

The HOME FORUM

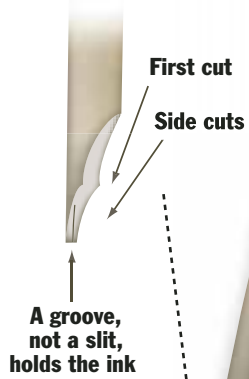
QUILL PEN

About AD 700, feather pens came into use. Right-handed writers used quills from the left wings of geese, so the quill curved out of the way. You sharpened your pen with a penknife and removed as much of the quill's vane as was fashionable at the time.

BAMBOO PEN

Ancient Romans used pens similar to these. They would squeeze their reed pens – primitive fountain pens, really – to make the ink flow. Bamboo pens are still common in Asia and are popular with calligraphers and artists.

Cutting a quill pen



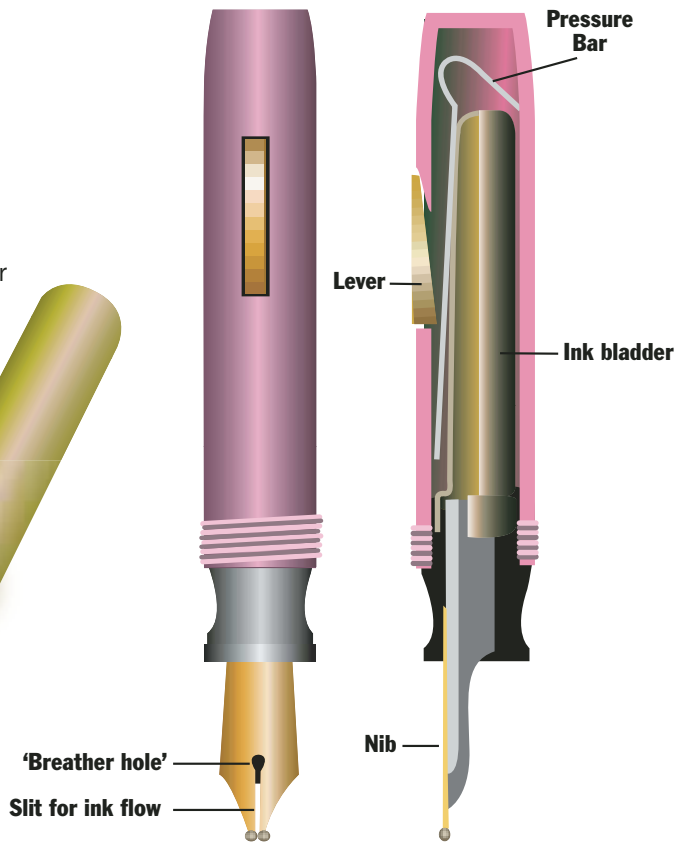
The hole acts as an ink reservoir and keeps the slit from splitting further.

Slit to aid ink flow

FOUNTAIN PEN

When a leaky pen ruined a sales contract,

fountain pen – which he did, in 1884. One of the crucial innovations was a 'breather hole' in the nib to make the ink flow more smoothly.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY SCOTT WALLACE – STAFF

BALLPOINT PEN

Hungarian journalist Lazlo Biro invented the ballpoint pen in 1938. Wartime British pilots used the pen at high altitudes where fountain pens would leak. In the 1950s, French Baron Marcel Bich began to dominate the ballpoint pen market.

