



Mightier Than the Sword

The pen has been used for a number of gadgets featured in James Bond films, although not all supplied by Q. Some of the gadgets were tools of the films' dastardly villains.

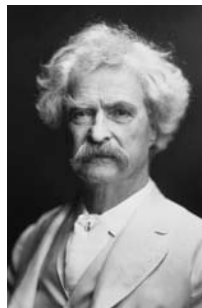
- A pen formed the barrel of Scaramanga's weapon in *The Man With the Golden Gun* (1974).
- In *Moonraker* (1979), CIA agent Holly Goodhead came equipped with a poison pen, which Bond used to kill a snake.

- In *Octopussy* (1983), a Mont Blanc fountain pen containing a mixture of nitric and hydrochloric acids also housed the earpiece for a listening device.
- In *Never Say Never Again* (1983), an explosive fountain pen was used to kill Fatima Blush.
- In *GoldenEye* (1995), a ballpoint pen contained a class-four grenade. Clicking the pen three times in a row either armed or disarmed the device. This gadget almost backfires when the film's villain absent-mindedly clicks the pen.
- By 2012, in *Skyfall*, the gadget guru from the Q branch says exploding pens are a thing of the past.

ANTONIO LITTERIO

“Wine is a clog to the pen, not an inspiration.”

Mark Twain

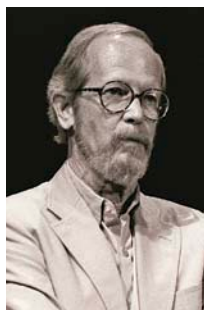


Inky Factoids

- ✍ In the U.S., more than 2 billion pens are manufactured each year.
- ✍ A ballpoint pen can draw a line 4,000 to 7,500 ft long.
- ✍ The average pen can write about 45,000 words.
- ✍ U.S. presidents use multiple pens to sign landmark legislation into law. Barack Obama used 22 pens to sign 2010's healthcare reform, Bill Clinton used 40 to sign the 1997 Taxpayer Relief Act, while LBJ used more than 70 to sign the 1964 Civil Rights Act. The president gives the historic pens to people who sponsored or worked hard on the bill, or to those for whom the legislation is significant.

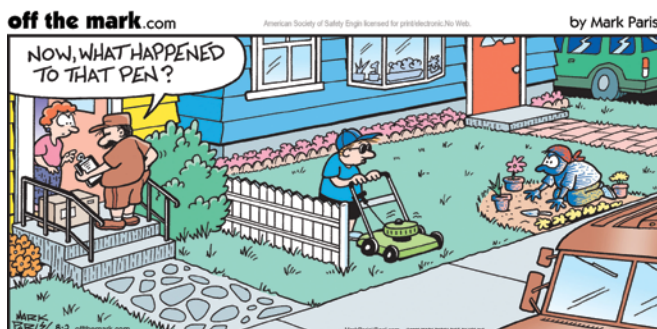
Pen Pushers?

- 👁 Lewis Waterman, an insurance salesman, reportedly invented the capillary feed to improve on early fountain pens after an ink leak destroyed a valuable sales contract.
- 👁 Hungarian journalist Laszlo Biro reportedly invented the first ballpoint pen after he noticed that newspaper ink dried quickly and without smudging. Using the thicker ink required a new type of point, incorporating a ball bearing.
- 👁 The Fisher Pen Co. created its antigravity space pen and offered it to NASA, which began using the pens in *Apollo* missions.
- 👁 The Pen Museum, in Birmingham, U.K., has a collection of 5,000 objects related to the manufacture of pens.



“I try to leave out the parts that people skip.”

Elmore Leonard



October Safety Photo of the Month



“What's wrong?
I provided slip-resistant feet!”
Photo by Jerry Maggard,
Audubon Chapter

If you have a cartoon, anecdote, joke or interesting safety item you'd like to submit for publication on this page, send your contribution to professionalsafety@asse.org. Submissions will not be returned.