



### N148. Tim's Folded Pen

These pens are classic folded metal designs, simple and straightforward, and display the exotic hardwood of their shafts with a minimum of fanfare.

The shafts are finished by hand, running through levels of sandpaper all the way to 1500 grit. That's why the surfaces shine so. Clear, natural Danish oil is used to seal the wood, and it is then rubbed with carnauba wax. The nib holders are thin-walled brass pipe. The nibs are formed from recycled metal cans which are hammered, hand-milled, and folded into designs that deliver diverse line widths, depending on the angle they touch paper. With care, these pens, should last a lifetime.

### Caring for your pen

To keep your pen shafts smooth and silky, occasionally buff them with fine crocus polishing cloth, then apply a coat of carnauba paste wax and rub with your hand. The same crocus cloth or 0000 steel wool rubbed around the brass will burnish it, too. The nibs need to be washed and dried after each use, including blowing into the ink reservoirs to force moisture out. The nibs are steel; they can rust. If the writing edges ever roughen, burnish them with crocus cloth or 0000 steel wool until they gleam. Before writing, remove the oil coating: spray the nib with glass cleaner and dry.

### Using your pen

You will develop your own techniques and flourishes as you use your pens. Here are some basics for your first strokes:

Standing vertically with the tip on the paper, both styles (*radius* & *dagger*) will write very fine lines and you'll need to dip them in ink less often.

The *radius* pen, rotated down so a broader section of the nib arc contacts the paper, will deliver ever-wider lines, sometimes with a little edge spatter if you're aggressive. Held in calligraphy positions, it will produce well-honed thicks and thins, and with a twist will deliver a thin embellishment.

The *dagger* pen, rotated down so the flat side contacts the writing surface, will produce a broad one-inch stroke.

**Ink:** These pens are tested with Walnut Ink. Denser media like Sumi and Gouache work as well, just be certain to clean the nib well after use.

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