
Ackerman Pens Newsletter

October 2009

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Free



Welcome to our October 2009 newsletter. We will try to publish one more in 2009 before the holidays.

Biggest news - we released our Gen 5 Pump Pens, which introduces a new part and a new concept.

First the new part - it's called a "section" in traditional fountain pen parlance. This is a collar-like device that fits into the front of the pen - the orange piece on the right. The section does two things - it secures the nib and feed to each other, and it secures the nib/feed unit into the pen. You can see the section in three of the four Pump Pens shown above - only the Brush Pump Pen at the top does not have a section. The other three have a section on the front of the pen. You can now order individual nib units, which consists of



three pieces - the section, a nib and its matching Perfect Fit™ feed. We sell these units by nib name, for example **Gillett 303 Nib Unit** and **Manga G Nib Unit**, for US\$10 each.

The section provides a range of advantages. First the Nib Pump Pen performs better - the fit of nib to feed is tighter and more secure. There is less chance of leakage, and a more secure feel to the nib in the pen. Second, you can switch nibs easily - just pull out one nib unit and slip in the other. This leads directly to the third advantage, and most important to you, the user - our new design reduces your cost of using several different nibs in the Pump Pen.

This leads us to the new concept - because the nib and feed are now contained in the section, we can provide one Pump Pen that can accommodate a wider range of nibs. Our previous model (Gen 4) was dedicated to a specific type of nib, such as a Crowquill Pump Pen and a Gillett 303 Pump Pen. With the Gen



4 Nib Pump Pen, if you wanted to use four different nibs, the cost was US\$100 because you had to buy four Nib Pump Pens. With the release of our new section, you can buy one Nib Pump Pen and four different nib units for a total of US\$60 - almost half what it cost you before. True, you have to switch nibs, but you can always buy more pens if you don't want to switch nibs. Don't worry about the color of the sections shown on the left - we create them in a variety of colors.

This is also a mixed model release. The Gen 5 Pump Pen is a refinement of the Gen 4 Pump Pen where the front of the previous model has been modified to accept the new section. We also re-released the Gen 3 Pump Pen, which is similar in size to the Gen 4 Pump Pen, but the pen provides a larger cavity inside the cap, which lets you use larger or longer nibs. The distinguishing characteristics between the Gen 5 and



Gen 3 Pump Pens are the color of the pump and the length of the cap. The Gen 3 Pump Pen has a green pump and a longer cap with a larger cavity inside the cap, which accommodates larger and longer nibs. There is a wide variety of nib sizes and shapes, so making one pen that accommodates all dip nibs is difficult. That said, the Gen 3 Pump Pen does accommodate all dip nibs. The problem is the space inside the cap - the Gen 3 Pump Pen was designed to accommodate the Speedball Lettering nib, which is the largest popular dip nib in current use. The Speedball Lettering nib needs a lot of room in the cap. When you use a smaller nib in this pen, such as the Gillott 303 or crowquill, the nib can dry out more quickly due to the large interior space inside the cap.

Standard

Crowquill
Gillott 190
Gillott 303/404
Hunt 55
Hunt 99
Principal

All of which means to say we are now providing two Pump Pen models - one Pump Pen for small to medium nibs, which we are calling the **Standard Nib Pump Pen**, and another Pump Pen for larger nibs, which we call the **Large Nib Pump Pen**. The Standard Nib Pump Pen accepts nib units for all crowquills, Gillott and Hunt nibs and the Leonardt Principal nib. The Large Nib Pump Pen accepts all nib units, but it is especially designed for all larger and longer nibs, such as the Brause, Manga and Speedball Lettering nibs.

Large

Brause Cito Fein
Brause Bandzug
Hunt 101
Mitchell Roundhand
Manga 95
Manga G
Speedball Lettering

Speedball Lettering Pump Pen

Which brings us to our newest Pump Pen – the Speedball Lettering Nib Pump Pen. This nib is very popular with calligraphers and letterers. You can get the nib in a wide range of shapes, from pointed to broad and chisel to ball, with five sizes for each shape. Developing this pen

proved more difficult than we expected. It requires more than a custom feed – it requires a unique matched feed and section that hold the nib securely in the pen while accommodating the convoluted surface geometry of the exterior reservoir, which has defeated all previous attempts to feed ink to the nib reliably. Speedball sort of solved the problem in the 1950s when it introduced a fat black fountain pen that lets you



manually feed ink to the nib. The pen does not attempt to feed ink automatically – it needs user help to encourage the flow. This pen holds the Speedball Lettering nib in the front with a clip, like a standard dip nib holder. A thin metal tube sticks out from the front on the left side of the nib. To feed the nib, you roll the pen so the tube is directly over the



space between the top-side reservoir and nib, and then you press the button on the side of the pen to expel a drop of ink onto the nib. When you press the button, a lever inside the pen presses against the side of the flexible ink sac, and this expels the drop of ink from the tube. It isn't a foolproof method, and it takes some concentration until you are comfortable with it. There is a plug in the tube that you can open or close but the parts are small, and you risk getting messy just fiddling with the pen.

While the Speedball Lettering Pen is a pump pen of sorts, it was not the genesis of my idea for our Pump Pen. We'll tell that story in the next newsletter.

Coming soon on our web site ackermanpens.com . . .

- ✓ Videos of Pump Pens in action – drawing, calligraphy and cartooning
- ✓ Blog for users to exchange comments about how they use Pump Pens