

HOME

WRITING EFFECT

- -----> [DOWNLOAD THE .FLA FILE](#)
- **SKILL LEVEL: DIFFICULT / ADVANCED !!!**
- Know how to use Motion Guides is a MUST
- Know how to tween
- Know how to use frames and lots of 'em!

Shockwave file:

My forewarning :

This tutorial was VERY hard for me. It's not so much that you have to know a lot about Flash, it just takes a long time to do the effect and get it right. You will get hung up on letters that have crosses such as letter T's -- that is if you wanna go back and cross them at the end. If you're not crossing them at the end it's no problem. Letters with dots (I's, J's, etc..) might give you some trouble also.

I worked on this example for probably 3 hours and right before I 'thought' I was done the first time the timing was totally different between what was being written and the pencil actually following the line.

WOW! Then I had to go and redo it a second time taking it from a better/easier approach. This is what I will show you below. With this tutorial it is very important (to make it easier) to follow the steps in the particular order. Otherwise your timing will be off at the end.

Also I won't be showing you how to do motion guides here or deal with frames. You MUST know that before doing this. Otherwise this tutorial would be waaaay to long :)

TUTORIAL

1. First off you need to pick the lucky item you will write with: Pencil, Pen, Ink Feather, Finger, whatever....
Make this item a graphic symbol. Make extra sure that the TIP of the pencil is on the crosshairs in the Edit Symbols area. Place the graphic into a layer called 'Pencil' at Frame #1. Make sure this layer is the top layer at all times.
2. Create a new layer called 'Text' and type the text you want the pencil to write. This will be the 'official' text it will show it writing. So make sure you choose well. You don't wanna get halfway through this then decide you don't want that text!!
3. On the 'Pencil' layer you will insert a motion guide. Lock your layer with the text on it. In the motion guide trace your text for the path the pencil will follow using the pencil tool.
TIP!! - Don't (whatever you do) overlap your lines, otherwise the pencil won't follow it (i.e. tracing back down a letter T or I for instance). You can make an intersection though like in a small letter E. Also be sure that there are no gaps. You want this to be one smooth line. It doesn't matter if it's sloppy as long as it stay in the general vicinity inside the text :)



4. Now, go to your layer with the pencil in Frame #1. Snap you pencil to the beginning of your motion guide. Then about 60 frames down make a keyframe and snap it to the other end. (The more frames you have the more detailed the writing will be. If you don't want a lot of work make less frames but get a less detailed look.) Tween from frame 1 and make sure it's following the path. Don't know how to do motion guides [click here](#) <-----
Check it out. The pencil is following the path ok, it's at a reasonable frame rate... you like it?? If you don't like it fix it to where you want it. This is an absolute! Everything that we've done up until now you must be satisfied with. The next step we will create the text drawing, this takes LOTS of time so make sure it's worth while and you are all set :)

5. On the text layer break apart the text. You will need to create keyframes throughout your whole pencil tweening animation. Using the pencil animation as a guide erase the rest of the text after the tip of your pencil. Do this with every frame. It takes a long time. See the picture below. This will make sure that your animation is right on track.



6. That should be it!! Like I said this is not hard to do, it is just tedious. So take your time and be patient. Be logical with the animation and think about how you would like it to look.

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