

"I DIP MY PEN IN THE BLACKEST INK, BECAUSE I AM NOT AFRAID OF FALLING INTO MY INKPOT." - RALPH WALDO EMERSON

HYATT'S
All Things Creative™

FINE PENS AT HYATT'S!

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WATERMAN 

LAMY

PARKER

Pelikan 

HYATT'S HAS IT!

Look no further for fine pens in Western New York!! We carry over 15 brands of fine writing instruments here at Hyatt's -- All from names you know such as Parker, Waterman, Pelikan, Rotring, Sheaffer and many more. The purpose of this newsletter is to inform you of the history of pens, their use, maintenance and what to do in case of repair.

TYPES OF WRITING INSTRUMENTS

Since the first Sumarians wrote on clay tablets, humans have been trying to find the perfect pen! Writing instruments have evolved into four distinct categories. Each has their own advantages.

PENCILS

The first tool to write with was a charcoal stick but that proved to be messy and wasn't easily erasable. Early writers used sticks of lead -- molten metal formed into cylinder and erased mistakes with crusts of bread. This gave way to the modern pencil -- a mix of graphite, clay and binders and gum erasers to correct mistakes. Fine pencils are available from most manufacturers to match their ballpoints or fountain pens.

FOUNTAIN PENS

While looking for a more permanent way to write on newly developed papers, ancient scribes used split wood points or feather quills and dipped them in ink mixes for note keeping, letter writing or illumination. The quills gave way to metal nibs held in wooden holders and were used for centuries until the mid 1800's when the need for a portable quill was filled with the invention of the modern fountain pen by Louis Waterman. A simple metal nib fed by a rubber sac that held the ink. Pens were filled by squeezing the rubber sac by either a lever or a squeeze bar. Now most pens use pre-filled cartridges or a twist mechanism that draws ink from the bottle. Ink should never be shaken since this causes bubbles and skipping. It can also cause sediment to get stirred up and it too will clog most pens. Just rock the bottles gently to mix. Keep ink out of sunlight and replace yearly.

Since early inks were very acidic and corrosive, nibs or points were made of gold or platinum. Today's inks are very pure and most are neutral pH. Nibs are now constructed of steel or gold plated steel for a more luxurious look. Fountain pens should be cared for and cleaned regularly. See the reverse of this sheet for tips on handling, usage and cleaning.

BALLPOINT

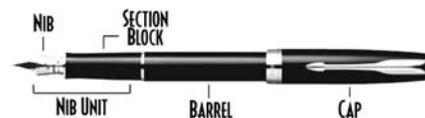
The first ballpoints were developed in the 1920's by Biro of Czechoslovakia. They used a paste oil based ink similar to printing inks. Tube of ink fed a rolling ball which applied it to the paper. The ink dried due to the absorbency of the paper. World renowned for its simplicity and low cost it has become the pen of choice for everyday writing, especially where forms and carbons are being filled out. Newer 'space' refills are pressurized and feed the ink under pressure which allows them to even write upside down!

ROLLERBALLS

Developed as an improvement on the ballpoint, rolling ball pens were developed by Pentel in the 1960's. They use a much more fluid ink in brighter colors that is more like a fountain pen ink than a ballpoint. The only drawbacks are the ink which dries more slowly and may smear and the fact that refills only last about one-fifth of the time as a ballpoint pen. Newer rollers are filled with a 'gel' ink that holds more pigment and dries a bit quicker. The gel also allows unheard of colors such as white, metallics and bright colors that even show up on dark papers.

CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

While rollerball pens and ballpoints only need to be refilled when dry, fountain pens and pencils need a little extra care to operate smoothly.



CLEANING YOUR FOUNTAIN PEN

A fountain pen needs to be cleaned about twice a year. To do so, simply remove the ink cartridge or convertor and flush the nib section with cool water. Dry the nib and section block in a soft cloth. If you have a pen with a convertor, you can use the convertor to draw and expel water to help clean the nib more.

To clean the cap or barrel, just use a soft 'Q-tip' and wipe away moisture after rinsing in cool water. Never use hot water or solvents as they may damage the plating or plastics used in modern pens.





HOLDING A FOUNTAIN PEN

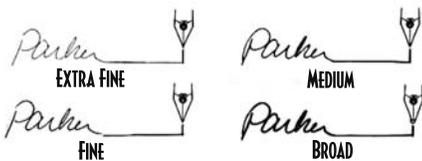
A fountain pen nib should be placed parallel to the paper when writing, not an angle to the left or right. This will avoid splitting the nib while allowing the user to mold the pen to his or her own style. Never lend a fountain to another person as their style may damage or alter the way the pen performs for you.

STORING YOUR FOUNTAIN PEN

Always store your fountain pen upright with the nib pointing up as this will allow ink to drain back into the ink chamber while helping to keep the nib clean.

INKS FOR YOUR PEN

Never use waterproof inks in a fountain pen. Use only non-waterproof inks marked for use in a fountain pen. Blue is usually washable and is the most popular. Black is good for artists. Blue-Black, also known as document ink, fades to black over time yet still has a little more character than straight black ink.



NIB SELECTION

Everyone writes differently and therefore a pen can be chosen to best fit an individual person's style.

Extra fine and fine points are for people who write small and very slowly. The ink doesn't flow as quickly which forces the user to be more deliberate in their writing.

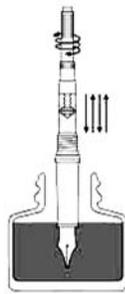
Medium points are the most popular size. They cover almost 90% of people who use a fountain pen. Medium size also has the widest range of handwriting styles from slow to fast and small to large.

Broad points are for people who write or

draw boldly. They are especially popular with architects and artists. However, they do use ink quickly and take a longer time to dry as they lay down a large quantity of wet ink.

FILLING A FOUNTAIN PEN

To fill your fountain pen you have two choices: cartridges or bottled inks. The cartridges are pre-filled plastic sacs that are punctured when inserted into your pen and are disposable when empty. Bottled inks can be used with most pens if they have a convertor or are built to only take ink from a bottle. The procedure is quite easy and can be done quickly. Generally speaking, bottled inks are more economical than cartridges.



To fill your pen, submerge the pen point past the pen block into the bottle of ink and twist the convertor to its lowest point. Then twist convertor back up. By doing this fresh ink is drawn up into the pen. Remove the pen from the bottle and wipe off nib and pen nib section with a soft paper towel and test.

CARE OF MECHANICAL PENCILS

Mechanical pencils need almost no real maintenance except for refilling them with the proper diameter of lead and replacing the eraser. Sometimes small shards of lead will get caught in the mechanism causing it to malfunction. A good cleaning will cure this. Disassemble the pencil being careful of small parts and how they go together. Clean out graphite dust and make sure the hole in the tip is free and clear. Feed a new lead from the tip up if needed while depressing the feed button. The most common problem with mechanical pencils comes from not feeding properly due to a bent tip. This almost always happens from the pencil being dropped. The only repair for this is to send it in for a new tip.

BROKEN PEN?

Think your pen is broken or not acting right? Bring it to us and we can evaluate what needs to be done. If we cannot fix it you can send it to the addresses listed at the end of this newsletter. Many times, repairs are simple and usually consist of a new cartridge, cleaning or replacing the lead or tightening a fitting.

REPAIRS

Should your pen need repair, please call the number below or visit their web site for instructions on how to send your pen back. We recommend sending them via UPS and insuring them for the replacement value.

Waterman, Parker, Rotring & Senso:

(800) 323-0749

www.sanfordcorp.com

A.T. Cross:

(800) 722-1719

www.cross.com

Pelikan:

(800) 628-1910

www.chartpak.com

Lamy:

(203) 563-2200

www.lamy.com

Sheaffer:

(800) 346-3736

www.sheaffer.com

Mont Blanc:

(800) 995-4810

www.montblanc.com

Caran D'Ache:

www.carandache.com

Laban:

15121 Graham St.#103
Huntington Beach, CA 92649

Acme:

www.acmestudio.com

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