

A Modified Gel Pen, version 1.1

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I'm a sucker for pens that feel good in my hand and leave a nice clear mark. The Pilot Precise V7 RT is such a pen. It meters out gel ink which goes on thick.



The cost of this thick line is the rate at which it uses that ink. When I took the pen apart, I found what I thought was a very generous ink cartridge. Much to my surprise, this ink gets used quickly.

I don't mind having to buy these pens more often than the old ball point pens. I do mind running out of ink with no warning.

How can I tell that I am about to run out of ink? I need a "gas gage"!

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Here is my high tech solution: a 3/16 inch hole cross drilled near the tip of the pen.



Construction hint: remove the ink cartridge first! No, I didn't forget...



When there is still gel in the cartridge, the hole is blocked.



When the cartridge is almost empty, I can see through the body.

Spare cartridges can be bought on Amazon.com and Office Max/Office Depot.

Some of my readers have suggested I try to sell this idea to the pen company. Do understand that I have intentionally given this idea away for free. This both gives it to the community and prevents anyone from patenting it since it is now "prior art". However, I did offer the idea, for free, to the Pilot pen company.

If you wish to be contacted each time I publish an article, email me with just "Article Alias" in the subject line.

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