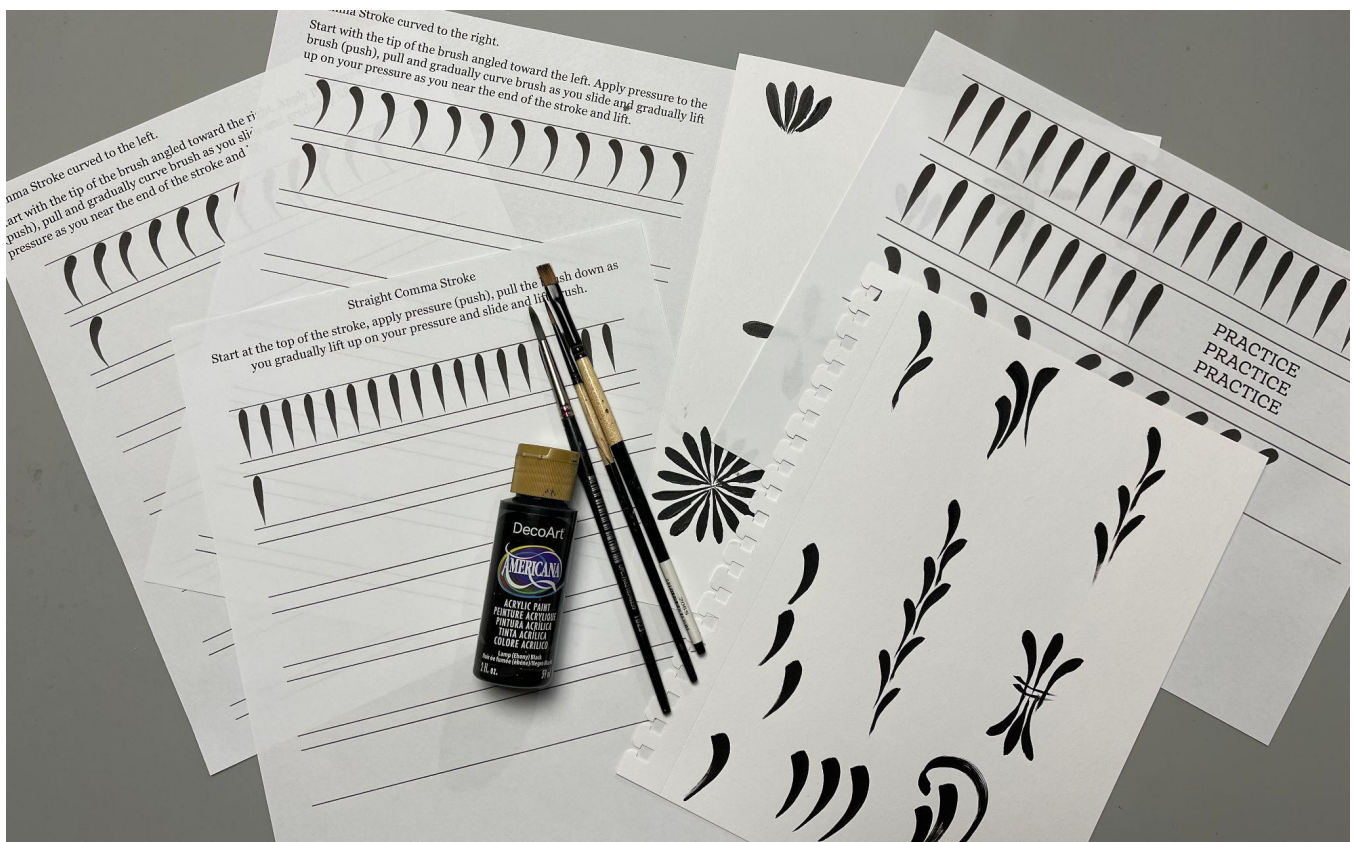


# DecoArt®

## MADE FOR MAKERS®

### Basic Strokes - Comma Stroke

*Lesson By Sandy McTier*



Learning the comma stroke is one of the best ways to learn brush control. It's a very versatile stroke that can be painted straight, or curved to the left or right to create borders, flowers, scroll work, and so much more!

Print this page off and place it into a page protector to practice right over the worksheet.

In this lesson, we're going to paint comma strokes with a round brush, a flat brush, and a liner brush. We'll paint the comma stroke in all directions and then combine some strokes to create a simple daisy as well as a couple decorative borders.

1. Wet your brush and blot on a paper towel.
2. Load the brush with paint. Apply pressure to the brush, pull and gradually lift up on your pressure to end the stroke.

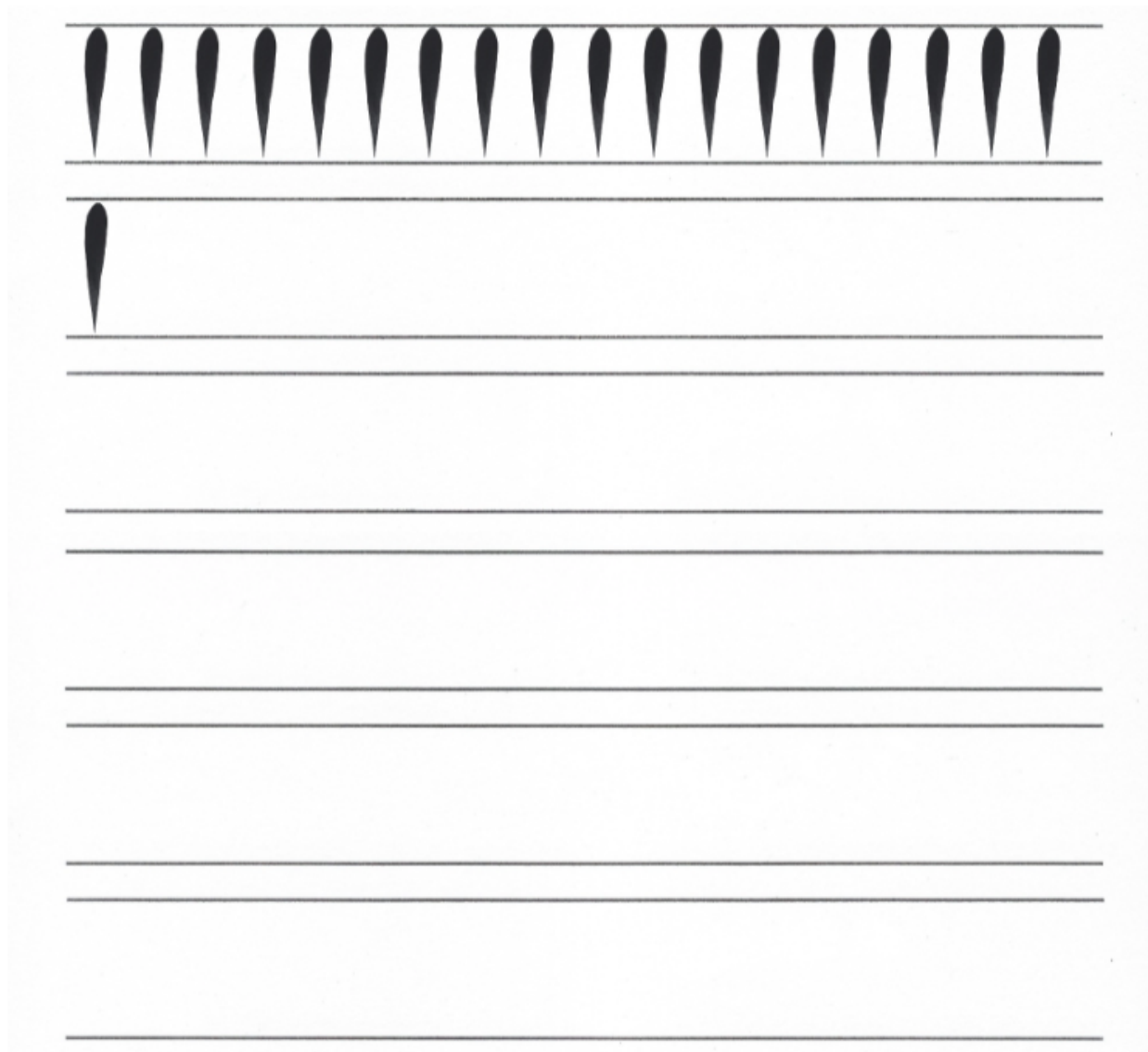
Think – push, pull, slide, and lift.

## **Tips**

1. When using a round or liner brush, thin the paint a little with water to help the paint move fluidly as you paint the stroke.
2. Always start at the tip of the stroke. Angle the brush to the left or right when painting the curved comma strokes.
3. You can paint the comma stroke with a flat brush using the flat side of the brush. However, you can also sit on the corner of the brush, push, pull, slide, and lift to paint comma strokes.
4. You want flat brushes to have a nice, crisp chisel edge and you want your round brushes and liners to come to a nice pointed tip.
5. Loosen up your grip on the brush so that it moves and flows easily.
6. PRACTICE! PRACTICE! PRACTICE! If you want to get better at stroke work, practice it often. For years, I've made it a habit after every time I paint, to use my leftover paint on my palette to paint a few practice strokes on some scratch paper.

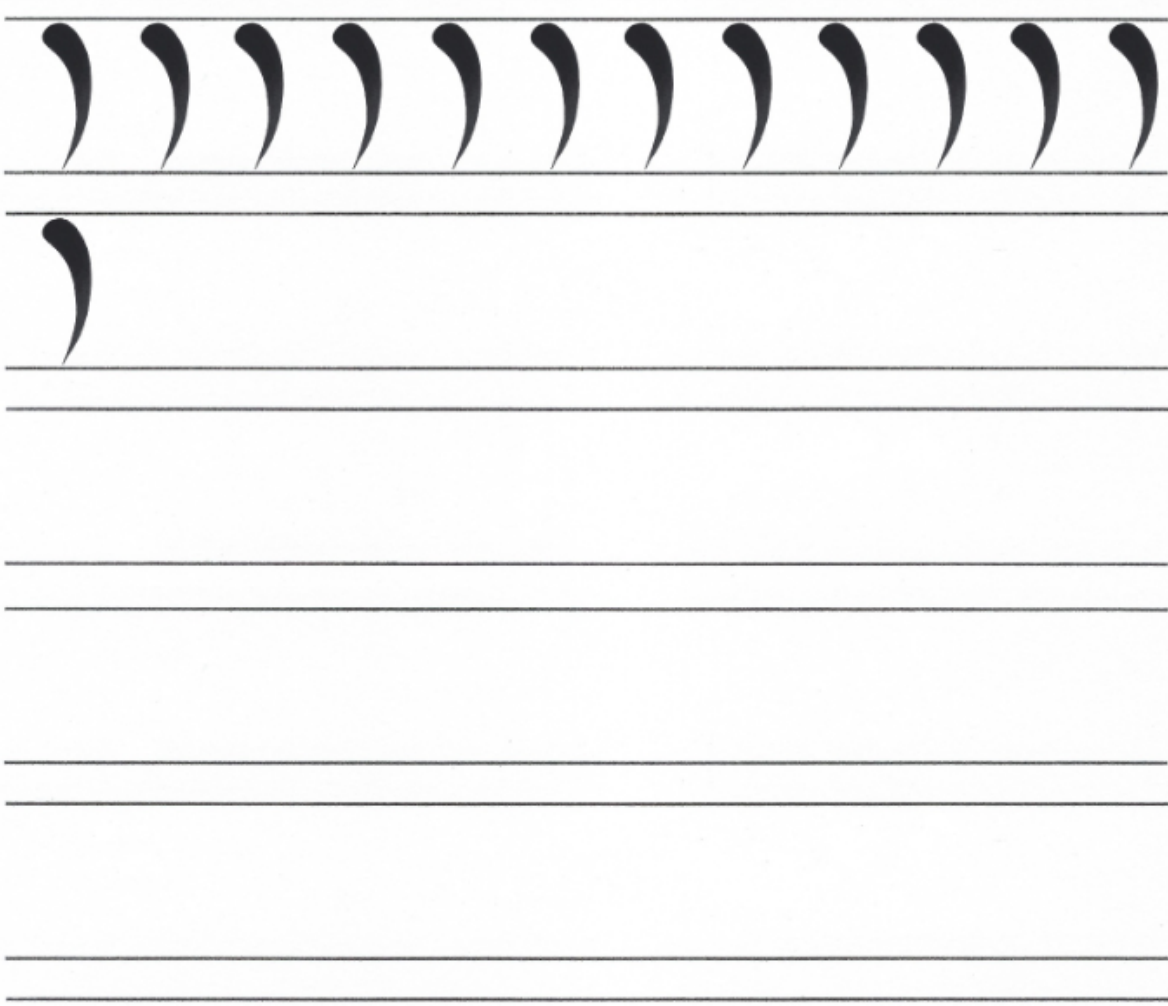
## Straight Comma Stroke

Start at the top of the stroke, apply pressure (push) and pull the brush down as you gradually lift up on your pressure and slide and lift the brush.



## Comma Stroke curved to the right

Start with the tip of the brush angled toward the left. Apply pressure to the brush (push), pull, and gradually curve the brush as you slide and gradually lift up on your pressure as you near the end of the stroke and lift.



## Comma Stroke curved to the left

Start with the tip of the brush angled toward the right. Apply pressure to the brush (push), pull, and gradually curve the brush as you slide and gradually lift up on your pressure as you near the end of the stroke and lift.

