

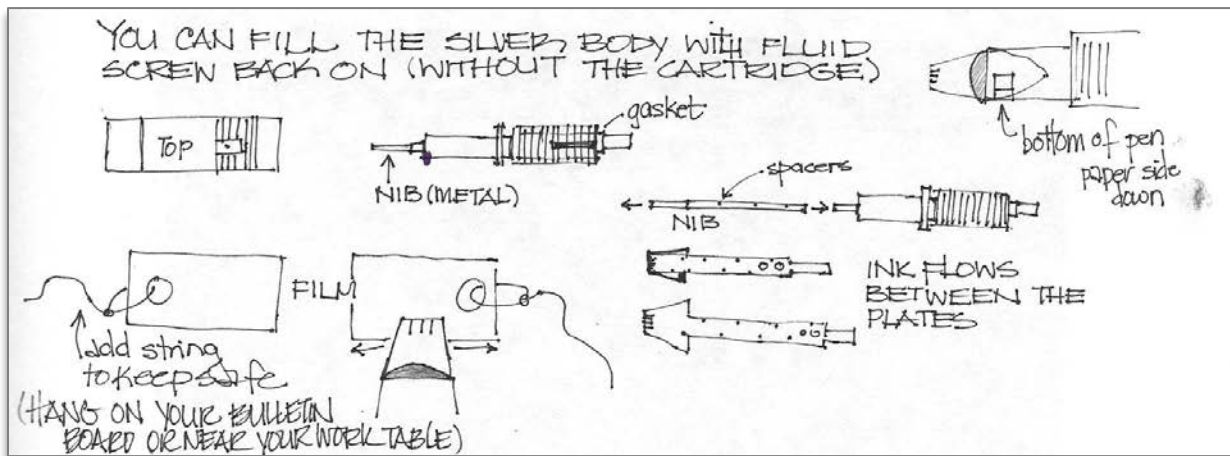
## Pilot Parallel Pens – Violet Smythe

### Pros

- Portable, convenient and durable
- Great for practice – no pauses or dipping required
- Great for flourishes and hairlines
- Long lasting
- Great for larger works and expressive calligraphy
- Great for fun and funky letter styles as well as traditional
- You can do colour blending
- You can draw with it
- You can dip it into gouache or other liquid watercolours/inks

### Cons

- Not appropriate for small delicate work
- Limited to 6 sizes 1.5mm [red], 2.4mm [orange], 3.0mm [pink], 3.8 mm [green], 4.5mm [turquoise] and 6.0mm [blue]
- Colour blending not controlled (this can be a good thing)
- Stiffer nib makes some strokes more difficult, not as much flex



**Cleaning** – the pen can be completely taken apart for cleaning. Use plain water to rinse away any dried bits from the nib and or gasket. If you need to scrub the nib, use an old soft toothbrush, but be gentle. Let dry completely before reassembling. You can also use Windex® with ammonia to clean your nib. Dip it, swish it and rinse in water.

To take apart... gently pull out the nib (metal plates) from the gasket. The gasket can be twisted out of the transparent ink controller. Flush all pieces with tepid water and let dry. You can also use the rubber converter that comes in your kit to flush the nib.

Be sure to keep the piece of black “film” that comes in the pen package. It is very useful to clean between the plates of the nib. It acts like dental floss.

**Ink** – the ink cartridges that you can buy from the manufacturer are NOT light fast. This ink tends to bleed or feather into papers. To avoid that from happening you can fill the barrel (silver) with a high-quality ink or refill your empty cartridges using a syringe. Don't keep any empty cartridges that are cracked as they will impede the flow of the ink (messy too). To clean, place the empty cartridge in a dish of tepid water and let it soak. Rinse out any ink remnants and let dry. You must ensure that the steel ball remains in the cartridge and that the plastic cap on the top of the cartridge remains as well.

Ones that I like Pelikan (not lightfast/water-soluble), Herbin Calligraphy inks (lightfast/water-soluble) and walnut ink (peat/crystals). Fountain pen inks work well. Just be sure that there isn't any shellac in the ink. Alice Young recommends Dr. Martin's Tech – semi-transparent and waterproof for Lightfast/waterproof ink.

You will still need to test your paper regardless.

**DO NOT USE SUMI, ACRYLIC INK OR BLEACH IN YOUR PENS!** Unless you are prepared to clean your pen right away. Like IMMEDIATELY!

**Ink not flowing?** You can gently squeeze the cartridge until the gasket is filled with ink. If you think your ink is dried in the nib you can use the film to clean and or dip you pen in a bit of water.

**Colour blending** with the parallel pens is achieved by kissing two nibs together. Either on the side, like a side load, or on the top. You can double side load as well!

You can dip your nib into gouache full on or just the corner. You can also use a loaded brush to side load your nib.



Modified Pilot Parallel Pens (From John Neal Bookseller)



Radius Cut



Scroll Cut

<https://www.johnnealbooks.com/category/s?keyword=pilot+parallel+pens>