

Fountain Pens

Anyone here using fountain pens? While I don't write very much anymore, I tend to get hot and cold with them. At the moment, I'm on a fountain pen kick, mostly inspired by visiting <http://www.fountainpennetwork.com/forum/>. My daughter, the lawyer, also likes them, but the two I gave her recently don't write well yet. They either need maintenance or repair.

It can be an expensive habit. I only use cartridge models. The converters and levers escape me for the moment.

Selecting inks is a challenge!

Mike Phillips, North Carolina

Funny you should ask. I just looked into this topic and ended up going with an entry level pilot metropolitan to see if I dug the fountain pen (so far I do):

https://www.amazon.com/Pilot-Metropolitan-Collection-Fountain-91111/dp/B00KRPF96/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1481375179&sr=8-1&keywords=pilot+metropolitan+fountain+pen

So far no complaints.

Paul Gieri

I like to use a fountain pen for signing documents. It seems to add a certain je ne sais qua to the signing ceremony. That's being said, finding ink cartridges is somewhat of a pain. I have a waterman and Office Depot stopped carrying the cartridges. I found them o n line but the cartridges cost like \$5.00 and there is \$8.00 shipping charges. I can buy up to about ten boxes for the same shipping charge but where am I going to keep 100 cartridges so that I will remember where they are when I need them?

John Miles, Georgia

I buy almost all of my cartridges from either jetpens.com or Amazon. jetpens.com has free shipping at \$25, so I buy about once per year. Since I gift some pens from time to time, it's not hard to hit \$25 this time of year. I have a spot designated for my cartridges. They're in a zip lock bag.

As far as I know, there's only one pen store in my area, but it's 20 miles away in an area that I try to avoid (Chapel Hill).

Mike Phillips

I'm a fan of fountain pens. They make me pay more attention to the writing process which tends to improve my writing. I prefer refilling from a bottle which is also cheaper. Getting a good ink to start with is a big factor in whether or not you will enjoy writing with fountain pens. Waterman's Serenity Blue ink is a good place to start; it flows well in most pens.

Duke Drouillard, Nebraska

I love fountain pens and currently use an Aurora. I use an inkwell, although it can be messy. Funny the topic came up as I was at the US Supreme Court recently and bought a goose quill pen in the gift shop - I used to use those as a kid and thought it would be fun to try again.

Along the lines of what Duke wrote, I find that my thoughts flow differently depending on the instrument I'm using (quill, italic nib, fountain, pencil, typewriter, keyboard). In fact, I never write anything of importance with a ball point pen because they just don't work for me and my thoughts jumble along with the undifferentiated ink. I need an instrument with some tactile resistance, one that requires guidance and push, and that has highs and lows, lights and darks. If anyone knows of a research paper that looks into the neuroscience of this phenomenon, lemme know.

Flann Lippincott, New Jersey

I love fountain pens but they don't love me because I'm left-handed. I have tried to use the so-called "left-handed" pens, but alas, nothing prevents the sleeve or butt of my hand from accidentally smearing the writing so I had to give it up. If anyone knows of a good solution, feel free to let me know. thx.

Lyza L. Sandgren (not a lawyer), Georgia

Pretty much exclusively, for years. I have various bottles of ink in my desk drawer. Last year I uploaded a picture to Facebook on Fountain Pen Day:

<http://koeneckelaw.com/pens>

Michael A. Koenecke, Texas

I have 2 but they seem nonfunctional. I've tried soaking them but they seem to be goobered up with dried in. Any ungoobering suggestions?

John Davidson

There's also an active fountain pen group on Facebook.

Meg Tebo, Illinois

Some years ago I started using fountain pens that have pointed stems. The pen-holders are inserted into 'marble' (alabaster) blocks.

The pens in their mounts in the center of the conference room table look nice.

The use of 'formal' ink pens communicates 'importance.' Clients like them.

I use blue-black ink. Regardless of the type of writing instrument, use of colored ink makes the original document easy to identify.

The cartridges can easily be refilled.

The office supply store chains do not have bottles of ink in stock, so new ink must be ordered.

I add, I think the subject of notary seals has been addressed before. Seals should be in color so that originals of documents are easy to identify. I use green ink for my notary seal.

Documents on red-ruled bond paper signed in blue or blue-black coupled with a green notary seal stand out.

Rob V. Robertson, Texas

Put one drop of dish washing liquid soap, like Dawn, in one cup of water. Let them soak a day or two. If that doesn't unclog them, send or take them in for repair, unless you're comfortable taking them apart. You have to be able to remove the nib and clean it. Fountain pens are high maintenance.

There's a Repair section on <http://www.fountainpensnetwork.com/forum/>

Mike Phillips

I like Sailor pens...try the 1911

David A. Rubin, Missouri

Fountain pen fan here. My new favorite site to buy from is www.gouletpens.com

Latest phase is Noodler pens and inks.

Nancy Duhon

For those of you looking to get started at a bargain price, see:
<https://www.gouletpens.com/fountain-pen-newbie-package-set/p/Package-Newbie>
for under \$30.00

Nancy Duhon
