

# THE LEFT-HANDED PATH

THE LEFT-HANDED PATH with CHARLES & THORN

Thank you so much for joining us and partaking of this one of a kind workshop! This workshop is merely meant to be an introduction to certain concepts in calligraphy, to ask questions about those models, particularly from a left-handed perspective, and to question whether there are unforeseen models still to be developed from this left-handed perspective. For more in depth information and resources about calligraphy and lettering, below is a list of highly recommended resources.

## BOOKS

*Insights into Left-Handed Calligraphy*, Betsy Rivers Kennedy  
*The Elements of Lettering*, John Howard Benson & Arthur Graham Carey  
*The Origin of the Serif*, Edward Catich  
*Writing & Illuminating & Lettering*, Edward Johnston  
*Foundations of Calligraphy*, Sheila Waters  
*The Script Letter*, Tommy Thompson  
*The Golden Secrets of Lettering*, Martina Flor

## CALLIGRAPHY & LETTERING RESOURCES

John Neal Booksellers & Calligraphy Supplies ([www.johnnealbooks.com](http://www.johnnealbooks.com))  
Lettering Library ([www.letteringlibrary.com](http://www.letteringlibrary.com))

## KEYWORDS:

Sinistral – Left-handed  
Dextral – Right-handed  
Ductus – The stroke order and stroke direction that forms a letter.  
Boustrophedon – Text that mirrors writing and reading direction from line to line.

## TIPS FOR LEFTIES

–When writing Sinistral letters, you can write in the natural writing position  
–When writing Dextral letters, you need to change writing position, or write in mirror.  
– Writing in mirror might trip your brain up a little at first, but just remember that letters are shapes first and foremost. Refer to the sheet of the mirrored Roman alphabet often, and you'll get the hang of it quicker than you'd think!

## TIPS FOR RIGHTIES

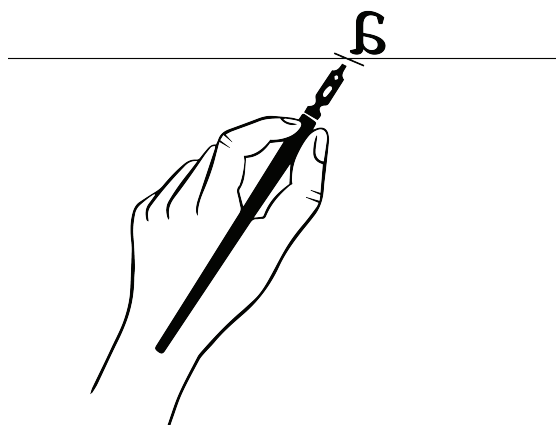
–When writing Dextral letters, you can write in the natural writing position  
–When writing Sinistral letters, you need to change writing position, or write in mirror.  
– Writing in mirror will not only trip up your brain, but will also feel very unnatural... *which is the point of this exercise!* These alternate writing positions are the only ways for a left-handed person to write “correctly”. Beyond being an exercise, think of this as a way of discovering movements in writing that are not typically considered in traditional calligraphy.

## QUESTIONS & SUGGESTIONS?

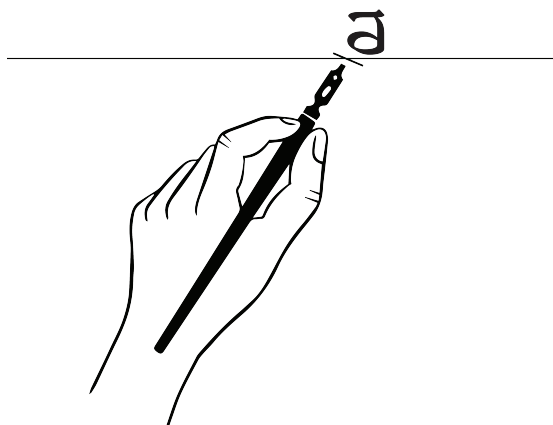
This workshop and all the ideas contained in it are very much a work in progress, and we would love to hear any feedback you may have! Additionally, if you have any questions in the weeks following, we would love to offer you more in depth advice. You can reach us by email at: [info@charlesandthorn.com](mailto:info@charlesandthorn.com)

## WORKSHOP LECTURE LINK

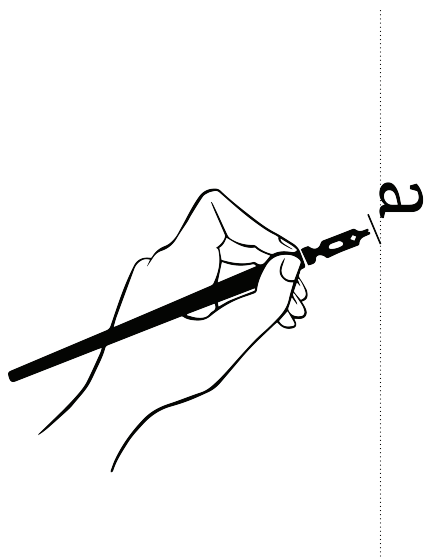
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/amt55gbj3d8pdcd/TheLeftHandedPath.zip?dl=0>



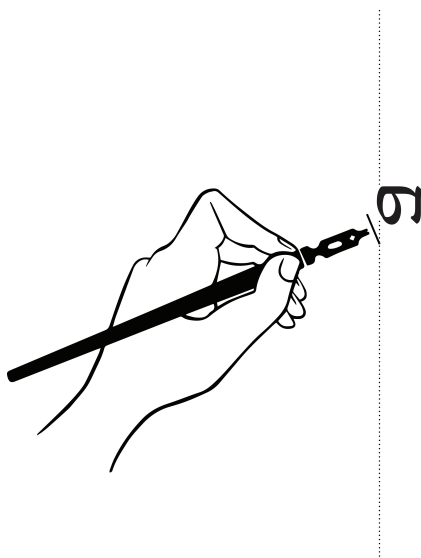
NATURAL WRITING POSITION – MIRRORED ROMAN



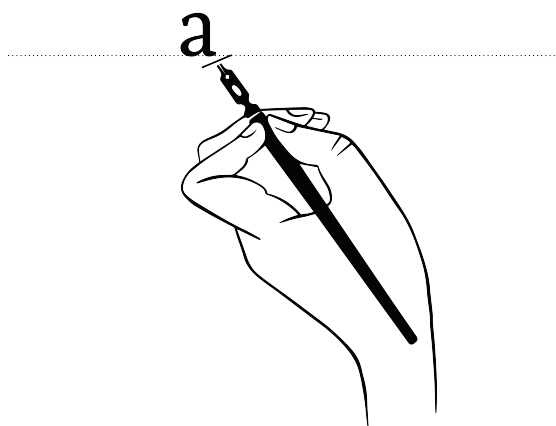
NATURAL WRITING POSITION – SINISTRAL



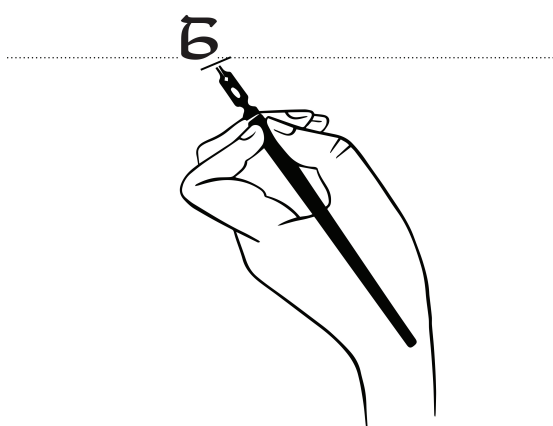
45 TO 90 DEGREES ROTATED – ROMAN



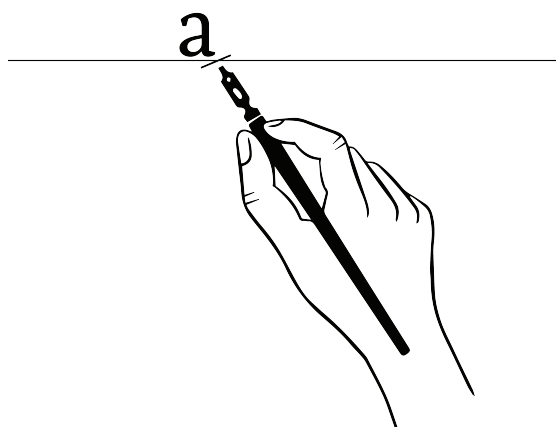
45 TO 90 DEGREES ROTATED – MIRRORED SINISTRAL



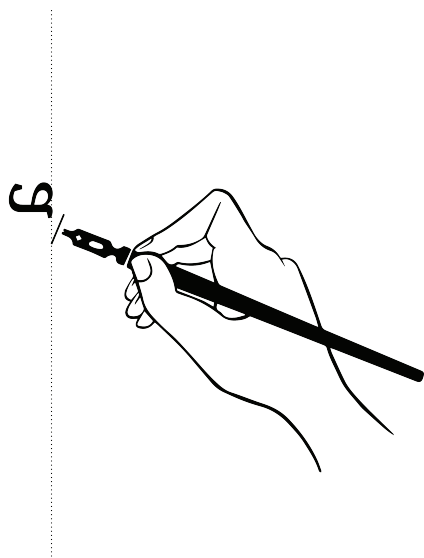
UNDERHAND – ROMAN



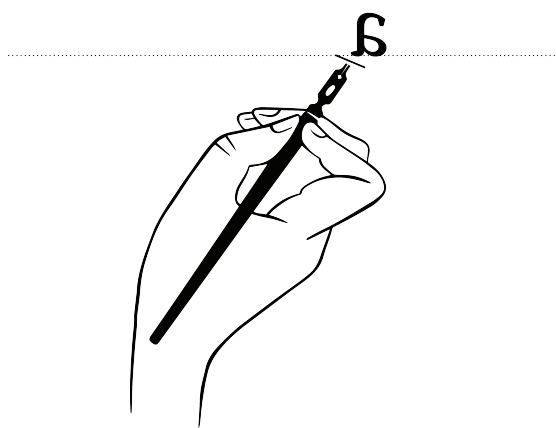
UNDERHAND – MIRRORED SINISTRAL



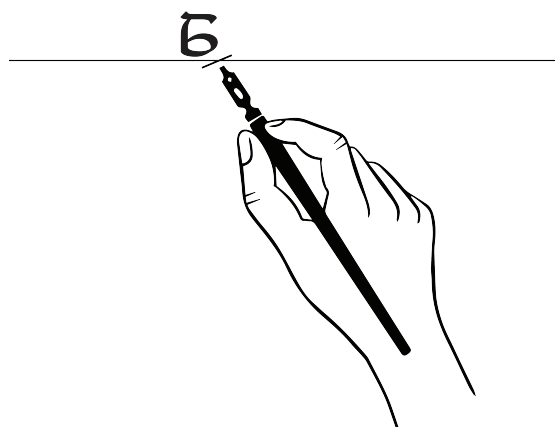
NATURAL WRITING POSITION – ROMAN



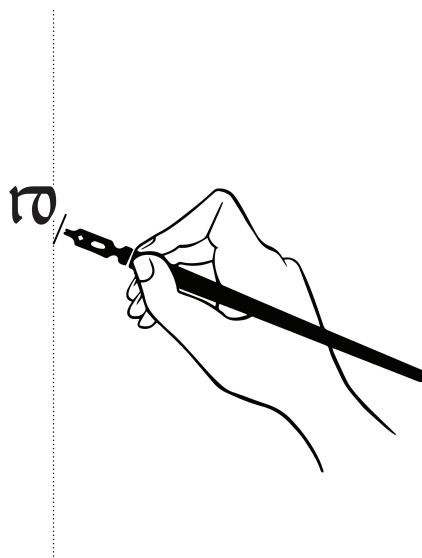
45 TO 90 DEGREES ROTATED – MIRRORED ROMAN



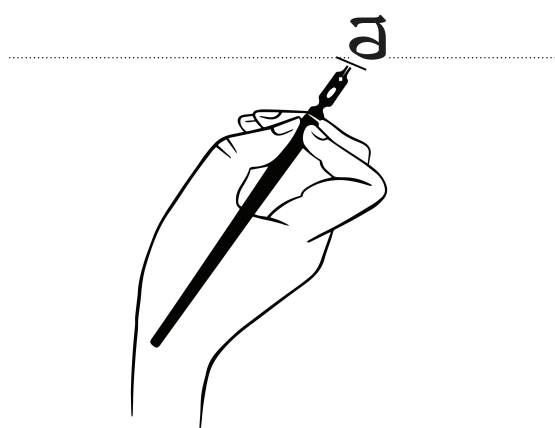
UNDERHAND – MIRRORED ROMAN



NATURAL WRITING POSITION – MIRRORED SINISTRAL



45 TO 90 DEGREES ROTATED – SINISTRAL



UNDERHAND – SINISTRAL



“Right” Reading, Roman Capitals (Right-Handed)



“Wrong” Reading, Roman Capitals (Left-Handed)



“Right” Reading, Sinistral Roman Capitals (Left-Handed)



“Wrong” Reading, Sinistral Roman Capitals (Right-Handed)

a b c d e f g h i j

k l m n o p q r

s t u v w x y z

\* agilt

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

j i r l g t e b c d a

r p q o n m l k

s y x w v u t z

t l i p a \*

o o 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

"Right" Reading, Roman Lowercase (Right-Handed)

"Wrong" Reading, Roman Lowercase (Left-Handed)

*a b c d e f g h i j k*

*l m n o p q r s*

*t u v w x y z*

*a g k u w y*

*a e f g h k m x y*

*k i j n p t e b c d a*

*z r p q o n m l*

*z y x w v u t*

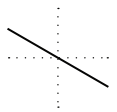
*u w a k g e*

*v x m e l h p t e a*

“Right” Reading, Italic Lowercase (Right-Handed)

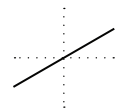
“Wrong” Reading, Italic Lowercase (Left-Handed)

a b c d e  
f g h i j k  
l m n o p  
q r s t u v  
w x y z



“Right” Reading, Sinistral Roman Lowercase (Left-Handed)

a b c d e  
f g h i j k  
l m n o p  
q r s t u v  
w x y z



“Wrong” Reading, Sinistral Roman Lowercase (Right-Handed)