

Living
Legacy 
Celebrating our Heritage

TORAH FACTORY

SCRIBE'S KIT

CLASSIFIED:
OPEN FOR A
LEARNING
EXPERIENCE

השרטוט THE LINES

THE LINES ON THE PARCHMENT ARE RULED WITH A STYLUS, WHICH LEAVES AN IMPRESSION ON IT, BUT NO COLOR TRACES. THESE IMPRESSIONS ENSURE THAT THE SCRIBE WRITES EVEN LINES. THE SCRIBE WRITES THE TORAH WITH THE TOP OF EACH LETTER JUST BELOW THE LINE, UNLIKE SCRIPT THAT IS COMMONLY WRITTEN ABOVE THE LINE.

הסופר THE SCRIBE

In Hebrew, a scribe is called a sofer. This name originates from the Hebrew word sefer (book). The sofer prepares himself spiritually before beginning the holy task of writing a Sefer Torah in the proper way. He directs all his thoughts to the holy task of writing for G-d's sake.

THE INK & QUILL

הדיו והקולמוס

Special durable black ink is used in writing the Torah. No other color, even gold, is permitted.

A kulmus (quill) made of a reed or a feather from a kosher bird is used for the writing. The quill is sharpened in such a way that it can write in thick and thin lines, as required.

הקלף THE SCROLL

The scrolls of the Torah are specially treated parchment made from the skin of a kosher animal. Since there are no skins large enough to accommodate the writing of a whole Torah, more than eighty yeriot (sections) are sewn together with special thread made from animal tendons.

There are thousands of laws and regulations that must be observed in creating a Sefer Torah.

When the Torah is almost completed, a festive celebration called Siyum HaTorah is arranged. The Sefer Torah is then covered with a velvet cover and adorned with a keter (crown), frontplate and other objects that add to the beauty of the mitzvah.

How To Cut A Quill

CAUTION:

Cutting the quill should be done under adult supervision, as a sharp knife is needed and can be dangerous.

For the quill:

To do this at home you can use a craft feather or a straw could work,

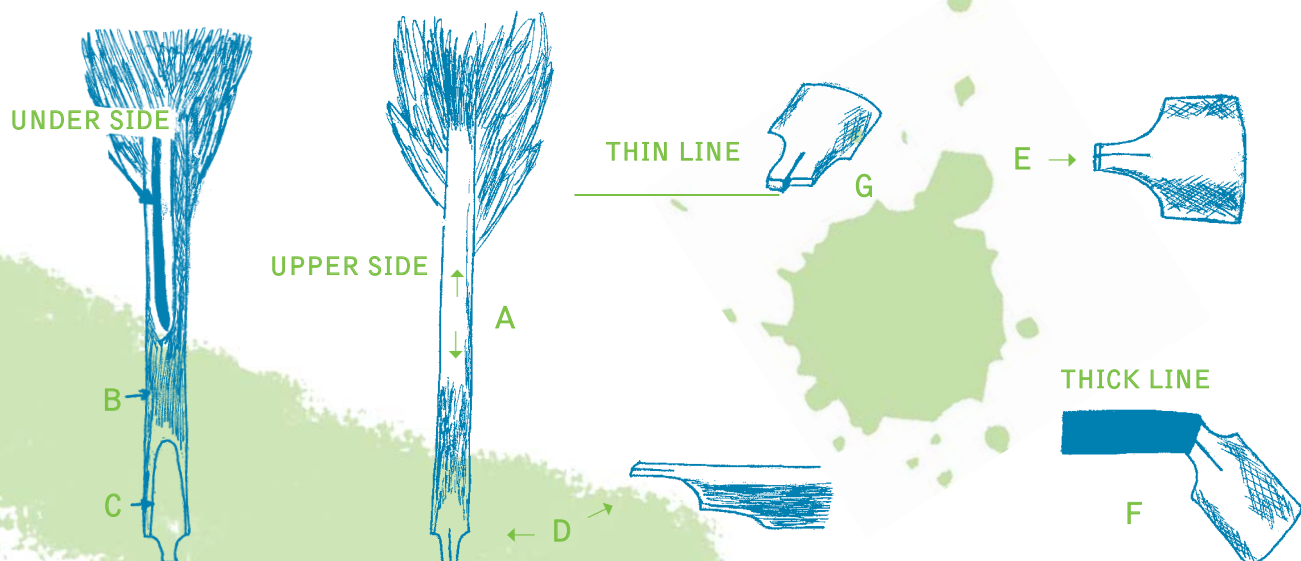
For the Ink:

you can use black craft paint diluted with warm water

FEATHER SHOULD BE SOAKED IN WARM WATER PRIOR TO CUTTING.

1. Study your feather carefully. It has an upper side (A) and an under side (B).
2. With a sharp knife or blade, cut the under side of the feather at a slant to expose the hollow part of the quill (C).
3. With a very thin, sharp blade, cut a small slit at the point of the quill (D)
4. Carefully carve the point of the quill to the desired width. The width of the point will determine the width of the letters formed with this quill (E).
5. Place the point on a flat surface and cut back the point to ensure a sharp, fine line as you write.
6. Dip the tip of your quill into the bottle of ink.
7. As you pull the quill across the parchment, using the full width will create a thick line (F). As you pivot the quill on its point, you will write a thin, sharp line (G).

PRACTICE THE STROKES ON A SCRAP PAPER BEFORE WRITING ON THE PARCHMENT.



STEP BY STEP ALEPH-BET

The image shows a large sheet of crumpled paper with Hebrew letters and their stroke order numbers for tracing. The letters are arranged in two columns, separated by a vertical line. The letters on the left are: א, ב, ג, ד, ה, ו, ז, ח, ט, י, כ, ל, מ, נ, ס, ע, פ, ק, ר, ש, ת. The letters on the right are: א, ב, ג, ד, ה, ו, ז, ח, ט, י, כ, ל, מ, נ, ס, ע, פ, ק, ר, ש, ת. Each letter is accompanied by small numbers indicating the stroke order. A blue quill pen is positioned diagonally across the top of the paper, pointing towards the right.