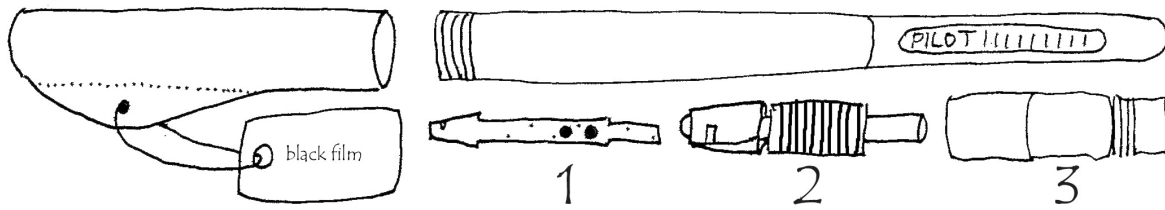


Pilot Parallel Pen



Enjoy a few hints and tricks to help your Pilot Parallel Pens run more smoothly.

INK

The ink in the cartridges that come with the Pilot Parallel Pen is NOT lightfast. The cartridge ink is very likely to bleed and feather into papers. There are two ways to work with other high quality lightfast archival inks in your Parallel Pen: fill the handle or replace the ink in the cartridge.

Several good ink choices are Higgins Eternal and Walnut ink. Winsor Newton Calligraphy Ink is also excellent. Choose the WN inks with the blue caps, not the WN inks with the red caps. These inks will flow freely in the Parallel Pens and are archival and lightfast.

To fill the handle of the pen with ink, use a pipette or eyedropper. No cartridge is used when you fill the handle, which can carry much more ink than a cartridge. A small amount of leakage occurs when re-assembling the pen after filling the handle. Once the pen is fully assembled, there will be no leakage problems.

To replace the ink in the cartridges, open the cartridge by installing the cartridge in the pen. The pen will punch the end of the cartridge to enable you to empty the ink. You can put the lightfast ink in the empty cartridge with an eyedropper or pipette.

CLEANING

The pen can be completely taken apart for cleaning. Refer to images above. Use needle nose pliers to pull out the nib (1). The second part (2) is easily twisted out of the transparent section (3). Scrub the parts in plain water and dry them carefully before re-assembly.

Be sure to keep the small black piece of thin "film-like" plastic that comes in the pen package. This thin plastic film is very helpful to clean between the two parallel plates, and acts like dental floss. Simply push it between the two parallel plates that comprise the nib. It will remove any lint or mystery sludge, and help the ink flow.

To keep that piece of film handy, *drill a small hole in the cap and tie a string to the film. This keeps it from becoming lost and makes it handy to use. Acetate transparency or film negatives substitute for this piece of film.

*A small hole can also be made in the Parallel Pen cap by pushing a heated awl or needle through the plastic. Heat the awl or needle held with pliers in a candle flame.

For much more about Pilot Parallel Pens, refer to Brenda Broadbent's [Parallel Pen Wizardry](#). This useful book is available at Paper & Ink Arts and John Neal Books.