



Pen



Function

Any form of pen should not be used by the craftsman working in wood, the ink penetrates the grain and is difficult to remove. Furthermore, the line is not as fine and accurate as that of a sharp pencil. They are perfect for writing on paper and other media.

Description

The typical biro, as shown above, consists of a small metal ball inserted in a metal nib, attached to a hollow tube filled with fast drying ink. All of this encased in a small plastic tube just the right size to comfortably hold between the thumb and fingers and finished with a cap to prevent accidental marking. There is a mass of variations on this, including those with retracting nibs, and those that are encased in metal or wood.

History

Reed pens were first used in about 3000BC, which consisted of a hollow reed, or bamboo, shaped to a point, or nib, at one end and filled with ink. The reed was squeezed to make the ink flow. The Quill pen followed around 500AD, invented in Spain, this consisted of a feather from a turkey or goose with the more expensive ones coming from swans that had to be dipped in ink. These had to be constantly sharpened with a small knife, which became known as a penknife. It wasn't until 1822 when John Mitchell introduced the first manufactured pen made from steel. This worked very much the same as a quill pen and had to be dipped in ink but was much sturdier, lasted longer and was cheaper. Petrache Poenaru patented the first fountain pen in 1827, which consisted of an ink barrel to supply the flow of ink. This design underwent several improvements throughout the twentieth century until 1943 when László Bíró, a Hungarian journalist living in Argentina, perfected the ballpoint pen first introduced by John J Loud in 1888, which is still in common use today.¹

¹ [A Brief History Of Pens. The story of one of the most underrated... | by Kevin Shah | History of Yesterday](#)

[The cheap pen that changed writing forever - BBC Future](#)



Reed pen
(3000BC)



Quill pen
(500AD)



First
manufactured
steel pen
(1822)



Fountain pen
(1827)



Biro
(1943)

Health & Safety

No significant issues

Woodwork with Pete