

Tip sheet: Troubleshooting button click pen kits

If you're having difficulty getting a button click pen mechanism to work correctly, chances are something hasn't gone quite right during the pen making process. Here are a few things to check that could be affecting the workings of your pen:

Check the springs

- Make sure the spring in the click mechanism, located where the button fits into the finial, is seated down inside the mechanism properly. If it isn't, it will affect proper operation of the button click.
- Make sure the spring that fits on to the refill is installed correctly. The small end of the spring goes on first, and it must slide all the way to the shoulder of the refill.

Remove any debris in the nib

- There may be very tiny amounts of debris (from the plating process, from turning, from gluing or just general dust) inside the nib that are affecting how well your pen functions. To ensure the nib is clear, take your ink refill without the spring on it and from the outside, push the nib of the refill through the small hole in the pen nib several times. Debris that is present in the nib may not always be visible.

Check the refill

- Make sure your refill is seated properly and correctly into the click mechanism.

Use a press block

- If the kit instructions call for it, make sure you use a press block during the assembly process. Never press on the button using a pen press or vise or you will break the mechanism.

Be careful of inside tube diameter

- If clicking your button click pen pushes the pen body apart, it is likely that the inside of the pen barrel has been reamed out when using a pen mill. To avoid this, make sure the pen mill shaft is perfectly straight as it enters the pen tube when squaring the ends. A drill press table not mounted 100% straight, not using a drill centering vise or using a hand drill to square the ends can also cause the pen mill shaft not to be straight.
- The inside tube diameters have very, very slight tolerances so if even a small amount of the brass tube is peeled away, the pen part that pushes into that tube will not be as tight as it needs to be to hold properly.
- If the pen is repeatedly taken apart and put back together, this will also loosen the tube, causing the parts not to hold properly.

Specific to Slim Max and Maple Leaf click pen kits:

- Make sure the three-piece click mechanism is extended **all the way** before inserting it.
- Watch the video on our website or our YouTube channel on how to properly install click mechanisms for these two kits.