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Fonts, fonts, fonts, they are everywhere.

You need a font, and you start looking through the library and realize they are not organized very well. That's where I am today.

I got up thinking, "It's a good day to create artwork." And It looks like I will have to switch out Museo Sans, because the smart quotes are the same as dumb quotes, but not today. How often do you come across something like that? I spent a decade or so learning about typography and the best way to use it. Then I get let down by a font.

I started in on font organization because I wanted to look through script fonts. I heard someone say you can search fonts by category. Yes, but, not all fonts have the keywords you want to associate with them. I want a handwritten font. I search the font manager for hand, or handwritten, and get no results. I know there's at least one, because I stumbled upon it when I organized the first hundred or so fonts from the font manager. It is called *Ruling Script LT Std 2*. I like the font, I see it more as a handwritten font than a script font. What are your thoughts?

I think a script font has joined up letters. Handwritten fonts may or may not have joined up letters. The original construction of this font was made with a ruling pen. A ruling pen is hard to describe, time for a photo shoot. A

ruling pen is a device for making variable line widths or thicknesses. It is similar to a dip pen, in that the device has to be dipped into ink in order to make a line. The screw, with the wheel attached to the end, determined the line thickness. Here it really should be mentioned, they are not easy to write with. It can be definitely said that no two letters will look the same. The exception is the font. Here are the results of a YouTube search that show creatives using this device for lettering.

I also believe that if a full page of text were set with this font, it would be difficult to read. I think this goes back to what I said earlier about this not being a truly script font with joined up letters. If you took any time to watch

the videos I linked in the previous paragraph, you will see that letter creation is on a grand scale. There are few if any creatives out there that can write with a ruling pen on a small scale. Or at that least, write on a small scale and preserve the amount of detail seen in the font.

Do a quick search on ruling pens, to see what is available for purchase, and you will find a variety of pens. Here are the results of a quick Google search. Personally, I'll take one of each, just so that I can learn how they work. Realistically, I'll stick with the one I have.

The name "ruling pen," refers to a device that makes lines. Straight lines, that is. Load the pen up with ink, drop a ruler or straight edge on the paper, and draw the line to follow the edge of the ruler. They used to be standard issue for a graphic designer. These pens were not for drawing hairline rules, I had a 0.5 point technical pen for that. These pens were for making one point lines, up to about six point lines. Back in the day, I would draw the line on a spare piece of paper, cut it to length, and glue it down to the art board. The difficulty came in setting the width of the line. I would have to have a source of known line widths, and dial in the gap before dipping the pen in ink.

You can even make your own ruling pen out of a soda can. There are Calligraphic YouTubers that can show you how to make a ruling pen. Here are some of the YouTube search results. Have I tried making on? You bet. Did it work? Absolutely. Here is a photo of the pen I made and

one handwriting sample. The sample filled the width of a 5.5 by 8.5 inch sheet of paper. Writing PJ turned out differently than the way I would normally write it. This version of the ruling pen is called a folded pen. Manufactured folding pens can be purchased as well. Here are the results of the Google search.

I have art for sale, or merch if you want to call it that. Please see my Merch Webpage for more details.
http://pjcassel.com/merch.html

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