

REFINED HATCHING WITH PEN NIB & INK SUPPLY LIST

Spring/Summer 2024

The Garden is not providing any materials for this course.

Students are encouraged to review the instructor's [free guidebook](#) prior to the start of the course. For an example of the instructor's rendition of scientific illustrations with the technique of pen nib and ink, [watch this video](#).

1a – Pen nibs suggested: better to have three or more individual nibs from the brands and models chosen. Hints and tips about selection at the time of purchase are in the guidebook. Remember to have also the correct holder(s), since some nib styles require different holders:

- **Speedball Hunt #100** - this should be the first preference; it provides thin lines and has flexibility that allows good line thickening. It allows for some of the finest lines of all pen nibs currently available;
- **Speedball Hunt #104** - thin lines, but blades are short, hence there is less flexibility and quite a limited capacity of line thickening. Nevertheless, it is suitable when one wants to avoid unwilled thickening and it is also excellent for micro stippling;
- **Speedball Hunt #102** - crow quill style, it makes thicker lines compared to the models above and is steadier, however it can provide fine lines and also allows for some good thickening, being suitable for contours.

1b – Alternative choices (order of preference)

- **Gillott #290 VINTAGE:** hard to find and expensive, but worth it, depending on its conditions. Some rarely found brand-new nibs, with good manufacturing conditions such as those the guidebook suggests, can be used for quite a long time provided that they are well conserved and cared for.

- **Deleter Maru-pen:** (find it here http://deleter-mangashop.com/goods_en_usd_259.html): this is quite a well manufactured and refined nib. Crow quill style, they provide awesome fine lines, but as they are not very flexible, the capacity of line thickening is a bit limited. This is the only reason why it is not ahead of Speedball in the ordination.
- **Tachikawa #77:** the description of this nib is quite similar to the Deleter nib above, but Tachikawa is a bit more flexible (though not as much as SpeedBall Hunt #100), hence it allows wider thickening of the lines. However, it may need some sanding procedures to refine even more the great quality of its delicate lines.
- **Gillot #290 (currently made):** this is the last and least resort, not a great option because the quality of manufacturing of current nibs is extremely low and the rate of usable nibs comes to something close to just 10 or 20%. Therefore, in order to have a few useful nibs, one has to buy at least some 30 nibs and be lucky. But if you can find a vintage bronze model as suggested on guidebook's section 2 (fig. 3f), go for it.
- **Refillable/disposable pens:** for outlining, one can use a good refillable pen – or even a disposable one, provided that its ink is quite dark, since some of them have a somewhat diluted tone. Note that thickness variations during scribing are not possible with such pens. Recommended brands and models are **Micron** (disposable), **Koh-I-Noor Rapidograph** and **Rotring Isograph** (both refillable).

Besides the options suggested above, feel free to choose and bring to course any material of your preference. Nibs I mentioned in the guidebook are **Nikko G**, **Zebra G**, **Principal EF Leonardt**, **Presbitero 505 EF** and **Brause and Co. 76**. Most of these are not able to provide so delicate lines as the other suggested models do, but it is worth trying.

1c – Nibs to be avoided:

- **Speedball Hunt #103** - design really quite similar to #100, a bit more flexible, but usually does not work well at all, for some reason;
- **Do NOT be attracted to HIRO Leonardt #700.** Just do not buy it!!

2. India Ink - suggested brands are (in order of preference): 1. **Talens** 2. **Staedtler Mars** – ‘paper’ (give preference to the model labeled for “paper”, since the model for “film + paper” has a secant that can cause functioning troubles), 3. **Cretacolor**. Feel free to bring inks from any brand of your preference instead, or any material you had already acquired.

3. Paper - (order of preference): **Lana Bristol, Fabriano 4L, Strathmore 500 Bristol Plate Finish. Canson Bristol** is also an option, in case one does not mind its bluish tone. Winsor & Newton Bristol may appear excellent at face value and indeed provides a marvelous surface, but as the work develops the paper reveals its abrasive tendency to literally wear down the pen nib’s tip. Feel free to bring any paper of your preference or any brand that you had already acquired. Two sheets size A3 (12 x 17”) or four sheets size A4 (8,5 x 12”) will be enough, but it depends of your own rhythm and manner of working, thus bring more if you think you will need.

4. Little brush with stiff hairs (nylon, plastic, hog bristle): it will be used to clean the pen nib with alcohol, so its size must be compatible with the nib’s size. Width of 5mm in hair’s base is enough, be it rounded or flat. Prefer a non-expensive brush, for hairs will have their tips cut to increase stiffness.

5. Isopropyl or ethyl alcohol 99% (or at least a minimum of 70%) - to wipe the pen nib. It can even dilute and remove dry inlaid ink from old pens.

6. Penicillin vial WITH CAP (as seen in the figure beside) - as explained previously, this vial is useful for maintenance of good conditions of the principal body of ink in the original bottle. Its use is simple and indispensable to our goals in this workshop. In case of difficulty in obtaining one, bring any similar container you believe may be helpful, preferably with a snap-on cap rather than a screw top.



7. Lint free cloth or paper towel to wipe the pen nibs. Paper towel is also used to protect drawing from hand’s touch.

8. A little piece of cardboard or any rigid paper plus adhesive tape - to be a base for fixing the ink vial over and then avoid spilling.

9. A dropper, a little straw or a pipette - to transfer ink from original bottle to penicillin vial.

10. A cup, a glass or a pencil holder - to support pen nibs with their holders so that they stand firm, preventing scrolling, falls and disasters.

11. A magnifying lens of jeweler's type, with magnifying index at least 5x, to check conditions of cleaning and help while sanding.

12. Double edge razor blades and eraser pencil for corrections.

Supply Resources:

- Plaza Art, 927 W. Grace St., Richmond, VA 23220, 804/359-5900
<http://www.plazaart.com/>
- <http://www.dickblick.com>
- <http://www.danielsmith.com>
- <http://www.cheapjoes.com>
- <http://www.amazon.com>