

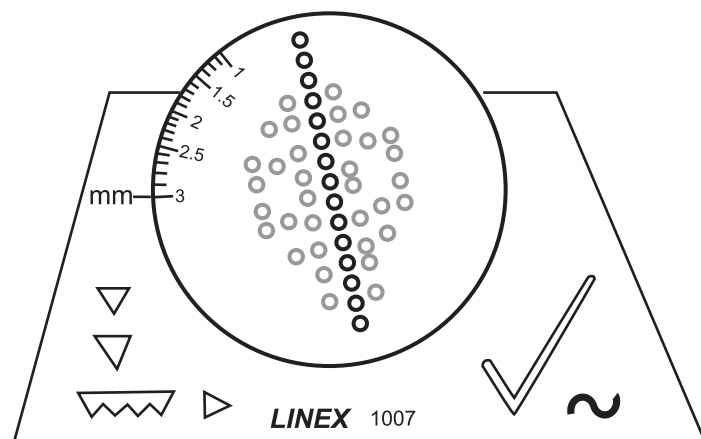
Using the Linex Parallelograph for Calligraphers

Welcome to the Linex Parallelograph, a device that makes drawing precisely-spaced parallel lines a simpler task. Reggie Ezell recommends this over the more common Ames Lettering Guide because he has found it more accurate for metric measurements.

With a little bit of practice, a T-square, a smooth hard surface, and a sharp pencil, this clever gadget will help you generate excellent guidelines for calligraphy.

For our purposes, we will be using only the center row of holes and the mm measurements as shown along the edge of the rotating disc.

First, you will need to calculate the space you need between lines, and the space you need between writing lines.

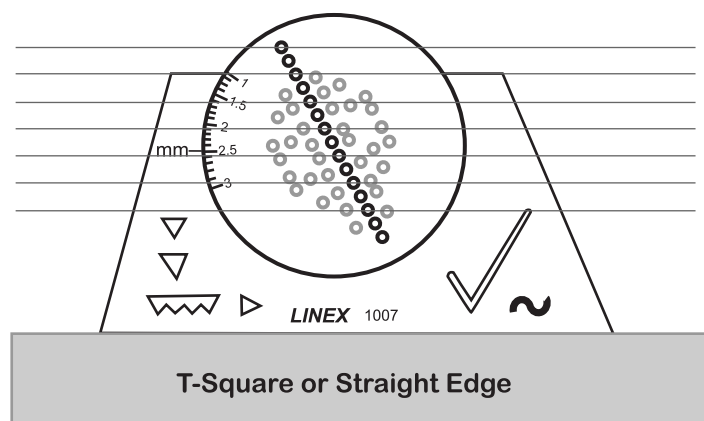


For parallel lines which are precisely 5mm apart, rotate the disc so that the 2.5 mark meets the mm mark on the left side of the device. Follow the instructions above, skipping every other hole ($2.5 + 2.5 = 5$).

Basic Lining

To generate parallel lines which are precisely 2mm apart, simply rotate the disc so that the 2 mark meets the mm mark on the left side of the device. Then, using a sharp pencil and a firm surface, place the bottom of the device against a straight edge (usually a T-square). With the pencil in the top hole, gently drag the device along the edge of your T-square. Then place the pencil into the next hole and repeat.

To generate parallel lines which are precisely 4mm apart, rotate the disc so that the 2 mark meets the mm mark on the left side of the device. Then place the bottom of the device against a straight edge (T-square). With the pencil in the top hole, gently drag the device along the edge of your T-square. SKIP THE SECOND HOLE. Place the pencil into the third hole and drag the device gently along the edge of the T-square. You now have two parallel lines which are 4mm apart. That was easy!



There are four 'tick' marks between each of the numbered measurements. Each of these represents .1mm : to generate lines 2.8mm apart, set the disc at $2.5 + 3$ 'ticks.' This may seem a bit too much like math for those of us who are numerically-challenged but the precision is worth the extra calculation.

Using the Linex Parallelograph for Calligraphers: Page Two

Irregular Spacing: Ascenders and Descenders

Suppose you need a writing line space of 5mm with 7.5mm space for ascenders and descenders, and another 2.5mm between each group.

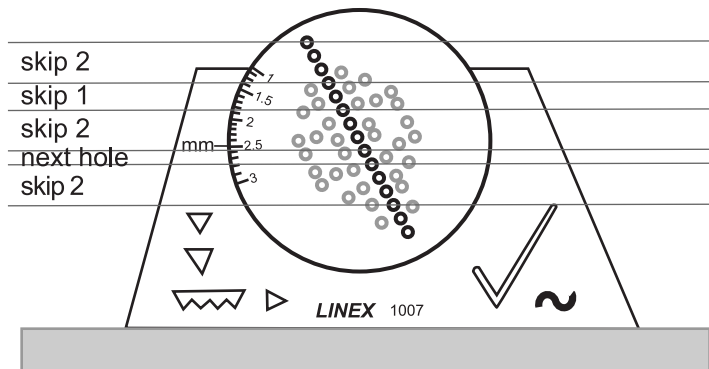
Begin by setting the disc at the 2.5 mark; all of these measurements have this as a common denominator. Your first line will be made using the top hole of the device. Skip two holes ($2.5 + 2.5 = 7.5$) and draw the second line.

The third line is at 5mm, so skip only one hole ($2.5 + 2.5 = 5$). Repeat the above instructions for your fourth line, which will hold the descenders.

The fifth line is only 2.5mm down, so you will use the next hole.

Ascender Line		Ascender Space 7.5mm
Waist Line	X - Height 5mm	
Base Line		Descender Space 7.5mm
Descender Line	Interlinear Space 2.5mm	
Ascender Line		Ascender Space 7.5mm
Waist Line		

To make these lines, count this pattern of holes:



You may want to write out your pattern on a separate piece of paper.

skip 2
skip 1
skip 2
next hole

So far, so good! But now we're out of holes and we still need more lines. Why is this thing so small?

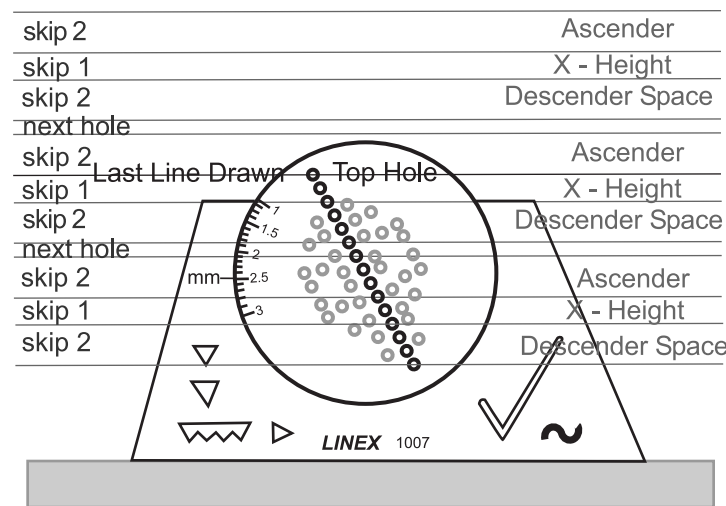
The Next Set of Lines

We need to move the device in order to create more lines. This is not as scary as it sounds. Simply move your T-square down about four inches. Place the first hole of the device against the last line you drew and adjust your T-square so that the line shows through the first hole all the way across the paper. Check it again at both ends of the last line; a mistake here affects all the lines you draw after this.

SKIP THE FIRST HOLE.

This is the last line of the last batch, and not part of the group you're now working on.

DO NOT COUNT THE FIRST HOLE. Begin counting from the SECOND HOLE, continuing with the pattern you've established. Here, we will not skip two holes as we did with our previous set of lines. Remember that the pattern is the key!



Help! I'm at the Bottom of the Paper!

All is not lost! Simply lift the lining device and the T-square, turn your paper if you like, and place the BOTTOM hole against the last line drawn. Proceed with your pattern, counting up the row from the BOTTOM hole rather than the top. It works - honest!