

“ONE MUST ALSO HAVE INK AS BLACK AS MY FORTUNE, A PEN RESTLESS AS MY EYELASHES WHICH ALWAYS SHED TEARS, AND A WRITING STYLE AS BEAUTIFUL AS THE DOWN OF MY BELOVED.” – QUR’AN

HYATT'S
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INK NEWSLETTER

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WHAT IS INK?

Invented in China and Egypt around 2500 B.C., ink was originally made with soot and a gum binder. "India Ink" is a modern equivalent containing carbon, water and shellac. Hundreds of other inks are available such as Sumi, watercolor, drawing, acrylic, fountain pen, drafting and gouache. Inks are used in pens, brushes and airbrushes. Inks can even be floated on a solution for marbling paper. Non-waterproof fountain pen inks are used for signing documents.

WATERPROOF DRAWING INKS

Originated by Winsor and Newton in the 1800's, these inks contain carbon for black ink or dyes for colored inks in a solution of water and a binder such as shellac. Shellac was originally produced by boiling sap from certain trees in India that had been consumed by tree insects. Today, it is made synthetically using modern refineries. Shellac is permanent, waterproof and glossy when applied heavily. Some inks use dyes for color while others use pigments. Only the black inks and pigmented inks are light fast. Higgins India, Kohinoor, Pelikan and the Winsor & Newton Inks are great examples of these types of inks. Available in broad ranges of colors, they can be applied with a dip pen, ruling pen, brush or airbrush. They should NEVER be used in fountain pens as they are not water soluble and cannot be cleaned out.

NON-WATERPROOF INKS

Also sometimes known as fountain pen ink, these inks come in cartridges or bottles for fountain pens or dip pens. They also are available as black inks that are re-washable for blending nice ranges of grey. Hyatt's carries Pelikan 4001, Higgins Eternal and Sepia Inks, Sheaffer and Manuscript Inks. Also available is a wide variety of cartridges to fit Mont Blanc, Waterman, Pelikan, Sheaffer, Manuscript and many other fountain pens. Traditionally, Blue Black is used for signing documents as it fades slowly to black as the document ages. Royal or Bright Blue is the most popular ink as it washes out most easily.

SUMI OR CHINESE INKS

Made from charred vegetable soot, gum arabic and water these inks usually only come in black although some other colors such as red, gold and silver are available. Black ink is usually made on the spot by grinding a stick of black ink against a stone while adding small amounts of water. Applied to rice papers with bamboo brushes this ink is the basis for Sumi-E painting.

FW ACRYLIC INKS

Developed by Daler-Rowney, modern acrylic based inks are totally waterproof, fade proof and opaque when applied thickly. Available in a wide range of colors which can be intermixed to create thousands of colors. Pigments need to be mixed prior to use, especially those in white, silver and gold. Perfect for dip pens, tech pens, and brushes, they are exceptional airbrush inks as they are made from the finest ground pigments. Can be cleaned up with soap and water while wet. Dries to a hard, semi-gloss finish.

COLOR CHARTS AVAILABLE

Full color printed color charts are available in our stores or can be downloaded from our web site at www.hyatts.com/info/downloads.

KOHINOOR BLACK INKS

Made mostly for drafting with technical pens such as Rapidographs, these inks are intensely black, waterproof and archival. Each formula has its own rate of drying time, opacity and suggested uses:

KOHINOOR 3080 UNIVERSAL

The original tech pen ink, 3080 has good opacity, medium drying time and erases cleanly on vellum and mylar. Essentially the same ink as Higgins India.

KOHINOOR 3084 RAPIDRAW is the blackest ink available and features a latex rubber additive that holds more carbon pigment yet skins over quickly to allow quicker drafting on mylar. Higgins Black Magic is essentially the same ink but in a one ounce dropper bottle.

KOHINOOR 3085 ULTRADRAW was added to the line a few years ago to fulfill the need for a black ink that would work well on mylar and vellum but clog less in tech pens. Dries a bit more slowly than 3080 and 3084.

KOHINOOR 3074 RAPIDOMAT was originally made for computer plotters but found popularity with manual drafters because of its slow dry time which allows a long open pen time, minimal cleaning and less clogging. For film and paper.

OPAQUE WATERCOLOR (GOUACHE)

Used for hundreds of years for illumination on manuscripts and for illustration, gouache is highly pigmented and can be thinned to an ink consistency and then applied with an airbrush, ruling pen, dip pen or brush. Popular brands we carry are Winsor & Newton, Pelikan Plaka and Savoir-Faire. Most popular liquid colors are white, black, silver and gold. Tubes of gouache are available in hundreds of colors. They can be thinned with pure water.