



# ROCKLER®

WOODWORKING AND HARDWARE

Create with Confidence™

## Interlock Signmaker's Script Font Template Instructions

Effective December 2020



Review full instructions prior to use for important safety information.  
Always check [Rockler.com](http://Rockler.com) to confirm that you are using the most recent version of instructions for your product.

## GENERAL SAFETY WARNINGS

This product is designed only for specific applications as defined in the instructions and should not be modified or used for any manner not described in these instructions. Use only recommended accessories. Before using the Interlock Signmaker's Script Font Templates: **READ, UNDERSTAND** and **FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS AND SAFETY WARNINGS. KEEP THESE INSTRUCTIONS READILY AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.**

- > Always confirm that you are using the most recent version of the Instructions and safety warnings for your product (see the Instructions link on the product page at Rockler.com).
- > Before using another tool with this product, always read, understand and follow the instructions and safety warnings in the owner's manual for that tool. If you do not have the owner's manual, obtain one from the tool's manufacturer before using it with this product.
- > Before using any chemical with this product, always read, understand and follow all safety warnings and guidelines in the manufacturer's Safety Data Sheet (SDS; formerly called "MSDS"), especially regarding:
  - How to safely use the chemical, including potential hazards and recommended first aid measures;
  - Personal safety equipment required to safely use the chemical (e.g. gloves, eye protection, mask/respirator, etc.);
  - Proper and safe handling, storage and disposal of the chemical.
- > Before using this product, review and verify that all tools to be used with it have safety equipment installed and are in proper working order as defined by the tool's owner's manual.
- > Do not use this product until you have read and are confident you understand:
  - Product Specific Safety Warnings (p. 3);
  - System Explanation (pp. 4 - 5);
  - Lowercase Letter Step-by-Step (pp. 6 - 7);
  - Capital Letters Step-by-Step (pp. 6 - 7);
  - Words Including Lowercase "i" and "j" Step-by-Step (pp. 8 - 11).
- > The user assumes all risk and responsibility for the proper and safe use of this product and for ensuring product suitability for the intended application.
- > It is the sole responsibility of the purchaser of this product to ensure that any anyone you allow to use this product reads and complies with all instructions and safety precautions outlined in this manual prior to use.
- > Follow all standard shop safety practices, including:
  - Keep children and bystanders away from the tool operating area;
  - Do **NOT** use power tools in explosive environments, or in the presence of flammable liquids, fumes or dust;
  - **TURN OFF AND UNPLUG** all power tools **BEFORE** making any adjustments or changing accessories;
  - Remain alert and use good judgment. Do not use this product if you are in any way impaired by medications, alcohol, drugs or fatigue;
  - Keep your work area well lit and clean;
  - Dress appropriately. Secure loose clothing, remove all jewelry and tie up long hair before using this product;
  - **ALWAYS** wear safety glasses, hearing protection and respiratory protection that complies with NIOSH/OSHA/ANSI safety standards;
  - Use dust collection tools and dust face masks to reduce exposure to dust;
  - Use safety equipment such as featherboards, push sticks and push blocks, etc., when appropriate;
  - Maintain proper footing at all times and do not overreach;
  - Do **NOT** force woodworking tools.
- > These warnings and instructions do **NOT** represent the total of all information available regarding tool safety, use and technique. Always seek out opportunities to learn more and improve your skills and knowledge.

**⚠ WARNING:** Drilling, sawing, sanding or machining wood products can expose you to wood dust, a substance known to the State of California to cause cancer. Avoid inhaling wood dust or use a dust mask or other safeguards for personal protection. For more information go to [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood).

### **⚠ DANGER**

Danger indicates a hazardous situation that, if not avoided, will result in death or serious injury.

### **⚠ WARNING**

Warning indicates a hazardous situation that, if not avoided, could result in death or serious injury.

### **⚠ CAUTION**

Caution indicates a hazardous situation that, if not avoided, may result in minor or moderate injury or property damage.

### **NOTICE**

Notice indicates important or helpful information and/or user tips.

## PRODUCT SPECIFIC SAFETY WARNINGS



### **⚠ DANGER**

- > To avoid serious injury, keep hands and fingers away from spinning router bit. Maintain awareness of the bit at all times.

### **⚠ CAUTION**

- > Use Interlock Signmaker's Templates **ONLY** with a plunge router outfitted with a baseplate that can accept the included center guide bushing and retaining ring. Use of the templates with a fixed-base router is likely to result in damage to the templates and workpiece, as well as possible injury.
- > Always use the recommended size of router bit and guide bushing for your template set. Failure to do so could result in damage to the templates and workpiece, as well as possible injury.
- > Always secure the templates to your workpiece and your workpiece to the work surface. Failure to do so could result in damage to the templates and workpiece, as well as possible injury.
- > Always allow the plunge mechanism on your router to fully retract the bit at the completion of a letter before moving the router to the template of the next letter. Failure to do so could result in damage to the template.

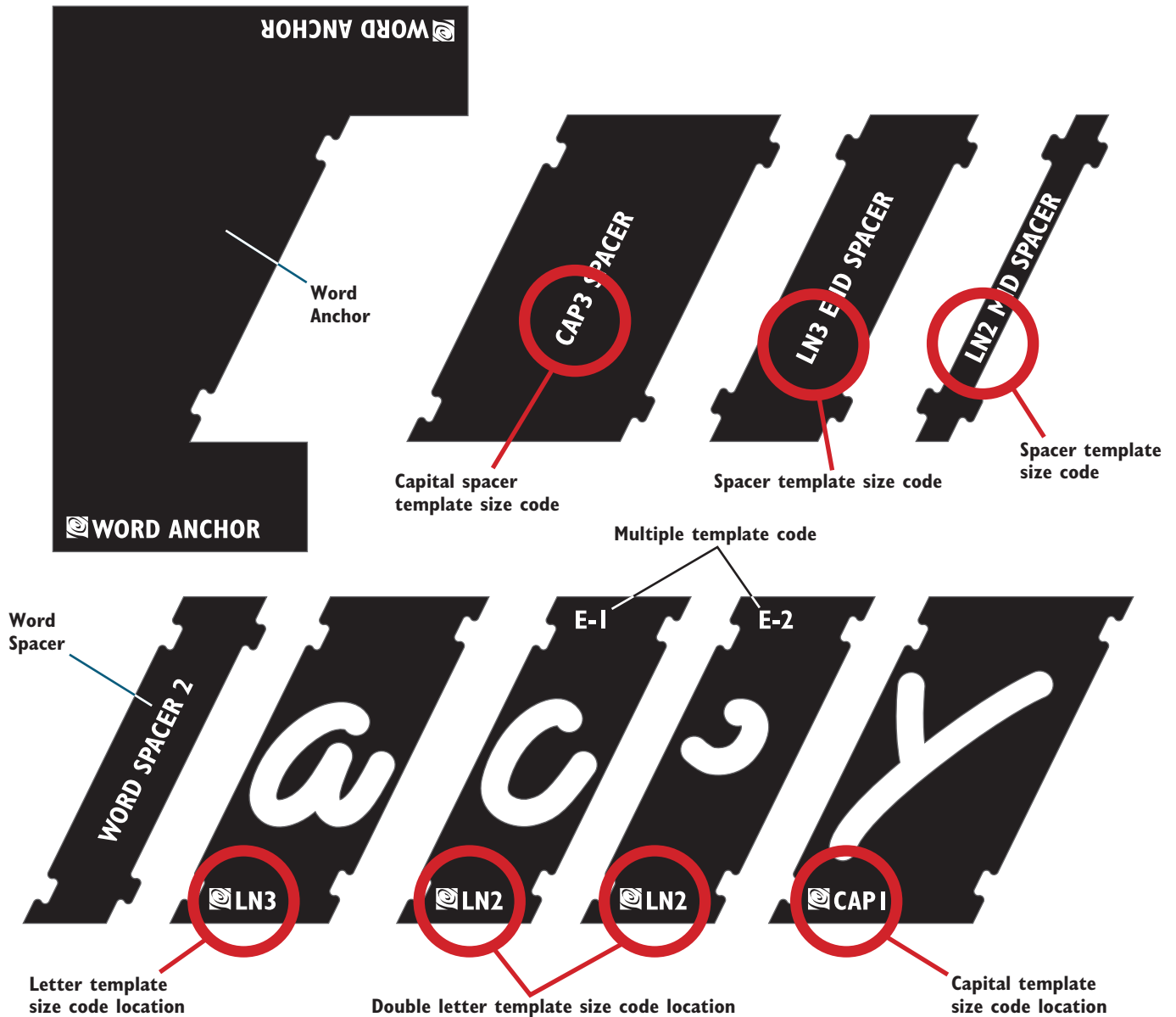


Fig. 1

## System Explanation

### NOTICE

We strongly encourage you to use the free online wizard at [Interlocksign.rockler.com](http://Interlocksign.rockler.com) to generate a custom routing plan for your sign, including a visual guide to the sequence of templates needed.

The process will involve laying out and routing alternating letters in stages, with different spacer templates taking the place of the letters that are left out in a given stage. (For example, to do the word “hand,” you would rout “h” and “n” first and then “a” and “d.”)

Each letter has a corresponding template size code on the bottom left of the template. When laying out the templates, you will use these codes to determine which spacer templates you need. There are five different kinds of spacers, and these spacers are needed so that the script letters will connect and/or be spaced correctly when completed. **Fig. 1.**

- **Word Anchors** are used to bookend and lock the templates in place to maintain correct letter positioning when switching out templates.
- **Cap Spacers**, which go outside capital letters at the beginning and sometimes in the middle of a word if a capital letter is present.
- **Lowercase End Spacers**, which go outside lowercase letters at the beginning or end of a word.
- **Lowercase Mid Spacers**, which are used for letters in the middle of a word.
- **Word Spacers**, which go between words.

**Important:** Choose the spacer template according to the template size code *that's on the letter the spacer template will be standing in for.*

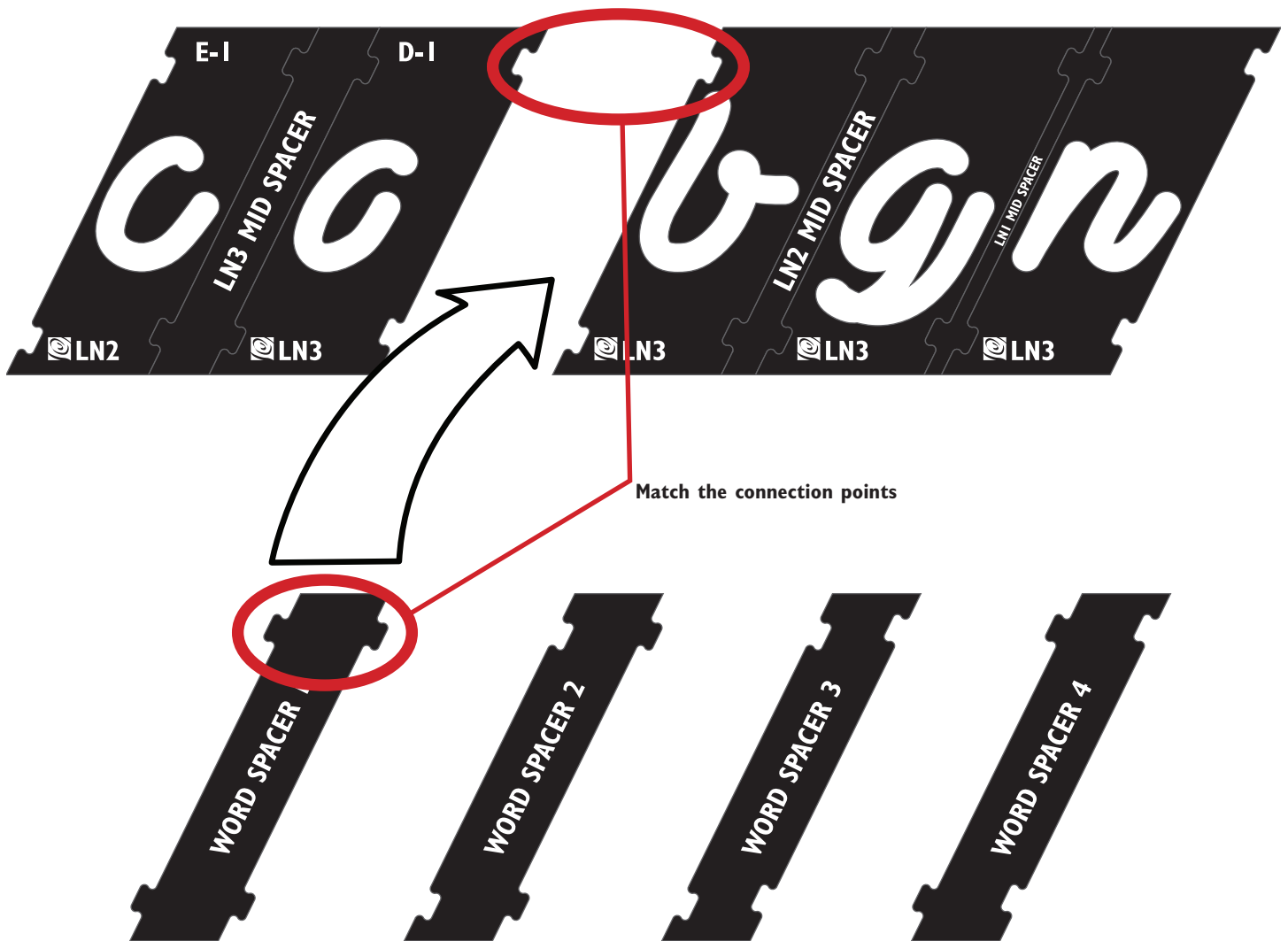


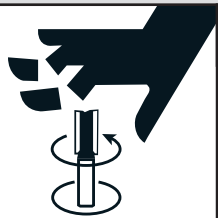
Fig. 2

Choose the correct Word Spacer by laying out the words and looking at the connection points at the end of the first word and at the beginning of the next word. Use the Word Spacer with matching connections. (The Script Font kit comes with four different word spacers.) **Fig 2.**

**▲ CAUTION** Make sure you have thoroughly read all of these instructions and are completely familiar with the rules and use of the system before attempting to rout your final workpiece. Failure to become familiar with the details of the system will lead to damage to the workpiece. We recommend practicing the system on scrap material – or laying out the templates in the proper sequence and tracing with a pencil -- before making any cuts.

To make it as easy as possible to plan your sign, Rockler has created a free online Signmaking Wizard. Just go to **[Interlocksign.rockler.com](http://Interlocksign.rockler.com)** and type in your particular word or phrase. The wizard will generate a custom routing plan that includes a visual guide to the sequence of templates with proper template placement and the number of passes required to rout the letters. You can email the guide, save it as a PDF or print a hard copy.

## THESE WARNINGS PERTAIN TO THE REST OF THE STEPS IN THIS BOOK:



### ⚠ DANGER

- > To avoid serious injury, keep hands and fingers away from spinning router bit. Maintain awareness of the bit at all times.

### ⚠ CAUTION

- > Use Interlock Signmaker's Templates **ONLY** with a plunge router outfitted with a baseplate that can accept the included center guide bushing and retaining ring. Use of the templates with a fixed-base router is likely to result in damage to the templates and workpiece, as well as possible injury.
- > Always use the recommended size of router bit and guide bushing for your template set. Failure to do so could result in damage to the templates and workpiece, as well as possible injury.
- > Always secure the templates to your workpiece and your workpiece to the work surface. Failure to do so could result in damage to the templates and workpiece, as well as possible injury.
- > Always allow the plunge mechanism on your router to fully retract the bit at the completion of a letter before moving the router to the template of the next letter. Failure to do so could result in damage to the template.

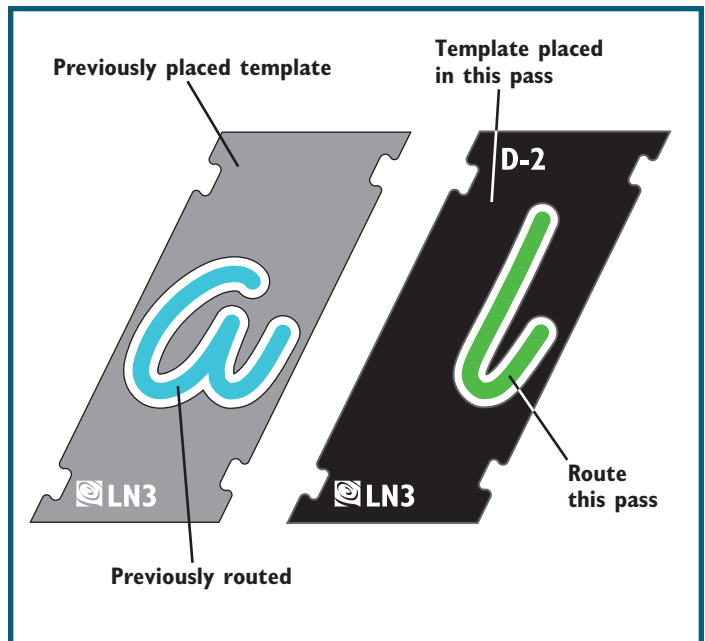
## Lowercase Letter Step-by-Step

Returning to the "hand" example, "h" and "n" are routed in the first pass, during which spacers will take the place of "a" and "d." When the "a" and "d" are routed, spacers take the place of "h" and "n." **Fig. 3.**

**Pass 1:** Lay out the lowercase "h" template, and then add the LN3 Mid Spacer Template. (This is because it is a substitute in this pass for the "a" template, which bears the template size code "LN3," and because it appears in the middle of the word.) Attach the "n" template. Then attach the LN3 End Spacer because it is standing in for "d" at the end of the word and the "d" template bears the template size code "LN3."

**Pass 2:** Replace the "h" template with the LN3 End Spacer. (This is because the "h" template bears the "LN3" template size code, and the spacer will be placed at the front end of the word.) Next, attach the "a" template, followed by the LN3 Mid Spacer because it is taking the place of the "n." Then attach the template marked D-1 to rout the first part of the "d."

**Pass 3:** The only change would be to replace the D-1 template with the D-2 template to complete the letter.



Template Router Pass Key

## Capital Letters Step-by-Step

Capital letters work the same way as lowercase letters when used at the beginning of words. The situation is different, however, if the word starts with a capital letter but also includes another capital letter in the middle of the word. (Example word: McGraw)

As with the lowercase word, the process will involve laying out and routing alternating letters in stages, with different spacer templates in between. (In the example, you would rout "M" and "G" and "a" first.) **Fig. 4.**

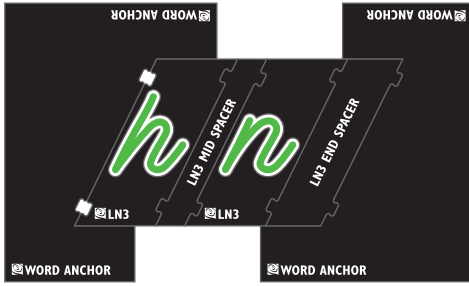
### NOTICE

When a capital letter appears in the middle of the word, you must treat the word, in effect, as two separate words, each beginning with a capital letter.

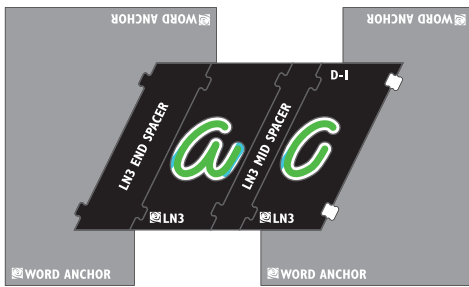
**Pass 1:** Lay out the capital "M" template. Connect an LN2 End Spacer to the "M." (This is because it is standing in for the "c" template, which is marked "LN2," and because we're treating "McGraw" as two separate words: "Mc" and "Graw.") Add the capital "G" template. Then attach another LN2 Mid Spacer (because it is standing in for "r" and both "r" templates are marked "LN2") and add the lowercase "a" template. Finally, attach an LN4 End Spacer (because it is taking the place of the "w" template, which is marked "LN4," at the end of the word).

**Pass 2:** Replace the capital "M" template with the corresponding Cap 2 Spacer and add the lowercase "c" template. (**Important:** The lowercase "c" will not interlock with the Cap Spacer replacing the capital "G." This is normal, and the templates are held in place with the Word Anchors and the tape used to secure the templates.) Replace the capital "G" template with the corresponding Cap1 Spacer, making sure the template contacts the lowercase "c" template. Then replace the LN2 Mid Spacer with the lowercase R-1 template to rout the first part of the "r" and replace the lowercase "a" with an LN3 Mid Spacer (because the "a" is marked "LN3"). Finally, replace the LN4 End Spacer with the lowercase "w" template.

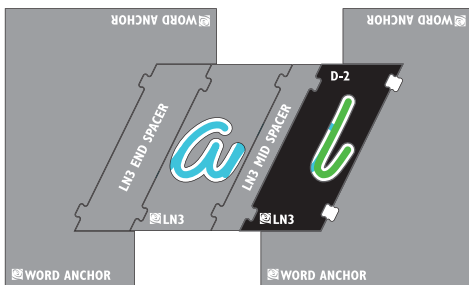
**Pass 3:** Replace the lowercase R-1 template with the lowercase R-2 template to complete the letter.



Pass 1



Pass 2



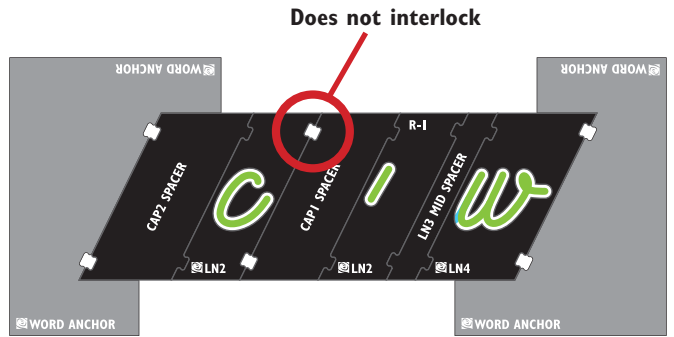
Pass 3

*hand*

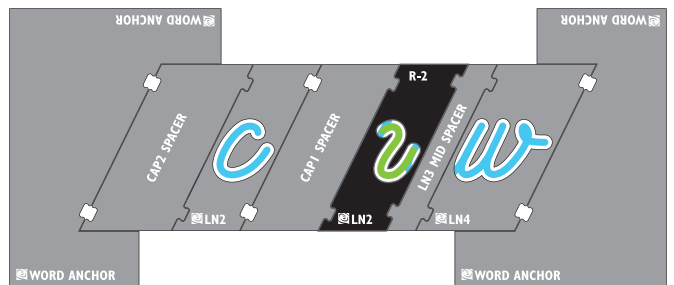
Final Look



Pass 1



Pass 2



Pass 3

*McGraw*

Final Look

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

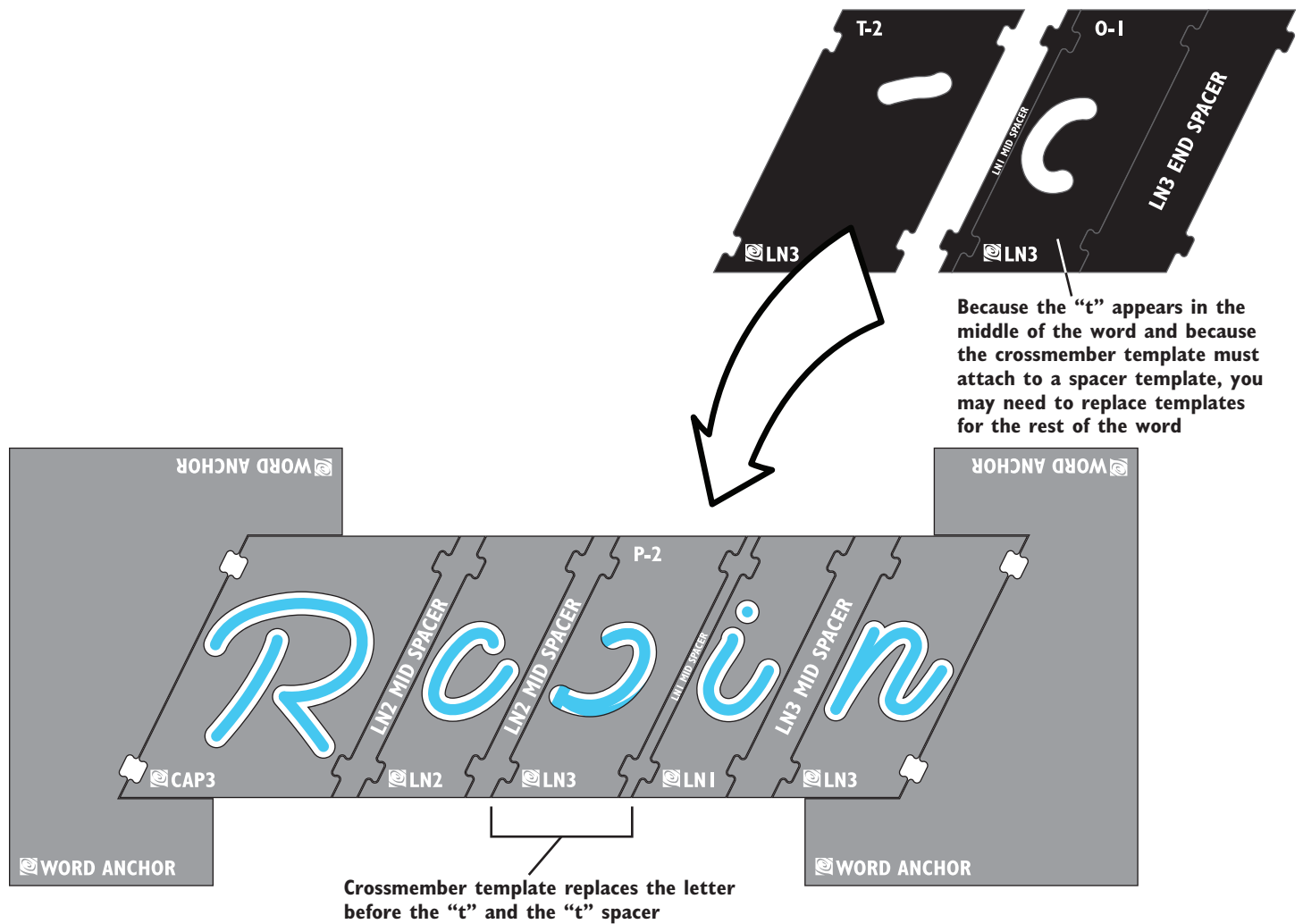


Fig. 5

### Words Including Lowercase “t” and “j” Step-by-Step

The lowercase “t” and lowercase “j” templates require special attention because not only are two templates required to form each letter, but the first and second templates for each letter are different widths. (This is because the letters have crossmembers that intrude into the space occupied by the letters that precede them.) As a result, different spacers will need to be used when the larger of the templates is used.

**When the “t” (same for “j”) appears in the middle or at the end of a word,** essentially you rout the letter before the “t” and then replace that letter and the “t” spacer with the crossmember of the corresponding template sized to the letter coming before the “t”. Keep in mind that the crossmember sections only attach to mid or end spacers, never letters. This means that you may need to replace the templates following the lower case “t.” **Fig. 5.**

#### Example word: “Reception” Fig. 6.

**Pass 1:** Set up every other letter, along with Mid Spacers corresponding to the letter templates for which they’re placeholders.

**Pass 2:** Replace the first lowercase “p” template (P-1) with the second lowercase “p” template (P-2).

**Pass 3:** Replace the P-2 template (which is for the letter before the “t” in this case) with the template for the crossmember of the lowercase “t” (T-2). Also replace the lowercase “i” template with a corresponding LN1 Mid Spacer; replace the LN3 Mid Spacer with the first lowercase “o” template (O-1); and replace the lowercase “n” template at the end of the word with a corresponding LN3 End Spacer.

**Pass 4:** Replace the capital “R” template with the corresponding Cap3 Spacer; replace the LN2 Mid Spacer with an E-1 template for the first part of the first lowercase “e”; replace the lowercase “c” template with an LN2 Mid Spacer; replace the next LN2 Mid Spacer with an E-1 template for the first part of the second lowercase “e”; replace the T-2 template for the crossmember of the lowercase “t” with a corresponding LN3 Mid Spacer and the T-1 template for the body of the lowercase “t.”

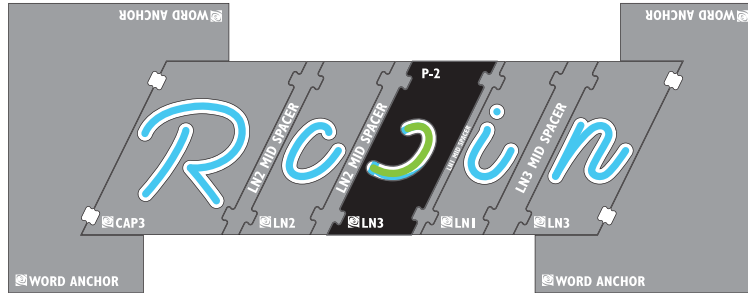
**Pass 5:** Replace the capital “R” template with the corresponding Cap3 Spacer; replace the LN2 Mid Spacer with an E-1 template for the first part of the first lowercase “e”; replace the lowercase “c” template with an LN2 Mid Spacer; replace the next LN2 Mid Spacer with an E-1 template for the first part of the second lowercase “e”; replace the T-2 template for the crossmember of the lowercase “t” with a corresponding LN3 Mid Spacer and the T-1 template for the body of the lowercase “t.”



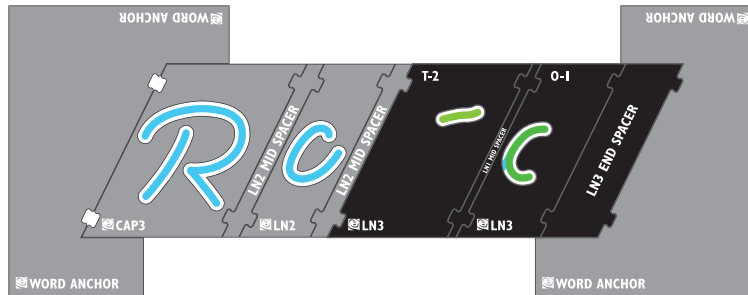
Pass 1



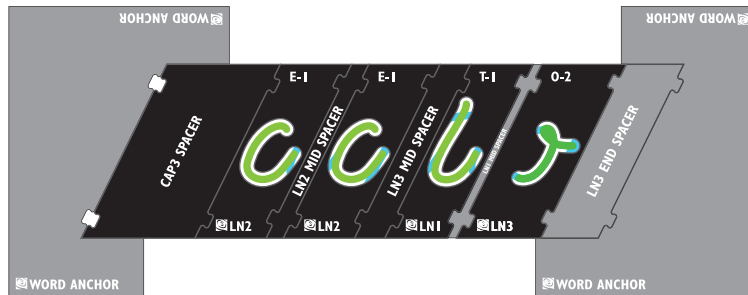
Pass 2



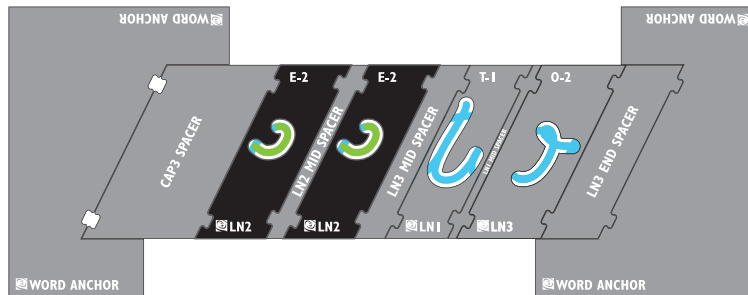
Pass 3



Pass 4



Pass 5



Final Look

Reception

Fig. 6

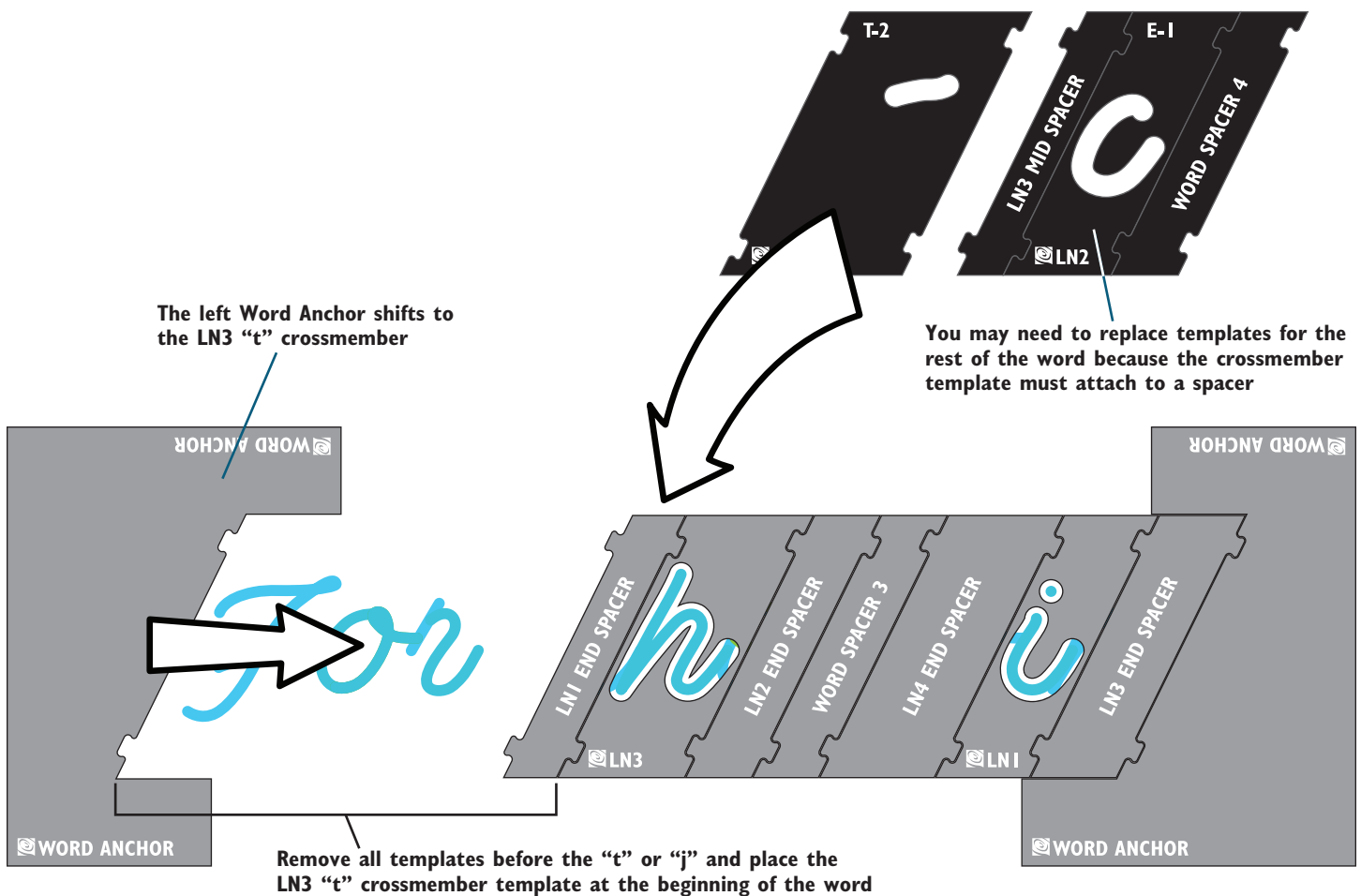


Fig. 7

When the “t” appears at the beginning of the word, or immediately following a capital letter, you do not rout the crossmember after routing the letter before. Instead, the crossmember will be routed in the last pass. This will require moving the left Word Anchor. This is the only situation in which the Word Anchor will shift. Fig. 7.

**Example phrase: “Steve the tall” Fig. 8.**

**Pass 1:** Set up the templates for every other letter (starting with the first template for letters that have two templates) as you normally would. Note the use of Word Spacers between words.

**Pass 2:** Replace the first template of two-template letters (other than “t”) with the second template. In this case, this involves replacing the E-1 templates with E-2 to complete the lowercase “e” letters.

**Pass 3:** Replace the Mid Spacers for the letters not routed in Passes 1 and 2 with the templates for the letters, starting with the first template for any two-template letters. Insert End Spacers for lowercase letters at the beginning or end of a word.

**Pass 4:** Replace the Cap2 Spacer and the T-1 templates at the beginning of the phrase with the T-2 template for the crossmember of the first “t,” shifting the left Word Anchor as necessary.

**Pass 5:** With the letters spelling “Steve” complete, remove those templates, replace the LN2 End Spacer and Word Spacer 3 with the E-1 and Word Spacer 4 templates. Then replace the “h” template with the corresponding LN3 Mid Spacer and attach the T-2 template for the crossmember of the “t” in “tall” in front of the LN3 Mid Spacer. Shift the left Word Anchor to secure the T-2 template.

**Pass 6:** With the letters spelling “the” complete, remove all templates, leaving the right Word Anchor in place. Install an LN1 End Spacer in place of the final “l” template. Reinstall the second-to-last “l” template to the left of the LN1 End Spacer. Install an LN3 Mid Spacer in place of the “a” template, to the left of the “l” template. Finally, attach a T-2 template for the crossmember of the “t” to the LN3 Mid Spacer and position the left Word Anchor to capture the T-2 template.

Check Rockler.com for updates. If you have further questions, please contact our Technical Support Department at 1-800-260-9663 or support@rockler.com

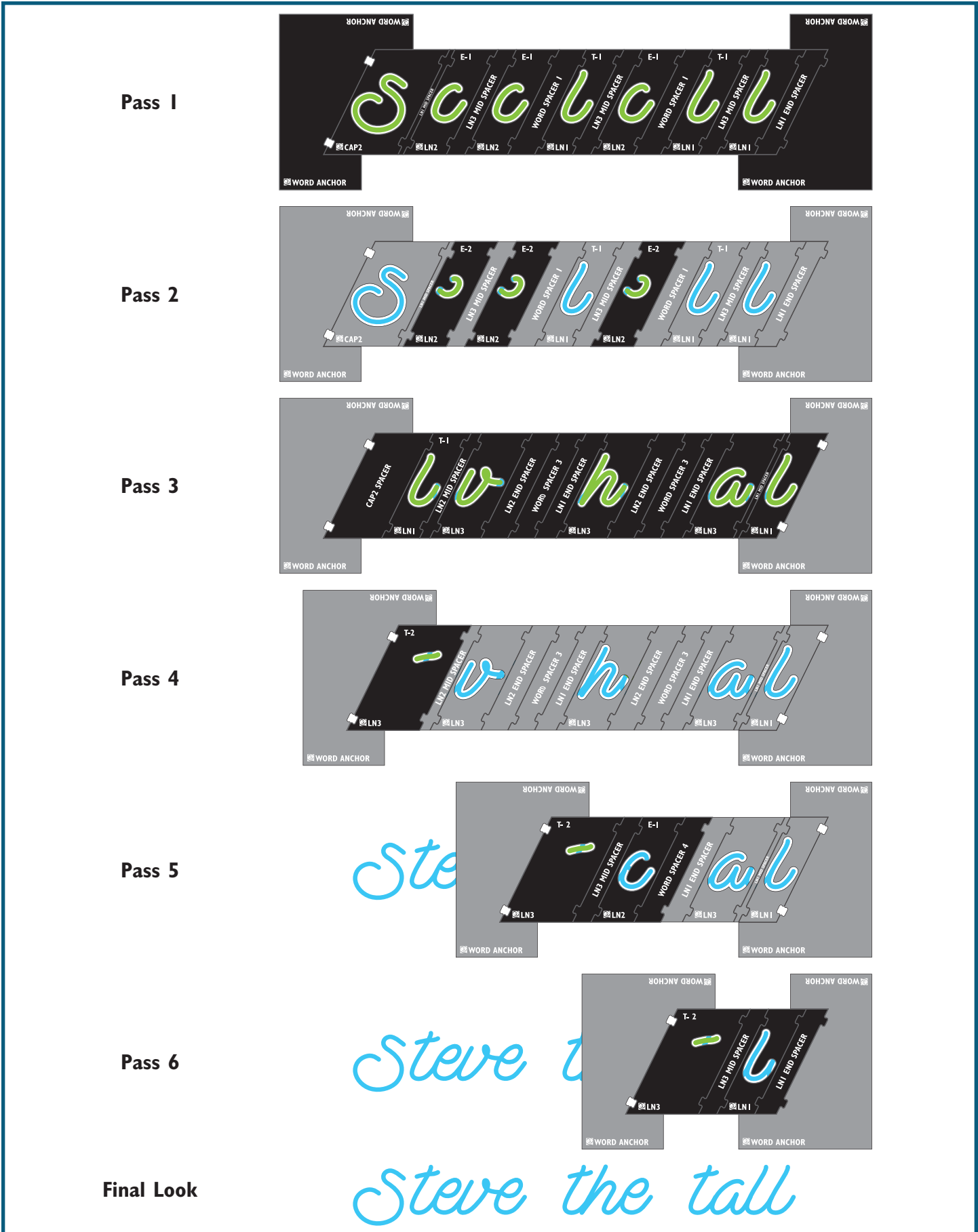


Fig. 8

