

Nib Noise

Volume 20 • Number 12 • March 2022

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

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richard@richardspens.com

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“We did it before, and we can do it again.” (Song title, 1941)

The world is once again at war. Russia has invaded Ukraine, and pretty much the entire Western world is fighting back — not with the usual guns and bombs and troops, although we are providing the matériel of war to the Ukrainian military, but with money. Seizure of assets, sanctions against banks, closure of the NordStream 2 Pipeline, the pressure is being felt. Even Switzerland is joined in the fight, adopting the EU's entire range of sanctions and seizures.. More might be needed; we shall see, and do, what is required.

Back to the business at hand. Last month, I discussed clerical pens in this space and showed you a couple of Waterman examples. This month, it's another dose of clerical pens, but these aren't from the Big Four camp. Rather, they're from the other end of the scale, in the form of an SJ and an LJ from Esterbrook.



These two pens might be “cheaper” than the Watermans; they were certainly priced lower. But whereas Waterman hot-stamped a cross on the cap and filled it with jeweler's wax, Esterbrook took things a little more seriously. The crosses on these pens are sterling silver, inlaid into the caps. And, being members of Esterbrook's J family, they have interchangeable nibs. Beat that one, Waterman!

BROAD STROKES

A project I've been working on for two years comes to fruition this month. Two years ago, in March 2020, I published *Japanese Pocket Pens*, the world's first (and only) book dedicated to those delightful long-short pens that came out of Japan beginning in 1963. Since then, I've been researching, studying, and acquiring more pocket pens. I've added at least 75 more pens, increased the text correspondingly, and updated some of the earlier text to reflect new information that has come to light, and I've just published the second edition of *Japanese Pocket Pens*.

ポケットペン

If you already own a copy of *Japanese Pocket Pens*, or if you buy it new and get the first edition, the seller you bought it from will notify you (or make the update silently). The second edition is already up on Amazon and in process on Apple. Barnes & Noble will follow as soon as I can get them to fix a bug in their file previewer so I can verify the book's goodness in their store.



The companion Web page has also been updated.



My Books

In case this is your first issue of *Nib Noise*, I invite you to visit my Books page. I don't sell anything from my site, I prefer to let the bookselling pros do the heavy lifting. There's a complete listing of my books on my site, with direct links to the web pages where you can buy them for your own library. As an Amazon, Apple, and Barnes & Noble Associate, I earn a commission when you purchase one of my books by following a link from my Books page.

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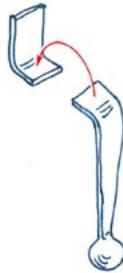


By Don Fluckinger
March 2006

User Serviceable Parts Inside

Every collector wonders, "Gee, can I fix [pen X] myself? I mean, it's pretty basic stuff, right?" The answer is, "sometimes." But when, and how does one go about figuring it out?

Read Don's take on the subject. Trust me, things have not changed since he wrote this piece sixteen years ago.



From the *Glossopedia*

With more than 1,575 entries comprising (with subentries) more than 1,750 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.

torpedo shaped A term describing a pen that is cylindrical in shape (not tapered or barrel-shaped) with one or both ends roundly streamlined. The classic torpedo shape is exemplified by Sheaffer's pens of the 1929–1941 period, as illustrated here by a c. 1934 Oversize Lifetime Balance in Marine Green Pearl. See also [cigar shaped](#), [Flat-Top](#).



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 132 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. When I release the next edition, your ebook vendor will notify you (or make the update silently).

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.

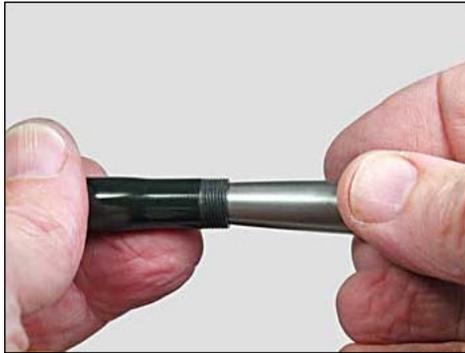
Q: I have a great Eversharp Skyline, but the cap threads don't work right. When you screw the pen in too firmly, it goes beyond the end of the threads, and then it's loose again. What size of threads repair tool should I use?

Rx: You cannot restore the threads with a chasing die (thread repair tool) because it's a multiple-lead screw that's not a standard size, and it's loose because some of the plastic material has worn away or has shrunk, or both, over years of use. Instead, you must expand the diameter of the barrel very slightly at the threaded end. To make the tool you need for this task, remove the clip from a Parker 61 cap.

Heat the open end of the barrel gently using a rubber stamper's embossing-type heat gun like the one illustrated in How to Replace a Pen Sac, *never an open flame!* When the end of the barrel has begun to soften the least bit, carefully press the smaller end of the 61 cap into the opening just enough to expand it by about 0.004" (0.1 mm). Allow the pen body to cool, then remove the 61 cap. Usually, 0.004" is enough to make the threads engage, but you might need to repeat the operation to expand the body opening a little further.

Done right, this technique creates a slight taper on the inside of the barrel end. If you did the work carefully, the barrel will probably still fit the section tightly enough. If it's too loose, shellac it in place, and let the shellac dry for 72 hours before trying to use the pen.

As with any repair technique that is new to you, try this first on a pen you don't care about, not on your Skyline.



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