

refilling so often, and when they get low on ink the density of the ink coverage can fade, made even more obvious when followed by a freshly filled nib, yielding a very dense flow.

Pencils are best avoided entirely, in my opinion, except for special effects. The line quality is so variable, and, like ball point pens, they require more finger pressure, leading to writing fatigue.

## THE CHARM OF A HANDWRITTEN JOURNAL

I started doing calligraphy when I was in high school. Its irregularities honed my interest in typography, which was so beautifully uniform; mechanical.

Nowadays, how often does one get anything handwritten? How often I see business envelopes (solicitations, usually) using digital imitations of handwriting. Uniform still; mechanical still.

Real handwriting whispers, "This was written by a human, not a machine."

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### COLOPHON

PUBLISHED BY BILL BOYS, 184 REINHARD AVE., COLUMBUS OHIO 43206. ORIGINAL PENNED BY A MODIFIED FOUNTAIN PEN, A PARKER 21, USING DIAMINE "BLUE VELVET" INK

## EASY JOURNAL *by Handwriting* No. 2, Dec. 2017

The first edition of this journal was intended for the November bundle but I erred in shipping it in the same package with a similar journal, but without internally wrapping them in separate packages. They ended up in a single stack as the bundles were stuffed and sealed, and partway through that, the error was discovered. So both editions will be in this bundle.

This may be a benefit: you can compare them side by side.

I'm making adjustments to the flag (also known as masthead) enlarging the x-height of the lettering a bit, leaving the line spacing the same 1/4-inch apart. I'm using a different pen, a Parker 21, but I modified the nib years ago by carefully grinding it to produce an italic, or stub, nib, which does nice thick and thin strokes. I've switched to 24-pound paper for the original because the ink feathered and ran together on the 20-pound I started with. The copies, likewise are on 24-pound. Hopefully that will eliminate or reduce show-through.

I am also taking a bit more care in forming the letters, drawing more carefully on my calligraphy background, but edition No. 1 is still a readable job. The only requirement for a handwritten journal, after all, is readability; nothing fancier is a necessity.

## HOW MANY WORDS IN A JOURNAL WITH THIS ENLARGED LETTERING?

Instead of 8 or 9 words in a line, this slightly larger x-height also has the effect of broadening the letters a bit, too. I get about an average of 7 words per line, yielding about 700 words for this journal. Excluding art work, lines with large indentations such as poetry, and the like, of course.

One can, of course, vary lettering size at will, as well as line height. Switching in these few lines to a line-spacing of just  $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch condenses the text dramatically. Too much so for lines this wide, if one goes by the rule of thumb that lines of type should be not much longer than twice the length of a lower-case alphabet. These first six lines yield a character count of 57 characters per line. Counts this high make it easy for the eye to skip or repeat a line when reading. I myself prefer line lengths of about 39, an alphabet and a half. If I were to attempt a journal of this size with letters this small, I would put two columns on each page, not just one.

## SOME OTHER WRITING TOOLS

I like fountain pens for the easy flow of a good ink, whether straight nibbed, flexnibbed, or italic nibbed; and for the fact they draw their lines without tiring hand pressure. A good, clean pen with a good-flowing ink will write a line with nothing more than its own weight. Example:

This one, as you see, required two extra little pushes, but it is still a pleasure to write with.

An ordinary ball point pen requires more pressure, and cheaper ones don't deliver a uniform stroke. A gel ball point is a much better tool.

Markers can work as long as their ink doesn't feather away into the fibers of the paper, and they are finer-pointed rather than thick-pointed. I even took a sharp knife to the standard round nib of a narrow marker (0.3 mm) once and cut it into an italic, or stub, nib. The results were not perfect, but satisfactory.

Dip pens, such as Speedball, for example offer wide nib choices, but they need