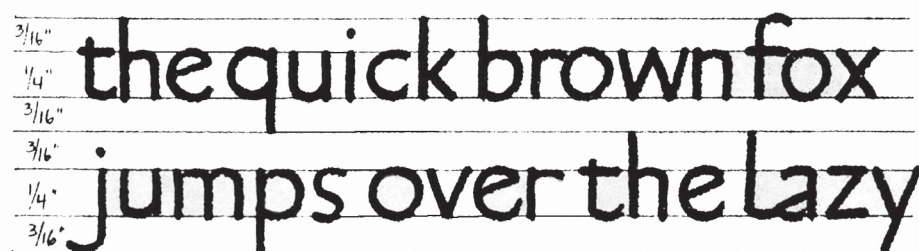
**General Directions:** Using a 18" x 24" drawing paper, use 1 sheet of paper for each of the following 4 exercises. Rule page using an Ames lettering guide and a T-square, according to directions for each individual assignment. Plan 2" margins for the top, sides and bottom of each writing sheet. If you make a mistake, DO NOT cross it out; just continue your writing.

**Materials/Supplies:** Pen holder, Speedball nibs in sizes B-6, B-5, and B-2. Black ink, preferably non-waterproof. 18" x 24" drawing paper

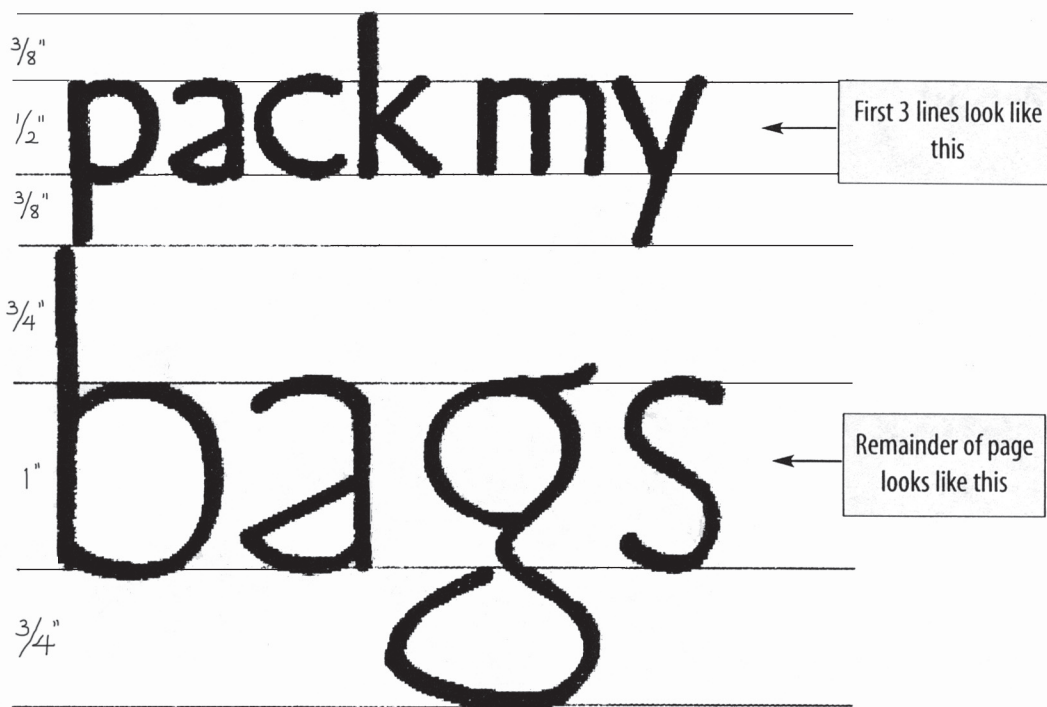
**Exercise #1:** Rule page at intervals of  $\frac{3}{8}$ " for ascenders,  $\frac{1}{2}$ " for x-height and  $\frac{3}{8}$ " for descenders. Repeat for the rest of the page. Be sure not to alternate spacing, but start again to allow a separate space for ascenders and descenders. Using a Number 5 Speedball nib, make letters with  $\frac{1}{2}$ " x-height,  $\frac{3}{8}$ " for ascenders and descenders. Write out the alphabet once making diagrams for proportions. Then write out the alphabet once without diagrams. Continue to FILL the page, using the alphabet sentences. Pay attention to your spacing! 1 sheet: 18" x 24"



**Exercise #2:** Rule the page at  $\frac{3}{16}$ " –  $\frac{1}{4}$ " –  $\frac{3}{16}$ " intervals. Using a Number 5 Speedball nib, make letters with  $\frac{1}{4}$ " x-height and  $\frac{1}{16}$ " ascenders and descenders. Plan margins, write out alphabet once, then move on to alphabet sentences or poetry or whatever you choose. Be sure to fill the page. Do not line letters up in rows - make the spacing as natural as possible. Don't leave too much space between words. 1 sheet: 18" x 24"



**Exercise #3:** Rule 3 sets of lines a for lower case letters with  $1/2''$  x-height and  $3/8''$  ascenders and descenders. Using a Number 2 Speedball nib, make 3 lines of letters (like Exercise #1, but using a larger nib). Then rule remainder of page for lower case letters with a  $1''$  x-height and  $3/4''$  ascenders and descenders. Complete the page. Plan margins, choose poetry or prose.



**Exercise #4:** Rule page with alternating sets of lines:  $3/16''$ - $1/4''$ - $3/16''$ ;  $5/8''$ - $3/4''$ - $5/8''$

Using a Number 6 (smallest) Speedball nib, make letters with  $3/4''$  x-height and  $5/8''$  ascenders and descenders. Then write on the lines in between using a #5 nib as shown in the example. The tall letter will be very light in weight (skinny); the little letters between the lines will be short and fat. There will be no space between the lines (see example at right).

