

## Calligraphy nib comparison chart

An extracted web help page from <http://ornasonova.com/StickyCalligraphy.htm>

The calligraphy nibs in most popular brands are shown in the chart below, with the actual width in millimetres in the leftmost column. On the tables right side is a quick reference for multiplying nib sizes, to make nib guidelines easier to make up on a blank sheet.

Each of the brand names on this table is clickable, so you can go directly to the webpage for each item and see pictures of these nibs, or make purchases.

# The measured sizes are approximate only and serve as guides for the selection of nibs in the kind of size you need for a job.

# Please bear in mind that the brands: Speedball C, Brause, Hiro/Leonardt TAPE & Hiro/Leonardt ROND are right oblique tipped, that is where the angle of the nib is ground down on a slight rightward slant. These nibs suit upright styles of calligraphy, like Gothic & Uncial/Celtic, Foundation hand, etc.

# A local Calligraphy group calculated and supplied the line height measurement parts on the right side of this chart, for which we thank them.

| Sizes in    |                 | William Mitchell Right | Speedball        | Brause        | Hiro Leonardt | Hiro Leonardt    | Line Height (mm) measures |              |              |              |
|-------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Millimetres | Osmiroid Gold   | Hand Bronze            | Series C S/Steel | Italic Bronze | TAPE Bronze   | ROND Gilt/Nickel | 3 nib widths              | 4 nib widths | 5 nib widths | 7 nib widths |
| 0.50mm      | Italic Ext Fine | Size 6                 | Size 6           | ½ mm          | ½ mm          | Size 6           | 1.5mm                     | 2mm          | 2.5mm        | 3.5mm        |
| 0.60mm      | --              | Size 5                 | --               | --            | --            | Size 5           | 1.8mm                     | 2.4mm        | 3mm          | 4.2mm        |
| 0.75mm      | Italic Fine     | Size 4                 | --               | ¾ mm          | --            | Size 4           | 2.25mm                    | 3mm          | 3.75mm       | 5.25mm       |
| 1.00mm      | Italic Medium   | Size 3 ½               | Size 5           | 1 mm          | 1 mm          | Size 3 ½         | 3mm                       | 4mm          | 5mm          | 7mm          |
| 1.25mm      | Italic Broad    | Size 3                 | --               | --            | --            | Size 3           | 3.75mm                    | 5mm          | 6.25mm       | 8.75mm       |
| 1.50mm      | B2              | Size 2 ½               | Size 4           | 1 ½ mm        | 1 ½ mm        | Size 2 ½         | 4.5mm                     | 6mm          | 7.5mm        | 10.5mm       |
| 2.00mm      | B3              | Size 2                 | Size 3           | 2 mm          | 2 mm          | Size 2           | 6mm                       | 8mm          | 10mm         | 14mm         |
| 2.50mm      | B4              | Size 1 ½               | --               | 2 ½ mm        | 2 ½ mm        | Size 1 ½         | 7.5mm                     | 10mm         | 12.5mm       | 17.5mm       |
| 3.00mm      | B5              | Size 1                 | Size 2           | 3 mm          | 3 mm          | Size 1           | 9mm                       | 12mm         | 15mm         | 21mm         |
| 3.50mm      | B6              | --                     | Size 1           | 3 ½ mm        | --            | --               | 10.5mm                    | 14mm         | 17.5mm       | 24.5mm       |
| 4.00mm      | B8              | Size 0                 | -                | 4 mm          | 4 mm          | --               | 12mm                      | 16mm         | 20mm         | 28mm         |
| 5.00mm      | B10             | --                     | Size 0           | 5 mm          | --            | --               | 15mm                      | 20mm         | 25mm         | 35mm         |

@ This chart is also helpful for people wishing to make GUIDELINES using the Scribblers websites 'Printable Guideline Making' webpage.

See our other DOWNLOADABLE HELP files for this and other Calligraphers Help files.