

# The Røtring Pen

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Notes on using the Røtring Pen © botanical illustrator [Esmée Winkel](#) GM | March 2016

## Taking care of your Pens

- Use very smooth paper suitable for ink. Rougher and cheaper paper seem to give off pieces of paper fibre and fill the nib and block the flow of ink.
- Don't push too hard on the paper. The ink should flow as soon as you touch the paper.
- Use good Røtring ink. Cheaper ink seems to clog up quicker. Also Røtring ink can get old after having lain for years and years in the shelves of shops. You will then see that the pigment lies on the bottom of the cartridge in a yellowish fluid. So check them before buying. Try buying them where you know the shop sells them more regularly.
- Put on the cap as soon as you finish or are having a break.
- Sometimes the ink suddenly starts dripping out of the pens. This is because the pressure in the cartridge has changed and the cartridge is almost empty. Time for a new one!
- When not using the pens some people keep them lying flat. See what you find best.
- If your larger pens (e.g. 0.50 and bigger) should drip try keeping them upright.
- Use the pens once in a while to keep them going. When not working on a drawing try doodling with them now and then.

## Unclogging your Pens

- Just before drawing, the pens sometimes need a little bit of encouragement so shaking them horizontally often helps.
- Sometimes a pen worked recently but doesn't any more. Cleaning your pen with a piece of cloth with a bit of spit on it often helps. There is something about it that makes it work better than water.
- When the pens don't want to cooperate at all, try putting them in a bath of hot water with a little bit of soap and move or shake them around in it. The ink seems to be water-soluble.
- The best way of unclogging your pens is to put them in an ultrasonic shaking water bath if you or a friend has one. I have never failed to unclog pens with this method, even pens that have lain dried up for years and years in the drawer. Unfortunately, it can be expensive to buy.
- The pens are most happy and will not clog up if you use them regularly even if it is a small doodle.