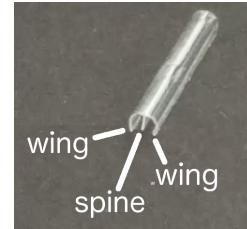


Shaping your Clear Cut nibs

Shaping your Clear Cut nibs is easy. It's like shaping a feather quill pen. You can use nail clippers or a pocket knife.

You modify two features to shape a Clear Cut nib - the wings and the spine. You can see these features in the photo on the right.

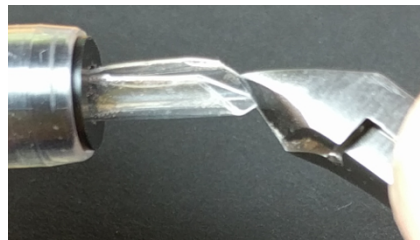


Keep your nibs trimmed and clean

- Try to keep your cut edges clean. Make sure fragments don't hang and possibly affect your drawn line.
- Polish your cut edges with micro grit paper if you want a smoother feel.
- Keep your nibs clean and they will serve you better and last longer. You don't have to clean your nibs every time, but the cleaner you keep them, the better they will serve you.
 - Flush your soiled nibs with water when finished - warm water is better
 - Soak them in diluted household cleaner, such as 409 or Fantastick. Make sure the cleaning agent is diluted. A strong solution might discolor your nibs.
 - Use a soft toothbrush to clean the crevices
 - Some ink or paint might creep inside layers of the nib – this will not affect the performance of the nib

You can form three shapes:

- Chisel tip
- Round tip
- Pointed tip



Forming a chisel tip



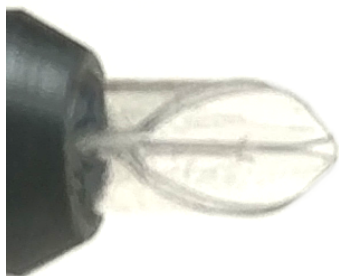
- Popular with calligraphers
- Also called broad point because the shape lets you write solid letters and wide scrolls, which require a broad tip
- Easiest shape to create, several clips and you're done
- Control the width of the drawn line two ways:
 - Cut the width you want to use
 - Press down on the nib to flatten the curve and widen the part that touches the paper
- For the example shown above, trim the wings and spine on a 45° angle. Start your trim halfway up the wing.
- Clip the spine at a 45° angle beginning halfway up the spine.
- Clip the tip flat across the front of the nib. Adjust the width depending on how wide of a line you want to draw.
- You can leave the spine untrimmed if you want stronger support on the chisel edge.

Forming a round tip



- Modified version of the chisel tip
 - Ideal shape for drawers
 - Most versatile nib shape - lets you draw a wide variety of line shapes
 - Twist and turn the nib while drawing to maximize the range of effects
 - Press down on nib to broaden the drawn line
- Instead of clipping the chisel tip 90°, you should round the corners with careful trimming.
 - Clip one wing at 45 degrees. Begin halfway up the wing. Make sure you don't start the cut near the center line.
 - Clip the other wing at 45° beginning halfway up the wing.
 - Clip the spine if you want a more flexible tip.
 - Leave the spine untouched if you want to apply firmer pressure on the nib as it glides over the paper

Forming a pointed tip



- Let's you draw thinner lines with more reliability, but getting the shape right can be tricky
 - Cut the wings with a curving motion - this is where it gets tricky.
 - Cut the spine at an angle lower than 45° so the tip can bend and flex, which lets you vary the width of your line a bit
 - Press down on the nib to broaden the drawn line
- Clip one wing at 45 degrees. Start your cut as close to the center line as possible. The closer you get, the more pointed the tip.
 - Clip the other wing in the same manner. You can try different curvatures when you become skilled at shaping and cutting.
 - Clip the spine at 45 degrees. Start your cut where the spine connects with the wings.

Something in between

You can create shapes that combine broad, round and pointed tips. Test their effects.

- Take your time to master the art of shaping. It's not difficult, but it is a technique.
- Practice on small nib pieces first.
- Trim carefully. Start by trimming slivers, then trim again. You won't necessarily get the shape you want the first time you try.
- Experiment - find out what works best for you.
- Search the Internet and check YouTube for more information on "shaping quill pens".