



How to use an ink pump/ink converter in a fountain pen kit

An ink pump (also called a converter) lets a fountain pen draw ink directly from a bottle instead of using disposable ink cartridges. It's reusable, economical, and gives you access to a much wider range of ink colours.

Here's how to use it.

What you'll need:

- A fountain pen with the ink pump installed
- A bottle of fountain pen ink
- A paper towel or soft cloth

Step 1: Prepare the pen

Unscrew the barrel of the pen to expose the nib section. If the converter isn't already installed, push it firmly onto the back of the nib section until it seats securely.

Step 2: Twist the converter to expel air

Turn the converter's knob clockwise (or in the direction that moves the piston toward the nib) until the piston is fully lowered. This pushes out any air.

Step 3: Submerge the nib

Dip the entire nib and the breather hole into the ink. The breather hole is the small opening near the base of the nib, and it must be below the surface of the ink for the pen to fill properly.

Step 4: Draw ink into the converter

Slowly turn the knob in the opposite direction to retract the piston. As the piston moves back, it creates a vacuum that pulls ink through the feed and into the converter.

Step 5: Remove air bubbles (recommended)

For the fullest fill:

1. Expel the ink back into the bottle.
2. Draw the ink up a second time.

This second fill usually removes trapped air and gives the converter a higher ink capacity.

Step 6: Clean the nib

Lift the pen out of the bottle and wipe the nib and section with a lint-free cloth or paper towel. Be careful not to wipe across the tip of the nib, which can catch the fibres.

Step 7: Reassemble the pen

Screw the barrel back onto the pen. Your fountain pen is now ready to write.



Helpful tips

- Use only fountain pen ink. India ink, calligraphy ink and acrylic inks can clog and permanently damage the pen.
- If the pen doesn't write immediately after filling, hold the nib against paper for a few seconds or gently twist the converter just enough to place a tiny drop of ink on the nib.
- Clean the converter and nib with cool water whenever you change ink colours or if the pen won't be used for several weeks.

A properly filled converter typically provides enough ink for many pages of writing before it needs to be refilled.