

Pen Condition Rating Scale

Is it in working order? Will the pen perform as normally expected with the writing components in good working order.

Why is condition important? A pen's condition largely determines its attractiveness to collectors and its price. Condition is *very* important.

The description of each pen for sale contains a condition grade (for example B/1m or A2/1b). This describes both the pen and the nib

Pen Grade

A1 - Mint (uninked)	Shows no signs of use - possibly new old stock - mainly modern limited editions
A2 - Unused (Inked)	Shows no sign of use other than having been dipped or filled with ink - this is usually the top condition grade possible for vintage pens as we test the filling system and the nib as part of the service
B - Excellent	All parts original and showing only very slight signs of use: slight surface scratching; very minor discoloration or brassing; crisp imprints; no significant dings. Most of our vintage pens fall into this category as being excellent, collectible examples which are also suitable for everyday use
C - Fine	All parts original: some discoloration and brassing; light or worn imprints; small dings to metal or scratching on plastic. Unless very rare, we would not normally advertise a pen in this grade. A combination of discoloration and brassing, possibly a worn imprint or maybe other degradation of the material means that pens in this condition are seldom desirable
D - Fair	Some parts possibly not original; significant brassing/discoloration; very worn imprints; dings and scratches. Maybe a good writing pen or probably one to consign to the part bins!

Many pens (e.g., a Parker Duofold in mandarin yellow) might be excellent everyday writing pens even with a hairline crack - but a description of the defect should be included in the overall rating

Nib Grade

Nib Grade and Style:

f - Fine
m - Medium
b - broad
s - Stub
obl - Oblique
Flexible
Rigid

Nib condition - is it okay for daily writing?

- 1 - Nib is in excellent condition with no damage to tines or iridium
- 2 - Nib is useable with no damage to tines, some use evident on iridium
- 3 - Nib is useable but with some distortion to tines or significant iridium wear
- 4 - Nib has damaged tines or damaged iridium or hairline crack - can be repaired
- 5 - Nib is damaged beyond repair or is not useable

Note whether the nib is 'correct' for the pen

Additional Comments

This will include details of:

- Any engraving: the initials or text of the engraving are given, e.g., 'STG' or 'Presented to Adam Smith, Jan 1919'.
- Degree of oxidation on hard rubber pens
- Any specific damage, hairline cap lip splits etc.

Combined Grade

For example:

A1/1b [Engraved 'ADS' on barrel] would mean a mint, uninked pen with an excellent, broad nib which has the initials 'ADS' engraved on its barrel

B/1f would indicate a pen which has been used but is in good collectible condition and which is fitted with a fine grade nib in excellent shape

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