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Welcome to *Nib Noise*. I hope you'll enjoy reading this month's issue.

PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS NEWSLETTER!

The robot that sends it out refuses to learn to read. If you have comments or questions, send email to:

richard@richardspens.com

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Time to Start Looking for Spring!

It started out as the Pen That Wasn't Supposed to Happen, and it turned into the Pen that Nobody Liked. When a Parker district manager named Lewis M. Tebbel proposed a big red pen (no, pardon that, a Big Red Pen), company bigwigs pooh-poohed the idea. Not gonna happen, just go away. But Tebbel persisted, and when George S. Parker himself intervened and said, "Let's do it," the Duofold happened. For a few years, red and black made up the entire range of colors, but in the late 1920s, colors blossomed. One of the new colors was Mandarin Yellow, based on a springlike yellow color George Parker had seen and loved on a visit to China. It went over like a lead balloon.

Read the complete article: [Profile: The Parker Duofold.](#)

...And Now for Some Good News

The announcement of FDA approval for a third COVID-19, vaccine, a single-shot type from Johnson & Johnson, is good news. As the supply chain ramps up, it's going to become easier to get yourself jabbed. If enough of us do get our shots, regardless of which vaccine we get, we might just be looking at real live pen shows in autumn. Don't hold em to that, but it's looking more promising every day. Wear a mask over nose and mouth, watch the physical distance, and *GET THE VACCINE as soon as you can!*

In the meantime, we can still share time with each other via Zoom or FaceTime, though. With a free Zoom account, you can have up to 100 users in your meeting. Free accounts have a 40-minute time limit on meetings, but you can always end your meeting and start another one. FaceTime is for Apple users only, and it allows only 32 users in a chat; but on the upside, it is more secure, and it's not time limited.

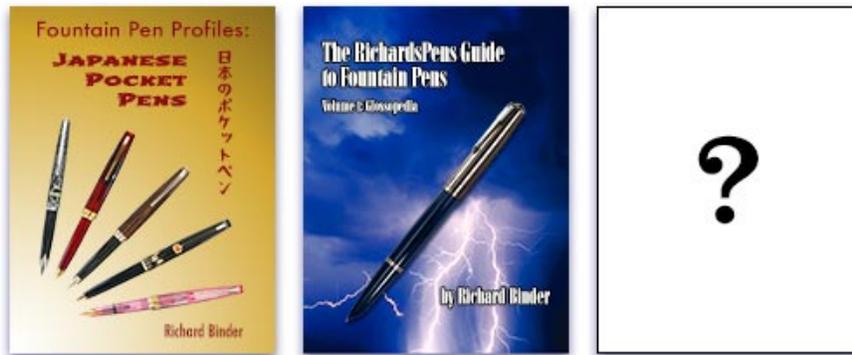
BROAD STROKES

The time has come. People have been asking me for advice on nib smoothing for nearly 20 years. I give smoothing workshops at some pen shows, but with no pen shows right now, I can't do that. So I've roped in Mike and Linda Kennedy, and together we've written a new article about nib smoothing for beginners.



The RichardsPens Bookstore

I don't actually have a bookstore, but I have written a few books, and I let other people do all the work of selling them. Right now, I'm working on the second edition of *Japanese Pocket Pens* and the fifth edition of the *Glossopedia*, and there are new books in the planning stage. There's a complete listing of my books on my site, with direct links to pages on Amazon, Apple, Barnes & Noble, and Lulu where you can buy them for your own library.



*By Don Fluckinger
March 2004*

Parker, Conway Stewart, Moore, and Sheaffer didn't hold a monopoly on beautiful marbled celluloid pens. Wearevers held their own in side-by-side beauty contests, and they crushed the competitors in price — then and now.



Read the whole article: **Taking a Second Look at Wearever Pens.**

From the *Glossopedia*

With more than 1,550 entries comprising (with subentries) more than 1,700 individual terms, more than 1,000 illustrations, more than 200 patent citations linked to their respective patent documents at various archives, and extensive cross-references, the RichardsPens *Glossopedia* is the most comprehensive resource of its kind anywhere. Each month, *Nib Noise* includes a randomly chosen *Glossopedia* entry.

Piston A type of filling system; uses a screw-driven piston. A knob at the end of the barrel drives a long-pitch screw shaft on which rides a piston. In some piston fillers, the knob is also threaded so that it “unscrews” slightly as the piston goes toward the nib and returns to its rest position as the piston is drawn back. This is the “differential” system (sometimes called “double action”), shown here; patented in 1923 by Hungarian engineer Theodor Kovács (U.S. Patent No 1,706,616, issued in 1928) and introduced in 1929 by Pelikan. In other versions, the knob is fixed so that it can turn but does not travel lengthwise as the piston moves (“single action”).



If you would like to suggest an entry for the *Glossopedia*, I invite you to send an email to me at richard@richardspens.com with your proposed entry. If you don't have a definition for your entry, I'll do my best to find one.

And if you don't think you can wait more than 129 years (note how this number keeps growing as new entries are added) to see the whole *Glossopedia* here, one entry at a time (if I don't slip up and repeat an entry or three), you can easily jump the gun by purchasing your own copy in ebook form for Amazon's Kindle and Kindle app, Apple's Books app, or Barnes & Noble's NOOK and NOOK app.

To help you find reference articles on my site that have been edited recently, there is a handy heading right at the top of the reference index, listing the five most recently added or edited reference pages. For edited pages, there are brief descriptions of what was changed.

The Pen Doctor

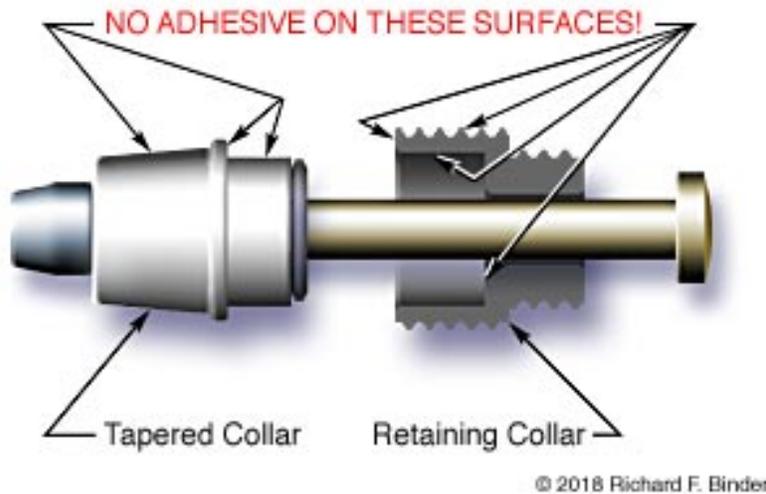
The Pen Doctor is a regular visitor to the Nashua Pen Spa, and every so often he puts a few prescriptions up on my site. Each month (except when I forget), I'll be reprinting one of his past prescriptions here.

Q: I'm replacing the bladder on my Vacumatic. My problem is the pump's tapered inner collar has separated from filler pump's threaded retaining collar. What would you recommend to glue the two pieces back together?

Rx: The two collars should never, repeat *NEVER*, be glued together. They must be separate and able to turn freely against each other for assembly so that the tapered collar will not rotate in the barrel as the threaded collar is screwed down on it. If it does, it can twist the diaphragm into a hopeless mess. I find the collars glued together on occasion, but that situation makes things very difficult for the repairer, and it also makes it likely that one or both collars will be damaged when the repairer separates them for reassembly.

Likewise, you should never use adhesive anywhere else on either collar. Some repairers shellac the diaphragm to the tapered collar, but according to original Parker repair manuals, Parker never did that. Similarly, some people glue the threaded collar into the barrel. Parker used a special Vacumatic adhesive at this joint, but it's important to remember that (1) unlike the Parker factory, you do not have an unlimited supply of replacement filler pumps or barrels, and (2) it's not necessary; the threaded joint is not a leakage point, and so long as you do not make the mistake of lubricating the

threads, it will stay together perfectly well without any adhesive.



To put it plainly, using any adhesive anywhere on the filler pump will not make things work better, but it will make it more difficult for future repairers to work on the pen, and it can destroy the pump or the pen's barrel.



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