

# Fountain Pen Care

A fountain pen is a delicate fine writing instrument. It will bring you many years of enjoyment when properly used and maintained. Below are some helpful guidelines on using, maintaining and servicing your fountain pen.

## **Holding a Fountain Pen:**

The engravings on the nib should be facing up (The feed or black ribs should be facing down). Lightly press the nib to the paper. Let the nib do the work and just glide over the paper. There is a two-week break in period where your nib will adjust to your writing style. Please do not let anyone else write with your fountain pen because your writing style is unique to you.

## **Using ink cartridges and converters:**

Unscrew the nib from the coupler of the pen. The backside to the nib contains a nipple in which the cartridges and converters will be pressed into.

## **Using ink cartridges:**

Press the ink cartridge onto the nipple until firmly seated. Then squeeze the cartridge lightly until a small drop of ink appears on the nib. Never apply pressure to the paper from the nib. This could damage the tines of your nib.

## **Using ink converters:**

Press the ink converter onto the nipple until firmly seated. Then twist the converter knob until the piston reaches the bottom of the converter. Place the nib into a of bottle ink and twist the knob in the opposite direction drawing the ink into the converter. Remove excess ink from the nib with a soft tissue. Your pen is ready to write with. Sometimes your pen may stop applying ink while you are writing. Should this happen, unscrew the nib from the coupler and twist the knob on the converter so that the piston moves toward the bottom of the converter, just enough so that ink will again flow from the nib.

## **Choosing the right ink:**

Use ink only made for fountain pens. This ink is a water base ink and will not damage your pen. All major ink suppliers make ink that is virtually waterproof should this be required.

**Do not use India Ink or Calligraphy ink because this type of ink will damage your nib.**

## **Choosing the right paper.**

Use high quality, non-coated paper. Handmade paper because of its nature, tends to collect fiber on the tip of the nib causing the ink to skip or bleed.

## **Storing your fountain pen:**

Always store your fountain pen with the nib in the upright position. Otherwise, ink could leak into the cap. If you are not going to use your fountain pen for a while, please empty the ink out of your pen and clean out your pen. Note never empty your ink into your bottle of ink.

## **Cleaning:**

Fountain pen should be cleaned once every six months (or if the ink is clogged) or when you change ink colors. Unscrew the nib from the coupler and remove either the cartridge or the converter. If using a cartridge please dispose of it properly. If using a converter twist the knob so that the piston moves toward the bottom of the converter. (Note please do this over the sink). Draw water in and out of the converter until the water is clear. Wash the nib under cool water. Then draw clean water into the converter and place it back on the nipple. Twist the knob until the piston moves to the bottom of the converter. Continue doing this until the water flows clear through the nib.

**Do not use hot water or any solvents since this may damage the nib.**

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