

# FOUNTAIN PEN NIB REPLACEMENT

By Anthony Turchetta

Since there has been so much talk about fountain pen nibs, gold vs steel, and some writing problems with FP in general. I have taken a few apart for inspection so the majority can see the inner tickings.

The terms I am going to use here are,

Nib- The steel or gold metal writing point

Feeder- The part that fits against the point that controls the ink flow

Housing- The part that the feeder & nib fit into

Front section- The front part of the pen that holds the nib, feed,& housing.

First, if your fountain pen does not write properly, there can be numerous problems, if you do an internet search, you will find a vast amount of info on using different inks, polishing or smoothing out your tip and just about anything else you want to know.

But if you remove the nib & feed, you just may find this.



Everybody will tell you, you should rinse out the feed & nib every two weeks, but we generally do it twice a year or when we find out our feed is clogged. So by rinsing your feed out often, you will avoid this crud build up.

Most nibs and feeders can be removed by gently pulling & wiggling the nib & feed. There is also a tool called the knock-out block that can be used, this is one available from the Wood Bin LTD, Martin has a good selection of FP tools.

<http://www.simcom.on.ca/woodbin/Tools.htm>



This section deals with disassembly of nibs from some of our most popular kit pens, or at least the ones I make regularly.

First is the Jr Gent vs 1 & 2 , Jr. Emperor/Baron/Navigator pens.

This photo shows from L-R

CS FP nib, Plat Jr, Black Ti Baron, Gold Ti Baron



The parts removed from the right are, the gold front section screws off, which reveals the feeder housing, which holds the feeder and nib.

If you play around with these parts, they are somewhat interchangeable. So, if you want the look of a two tone nib, you can use a Baron. If you want the calligraphy nib from CSU, unscrew the black front section and take one off another. Some minor fitting may be done. Also, you can replace the steel nib with a gold nib of the same size and still be able to use the same feed and housing sections.

To remove the steel nib, unscrew the front cover, while holding the feed housing, grab the nib with your fingers and wiggle side to side, while pulling. The nib should pull off, you may pull the feed out with it but that is fine. Some are more stubborn than others to pull off. But on a new nib that has never been inked, the wiggle and pull method should work just fine, if not, then use a knock out block.

To reassemble, just start the feed into the housing, rotate the feed and you will feel a slight catch, as the feed will only go in one way. With the feed just started, lay the new nib on top of the feed and push both the nib & feed into the housing. Align your feed in the center of the nib and that's it.

This is the Penchetta 14K gold medium nib with feed & housing assembly & no front section cover. From top, Gold out, Gold in, all yellow Gold



This is what the gold nibs look like in different metal front housings.



Next is the Ligerio and El Grande. About the only difference I see between the two front sections is the Ligerio has the cap threads on the front section and the El Grande uses a coupler for the cap threads. The photo is of the Ligerio front section. Now these I have noticed in both models have the nib & feed pressed in pretty good. A little extra wiggling and a firmer grip may be needed to remove them without the knock-out block. But can be safely done. This nib can be replaced as well with a large gold nib.





Ligero front section, stock feed & steel nib, replacement 14K gold Penchetta nib.



Assembled



**NOTE: I have been experiencing some problems with the conversion to the Ligeró & El Grande. On some, the nib is not lying completely flat on the feed and therefore not working properly. I have to bend the nib so it comes in contact with the end of the feed. So I would currently recommend staying away from this conversion for now.**  
**Updated 7/29/05**

Next is the Havana nib. It uses the large type nib and can be removed by the wiggle pull method. The original nib, original nib & feed, new replacement gold nib & feed





Assembled pens top stock steel nib, bottom 14K gold replacement nib



Large nib front section from a Statesmen pen



This housing unit simply unscrews from the front section cover as a unit. The nib, feed & housing. This unit is interchangeable in the Gentlemen's, Statesmen, Imperial, & Lotus pens kits.



A disassembled housing unit.

#### Reassembly:

When reassembling the nibs and feed into the housing, first insert the feed part way only. There is a slight catch or guide in the housing, you may have to rotate the feed to find it. When you do, it will just slide in. After you have started to insert the feed, take your nib and insert between the feed and housing and press both into the housing firmly, that's it!

Generally most of the stock pen kits come in a medium writing grade. But I have used Brea large steel nibs in Fine & Bold as replacement nibs in this housing and it works.

Also available as an option is the PENCHETTA large 14K gold nib, available in Medium writing grade only. This unit will simply screw in and replace the stock steel nib in the following pen kits. Gentleman's , Statesmen, Emperor, Lotus, Imperial.



Sample of the manufacturing process for a 14K gold nib offered by PenWorks



Resources:

Craft Supply USA, optional replacement nibs in different writing widths.

<http://www.woodturnerscatalog.com/cgi-bin/shopper?search=action&keywords=fountain-nib>

Arizona Silhouette, optional Borea nibs in different writing widths.

[http://www.arizonasilhouette.com/Fountain\\_Pen\\_Nibs.htm](http://www.arizonasilhouette.com/Fountain_Pen_Nibs.htm)

PenWorks, Small & large 14K gold replacement nibs.

<http://www.turchetta.com/penworks/wholesale/defaultwholesale.htm>

Two of the most common fountain pen resource links out there. Both have a wealth of information and both gentlemen are experts at what they do.

[www.richardspens.com](http://www.richardspens.com)

[www.nibs.com](http://www.nibs.com)

I hope this info is helpful and will get you tinkering with fountains pens. There is no real big mystery here. You are only dealing with 4 parts that pretty much go together one way. Something you may want to purchase is a product called INK NIX to remove all the ink from your hands. This stuff is the best I found. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at [penworks@turchetta.com](mailto:penworks@turchetta.com)

Write on,

Penchetta