

Comparison of Three Waterproof Black Fountain Pen Inks

Platinum Carbon Black, Noodler's Bulletproof Black, and Pelikan Fount India Black

When laying down watercolor washes over black ink lines, the artist needs a waterproof ink that will not run when it becomes wet or be smeared by the action of the brush. Many such inks are suitable for dip pens, but only a few can be used in fountain pens without clogging. These three inks are manufactured for use in fountain pens and I have used all of them with success. Noodler's is a dye-based ink that becomes waterproof when it contacts the cellulose in paper. Platinum Carbon is pigmented and comes with a warning that fountain pens must be cleaned regularly to prevent clogging. These first two are totally waterproof, while—as you can see in the lettering samples below—the pigmented Pelikan Fount India will smear and run a little although it retains the basic black line. This can sometimes be useful. To demonstrate these qualities, I lettered the name of each ink with a heavy, thick pen line, allowed it to dry, and then washed it with wet blue watercolor. Then I lettered it again with a light thin stroke and washed it with red.



NOODLER'S BULLETPROOF BLACK

NOODLER'S BULLETPROOF BLACK

It did not happen in this sketch but occasionally my brush has dislodged a bit of black from the top of a thick Noodler's ink line that has not fully contacted the paper and become waterproof.



PLATINUM CARBON BLACK

PLATINUM CARBON BLACK

I applied very wet washes over the flowers and leaves of these first two sample drawings. You can see that the black lines remained sharp and did not run or smear on either of these waterproof inks.

PELIKAN FOUNT INDIA BLACK

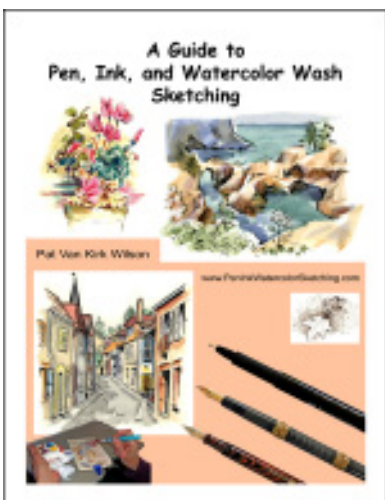
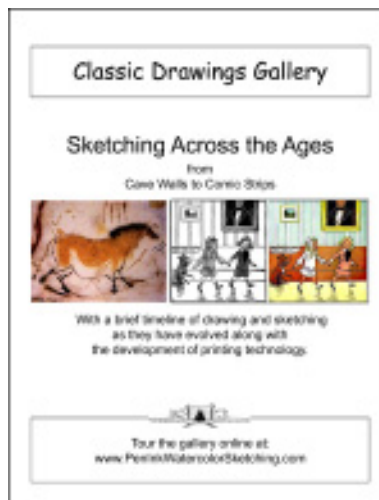
PELIKAN FOUNT INDIA BLACK

I used a very soft brush and a light touch when applying the washes to the lettering above. The ink ran but the basic line remained sharp. Since Pelikan Fount is not as waterproof as the other two, it must be used with care. I tinted the petals on the flowers at right with a dry brush and washed each of the leaves with one quick stroke. I applied the background wash and only touched the black lines where I wanted the ink to run and create grey shadows behind the stem and leaves.



You have downloaded one of our many FREE pdf
 Sketching Tip Sheets. To see and download more, go to our website at
<http://www.PenInkWatercolorSketching.com>

Download Free Drawing Tutorials, Sketching Tips, and Print and Fold Mini-Sketchbooks for My Face Sketchbook or
 A Sketch a Day, and our popular Practice Painting People tutorial for adding people to your landscapes.
 View pen, ink, and watercolor tips. **New!** Practice life drawing. Sketch sculptures from the Google Art Project
 as if they were live models in action poses on your Smartphone, Tablet, iPad, iPhone, or PC.



Tour the Classic Drawings Gallery, from
 cave paintings to comic strips.

View the eBooks,
A Guide to Pen, Ink, and Watercolor Wash Sketching.
 and
*Practice Sketching—
 Art Tutorial Sketchbook*

Come back often, we keep adding more.

