



**Volume 20 • Number 3 • June 2021**

---

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

*PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS NEWSLETTER!*

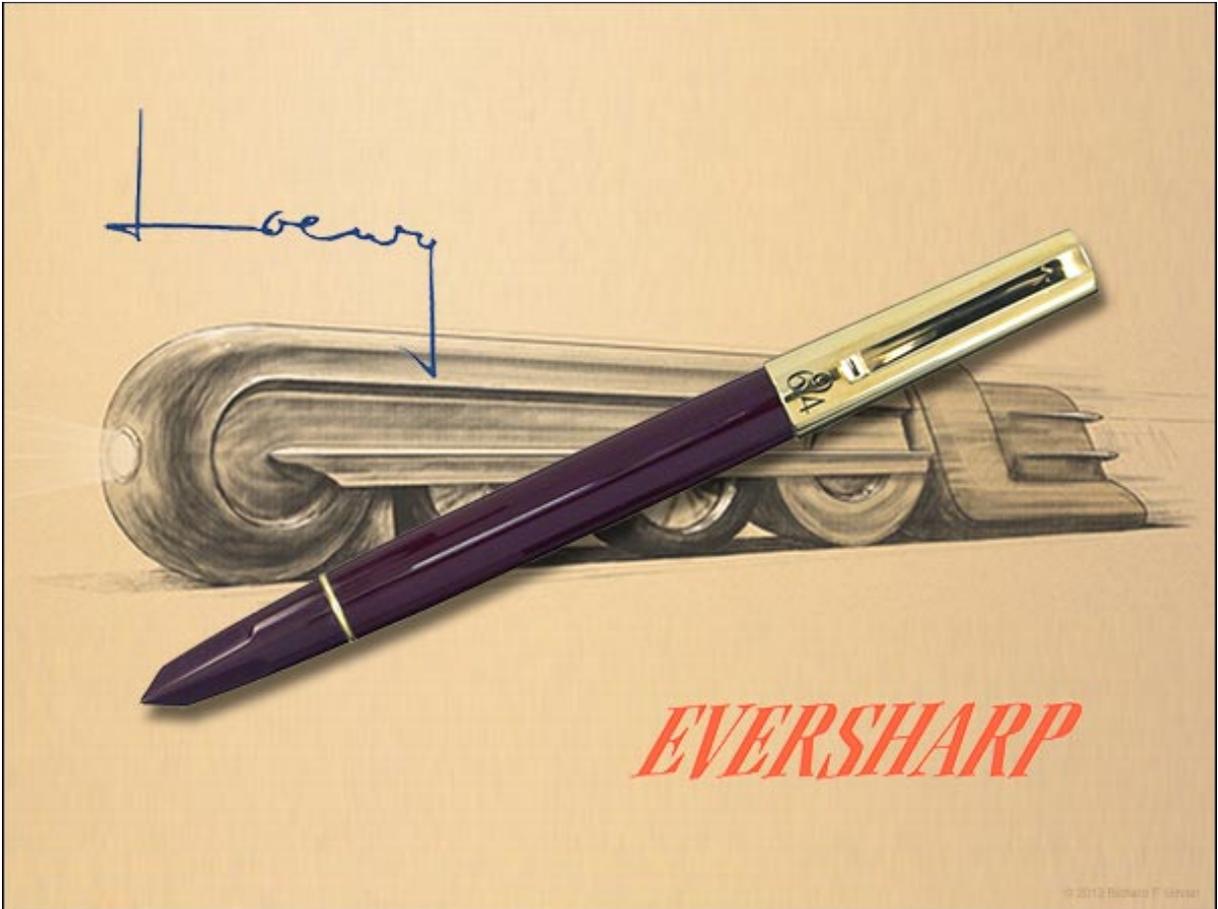
The robot that sends it out refuses to learn to read. If you have comments or questions, send email to:

[richard@richardspens.com](mailto:richard@richardspens.com)

To subscribe or unsubscribe, please visit the Free Email Newsletter page on my site.

Please do not follow any instructions that the stupid mail robot might have appended.

---



## Oopsie.

In 1943, the Eversharp Corporation introduced a new pen called the Fifth Avenue. With its hooded nib, the Fifth Avenue was an attempt to wrest a little business away from the Parker Pen Company, whose revolutionary hooded-nib “51” had taken the world by storm two years earlier. The Fifth Avenue, which featured a vermeil cap and barrel-end trim, had a higher-priced sibling, called the Sixty Four (shown above), for which these parts were made of solid 14K gold. The name for the Sixty Four came from the fact that as a pen-and-pencil set, it was priced at \$64.00. Neither of these pens did well in the market; at first, their writing qualities were terrible, but after that was fixed, their continued lack of success was attributed to the strong Art Deco appearance of the pens. (By 1943, Art Deco was seriously *passé*; streamlining was in, and that’s why the Skyline, introduced in 1941, was so popular.)

Advertising that the pens had been designed by the world-famous industrial designer Raymond Loewy, who had also sketched the wildly streamlined (and unbuildable) railroad locomotive concept that I've placed behind the Sixty Four above, didn't help. Maybe the problem was with the hooded-nib front end, which had *not* been designed by Loewy. It came from the drawing board of Eversharp engineer George Clouthier. Now, Clouthier was a good engineer, but he really stubbed the company's toe on this one. We'll never know for sure, but perhaps success might have landed in Eversharp's lap in 1943 if the company had stuck with the original Loewy design, as shown by the prototype below, instead of being so eager to join the Hooded Nib Club.



It's not an unrealistic possibility. When Eversharp introduced its CA ballpoint in 1945, in the purchaser's choice of a Skyline body or a Fifth Avenue body, the unreliable pen was a financial disaster. But when the engineers got the reliability problem sorted out, it sold reasonably well. Streamlined. Yeah, that's it. Streamlined.



---

**I've been ~~stabbed~~ jabbed.**

My wife and I have received both doses of the Pfizer vaccine, and neither of us experienced any reaction to it. Everyone in the United States who is **12 years old or older** is now eligible to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. (Moderna has reported its test results for those aged 12 to 18 but has not yet received FDA approval.) The sooner you follow our lead, the sooner we can all enjoy pen shows together again ***Get out there and get jabbed!***

---

# BROAD STROKES

At least once a month, I see a Facebook posting asking a question similar to this:

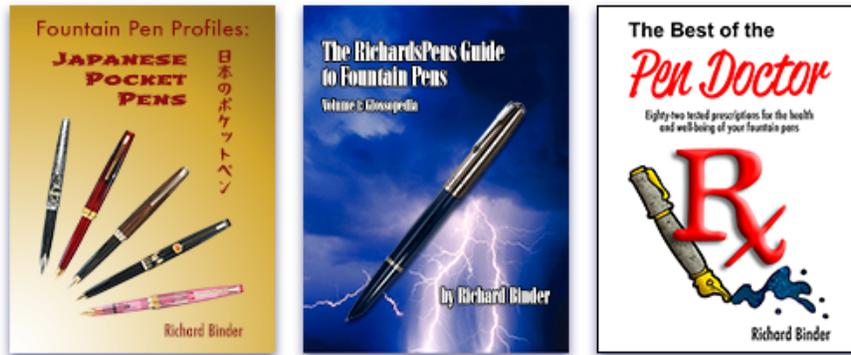
**“Does it make sense to get an oblique nib if you don't need it to correct how you hold your nib? Does it offer line variation then?”**

This month was a bridge too far. Enough is too much, and so I've written a new article explaining obliques. Just obliques. Nothing else. This article contains information collected from several other articles and augments that with information that is to be found nowhere else on my website. Bookmark it so you can show it to other people when you get tired of being asked that question over and over again.

---

## 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. **My latest book, *The Best of the Pen Doctor*, arrived in Amazon, Apple, and Barnes & Noble ebook stores last month, and it's also now available as a deluxe full-color paperback.**



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  
June 2005*

*Frank was probably rolling in his grave witnessing his pens getting resold for something close to fair market value; Dubiel priced off-brand pens like other dealers priced Watermans.*





Read the whole article: [Carrying the Wearever Torch.](#)

---

## 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.

**Flat-Top** (also flat-top or flattop) A term describing a pen that is cylindrical in shape (not tapered or barrel-shaped) with flat ends. The classic Flat-Top shape is exemplified by Sheaffer's pens of the 1913-1928 period, as illustrated here by a 1920s Senior Lifetime pen in black Radite. See also cigar shaped, torpedo shaped.



If you would like to suggest an entry for the *Glossopedia*, I invite you to send an email to me at [richard@richardspens.com](mailto: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 have a Parker 45 with a problem. I have heard these are quite good pens with good ink flow that do not dry out if left uncapped for a few minutes such as during a pause for thought. My pen does not have good ink flow at all. I am using Pelikan Black ink, which is giving me a beautiful rich black in other pens, but only a thin grey line out of this 45. The collar that holds the nib and feed in place is marked F, so I am assuming a fine nib (but I could be wrong). This pen is easy to totally disassemble, so I thought it would be a good first introduction to trying to improve a pen's ink flow. It is also a pen I am not particularly emotionally attached to if I muck things up. (And I believe a replacement nib should be still fairly available and not too expensive if I really do some damage.) What are the steps I need to take?

**Rx:** There are 45s, and then there are 45s. Most flow well, but there's always the occasional "naughty child." Your pen may need cleaning, or it may need a nib adjustment.

The first thing to do is to clean the pen. Disassemble the business end of the pen by unscrewing the small collar into which the nib fits. You can then push

the feed out of the collar from the rear, and the nib will come loose from the feed. Here are the parts in order from the section to the nib:



Put these parts and the gripping section to soak in a good pen flush (or a 1:10 solution of clear household ammonia in water), and soak overnight. Stir from time to time. This long soak is important because the collector, inside the section, is not readily removable, and you want to allow the solution time to work its way into the collector. When you fish the parts out, rinse them thoroughly and floss the nib slit with a piece of 0.002" (0.05 mm) sheet brass. Use the brass to floss the channels in the feed, too. Now reassemble, and use an ear syringe to force a lot of water through from the back end, to clean out the collector. Shake out the excess water, and try the pen.

If the pen still performs poorly, examine the nib slit. Is it clamped tightly closed? If it is, you can use your fingers, pressing from underneath, to raise the nib tines off the feed and spread them as shown in the figure here. Do this with great care, as you can easily break things or bend the nib too far.



Do not try to spread the tines by forcing an X-Acto knife between them. You will damage the nib, even if you can't see the damage! A gold nib will bend more easily than a steel one. Try to adjust the slit so that you can see light between the tips with a 10× loupe, but so that the sheet brass doesn't slip through without any resistance. Now try the pen again.

If things are still not working right, your next step is to start replacing parts, beginning with the feed, to see if you can get the ink flowing. If shotgunning parts doesn't work, it may be time to consider a different pen.



## **Follow RichardsPens on Facebook**

RichardsPens would like to be liked on Facebook.

---

You have received this newsletter from [nibnoise@richardspens.com](mailto:nibnoise@richardspens.com) because you opted in on my website. If it came from somewhere else, I invite you to subscribe.

To subscribe or unsubscribe, please visit the Free Email Newsletter page on my site. Please do not follow any instructions that the stupid mail robot might have appended.

Privacy Policy: I will never sell your name or email address. Your privacy is as important to me as it is to you.

--

Richard Binder • Fountain Pens

Pens That Write Right! -- [www.richardspens.com](http://www.richardspens.com)

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/NashuaPenSpa>