



THE SMOOTHEST just got smoother!

Developments in ink technology continue to drive product development at Pentel

Flick through the writing instruments pages of any major stationery catalogue and you will be faced with a bewildering variety of barrel styles, ink technology and nib materials. This is a far cry from the situation just a few years ago when the best one could hope for was a limited selection of basic bios.

As the inventor of some of the most popular writing instruments in the workplace today Pentel has been at the forefront of this revolution, earning a reputation for developing excellent quality pens with better features than many standard products.

LONGER LASTING

A year ago Pentel launched EnerGel, a unique type of liquid gel ink that writes even more smoothly, dries more quickly and lasts even longer than standard gel.

The smoothness of ink is described in terms of its viscosity – like engine oil. At one end of the scale is liquid ink, which is contained in a reservoir inside the barrel of the pen. This flows incredibly smoothly, thanks to the assistance of a set of fins located between the barrel and the tip. The fins regulate the flow of ink and ensure that it doesn't flood out of the pen.

At the other end is thick ballpoint pen ink contained in a refill with a tip on the end. The ink is fed to the surface of the paper by gravity and spreads over the tip of the pen to transfer to the paper. Ballpoint pen ink can often last a long time, but is



sometimes blotchy and inconsistent towards the end of its life.

Regular gel ink sits somewhere between these two. It is much smoother than ballpoint ink and, because it is pigment-based, the colour is exceptionally vivid.

EnerGel ink is located between gel and liquid ink on the viscosity scale. In the original EnerGel, ink is contained in a reservoir like liquid ink but, unlike liquid ink, it doesn't require regulator fins to control the flow. Its unique liquid gel formula flows even more smoothly than standard gel, much more akin to liquid ink. As it's not as viscous as gel ink, it lasts longer and dries more quickly.

The original version of the pen is available in a choice of three tips: a 0.5mm needle tip for an ultra fine line; a 0.7mm metal tip for a fine line; and a 0.8mm cushioned ball tip for a medium line. All three benefit from the same smooth flowing, quick drying ink technology, while offering different line widths to suit the preferred writing style of the user.

Pentel's EnerGel range also includes a retractable version launched earlier this year, which is available with a needle or metal tip.

All EnerGel pens have stylish, metallic silver coloured barrels and a smooth rubber grip for ultimate comfort and control.

SMOOTHER BALLPOINTS

Another example of Pentel innovation is a new type of pigment-based ballpoint ink

available in two products called Rolly and FlexFit. The pigment ensures that the ink flows more smoothly than standard ballpoint pen ink, offering performance more like that of a gel pen. The ink is also fade-resistant, making it suitable for use on official documents.

Rolly is a slimline pen with a medium nib and a pear-shaped rubber grip for comfort in use, while FlexFit has a chunky barrel and a triangular-shaped grip made from extra-soft rubber, for maximum comfort and control. A matching 0.7mm automatic pencil with a unique lead-maximising system is also available in the FlexFit family.

REVOLUTIONARY MARKER PEN

Finally, Pentel has delivered the most revolutionary development in permanent markers for years in the form of the NX5 retractable marker. The first branded retractable permanent marker, NX5 is ideal for use on most surfaces, including cardboard, metal, plastic and wood. NX5 has a unique Click Technology system to advance and retract the tip and lock it while not in use, reducing the risk of accidental marking. Unlike other markers there's no cap to lose, because there isn't one in the first place – all the user has to do is advance, retract and lock the tip.

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