

## Tip sheet: Troubleshooting twist pen kits

If you're having difficulty getting a twist pen kit to work correctly, chances are something hasn't gone quite right during the pen making process.

True failure of a twist mechanism is rare so here are a few things to check that could be affecting the workings of your pen:

### Test the mechanism

- Pull your mechanism out of the pen and try twisting it back and forth on its own. If it works properly, the problem does not lie with the twist mechanism; rather, something else is affecting the proper operation of your pen. If you have another pen of the same kind that does work properly, you can also remove the mechanism from that pen and put the mechanism from the pen that isn't working properly into that second pen to check and see if it is working correctly. If it is, the mechanism is not the source of the problem.
- If the barrel of the pen spins on the mechanism without advancing the refill, the inside of the tube has been reamed out during the end mill squaring process (especially if you are using a hand drill) or the raised nubs on the twist mechanism are worn down.

### Remove any debris in the nib

- There may be very tiny amounts of debris (from the plating process, from turning, from gluing or just general dust) inside the nib that are affecting how well your pen functions. To ensure the nib is clear, take your ink refill without the spring on it and from the outside, push the nib of the refill through the small hole in the pen nib several times. Debris that is present in the nib may not always be visible.

### Double check the tube length

- It is easy to inadvertently shorten the brass tube too much when you are squaring off the ends of a pen blank. If your tube is now too short, the refill will extend too far out of the nib and will not retract all the way.

### Check the refill and spring

- If your pen takes a Parker-style refill, make sure your refill is seated properly and correctly into the pen.
- Ensure the spring that fits on to the refill is installed correctly. The small end of the spring goes on first, and it must slide all the way to the shoulder of the refill. Pens that take Cross refills do not have springs, so this step does not apply to those pen kits.