

# Carolingian Alphabet

Ascenders are more than body height

I 2 pen.

Descenders are more than body height

Let it be wide

a

Keep the edges of the club serif rounded

The serif was actually formed ↓ but with a large pen that's hard to do smoothly. Quills allow much that steel doesn't.

b

c

d

e

Be sure the top curve is smaller than the bottom one.

It seems strange that these letters should have so many strokes - but those I studied at the Newberry library DO. Probably part of the effort to control the forms. They can be done in less, but forms tend to deteriorate.

Interestingly, I found some hastily done f's like this: f which gives us another notion of the ductus of this letter.

f

The ear of the g is all that's left of the big Roman G. Keep it parallel to the guide lines. GG ggg Do use it!

g

(Although some very distinguished scribes, among them Sanvito & E. Johnston, left it off sometimes.) Certainly, NEVER g

h

The pointed toe reminds us of uncial ancestors.

no jots over i at this point in history.

i

l

m

Except for our artificially constructed serif, do it all in one stroke.

n

o

The 9th cen. scribes DID use 2 strokes - even though they wrote very small letters.

p

start no 3 down on the base line.

q pause

All of my facsimiles show the exclusive use of the longs with Carolingian

r

f

t

u

v

All of these letters can be done in one stroke, but the original fragments I have been able to examine give evidence of multiple strokes.

x

y

z

j

j was not used until the 12th cen. & it wasn't until the 16th that scribes began to differentiate between i & j.

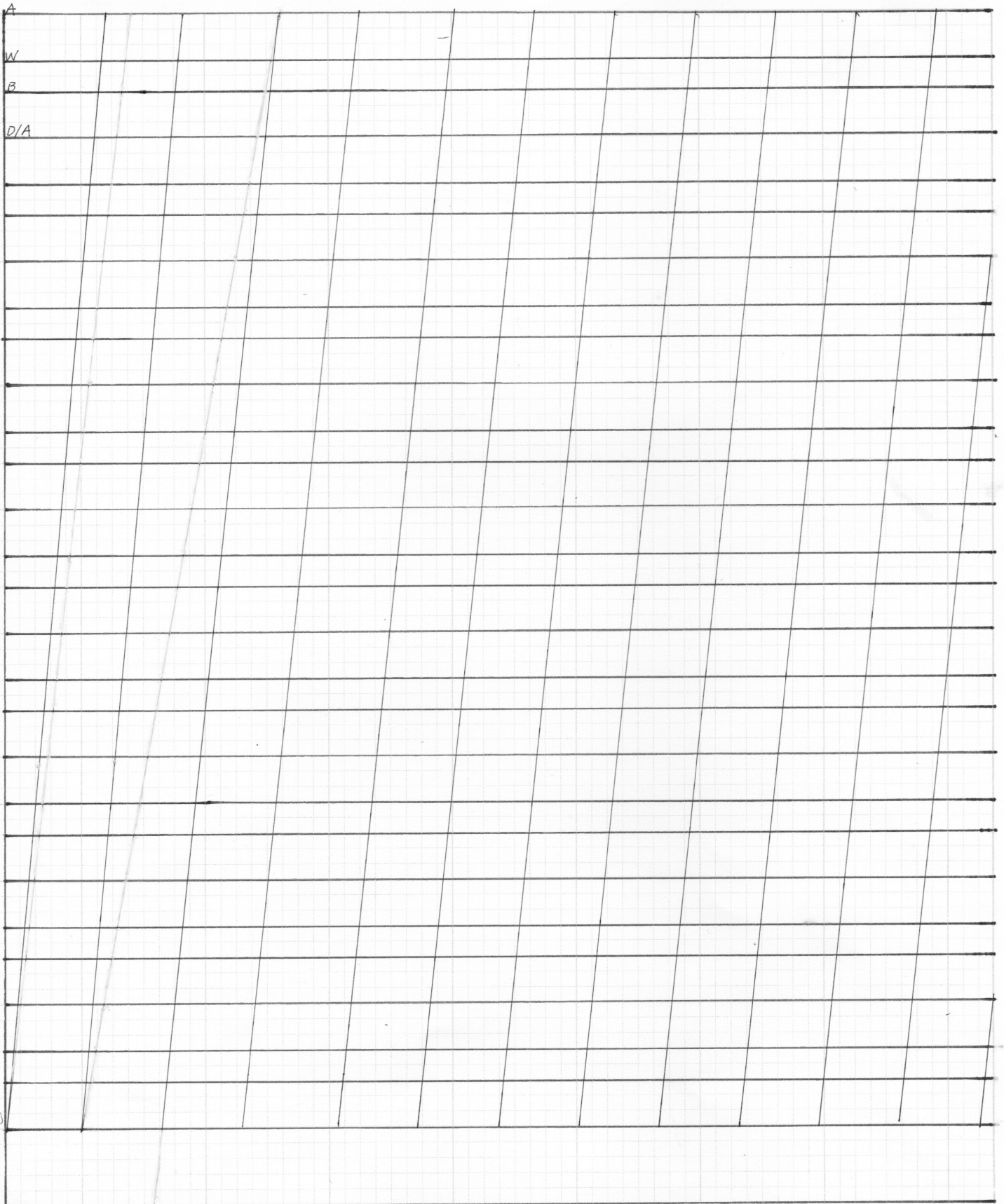
k

s

It is difficult to squeeze a good s into 2 pen widths. Let it drop below the line if necessary.

w

Beware of too much curve in v & w.



Carolingian - C-2 nib 5° slant 30° pa

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

Carolingian 5° slant © 2014

② Modern Carolingian

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

m n o p q r s t t

v w x y z z k

X = 2 PW

ASCENDERS = 4 PW

DESCENDERS = 4 PW

PEN ANGLE = 20°-30°

SLANT = 3°

Carole Taylor  
2007

A  
W  
B  
D/A

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 et

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

Carolingian - C-2 nib 5° slant 30° pa

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