

¹Wishblade 203

Using the Pen Holder

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Suggested Uses for the Pen Holder

- When you're not sure where an image will cut, use a pencil in the pen holder to draw the image first. This is especially useful when cutting from scraps of card stock.
- Create gel pen titles on cardstock. This is especially useful when wanting to write on dark cardstock. Markers can also be used if they fit the holder.
- Using a white gel pen on cardstock will simulate the look of white rub-ons. It can be tough, though, finding a good white gel pen. Thus, I often use silver which writes better and looks great.
- Draw dashed lines on the inside edges of die cuts before cutting.
- Add decorations to die cuts before cutting or add outlines to photo mats.
- If a design is too intricate and you're having trouble cutting it, consider just drawing it with a pen onto your background or onto cardstock to be cut.
- If you're an 8 x 8 scrapbooker, use the pen holder to "stamp" your background layout with any design you choose.
- Use watercolor pencils to draw detailed pictures in the colors of your choosing. If desired, you can then blend the colors by hand.
- Create a page filled with gel pen greetings for cards and have the Wishblade cut them out. Do them in neutral tones and keep on hand.

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Selecting Pens

- The following pens and pencils will fit the pen holder and should work well:
- Thin ball point pens
- Thin mechanical pencils
- American Craft Ultimate gel pens (available at Joann's and Recollections)
- Staedlter Tri-Plus gel pens and Fine Liners (not available in the USA)
- Darice Kid's Crafts markers and coloring pencils (available at Michael's)
- The white Galaxy Marker by American Crafts is a medium point pen and shows up on really dark cardstock nicely. It starts off clear but becomes white in several minutes. Because it's thicker, it will work well for those fonts that are not quite so thin or on line drawings.

Modifying Pens to Fit

Some pens can be modified to fit the pen holder. For example, with the Pioneer Acid-free Gel Ink Pens, the following steps can be taken to make the pen fit:

1. Cut off the rubber comfort pad on the outside of the pen barrel.
2. Unscrew the silver nib at the bottom and set aside.
3. Slide the pen out of the barrel about 1 and a half inches and tightly wrap masking tape around the pen and barrel at the bottom of the barrel so that the pen is attached firmly. The barrel is still needed so that that the screw in the green holder will have something to lodge against.

Drawing with a Gel Pen

- When drawing AND cutting, it's probably advisable to do the drawing first. Load the media and the pen holder with the desired pen.
- Don't forget to go to cutline settings and uncheck any cutting lines. Of course, after drawing and before cutting, revisit this window to switch which colors are checked. (To access Cutline Settings, click on the wrench icon at the top, click on the tab called Cutting Settings, and then click on the button called Cutline Settings.)
- In the control panel, select a Media Type of Heavy Cardstock. Set the Paper Thickness to 2 and then the speed can be variable according to the guidelines below.
- Note: with the Craft Robo, you can select Pen from the available Media Types and automatic settings will be made. You may wish to decrease the speed.
- When using a gel pen, before mounting the pen holder, scribble on scratch paper to get the gel ink flowing. Do this any time the pen has been sitting for a while.
- Gel pens also work better when the drawing is slower. So, bring the speed down to between 1 and 5. If the ink is still too fine, repeat the "cut" without moving the roller. Also, you can copy/paste the image onto itself so that it will cut/draw twice.

Creating Titles with Your Own TTF Fonts

- Just as when you cut letters, it is necessary to check the Outline box when creating a title to draw.
- Because these are outlines, you may wish to select a VERY thin font so that the letters appear to be filled in. If any "space shows" you can always fill it in by hand quite easily.
- Alternatively, a thick font which produces a hollow letter can be filled in by hand either in the same color or a different color!

