

Technical Exchange

The EMG Pen: Safe for Use in Labeling CDs and DVDs

Did you know that many pens commonly used to label CDs, DVDs, and other optical disks may cause permanent damage, making the disk unreadable?

The Electronic Media Group Pen has a felt tip and water-based ink. Other marking pens with fine points or rolling balls, as well as those with solvent-based inks, pose a danger to optical media because they may cause damage that interferes with a laser's ability to read recorded data.

How to use the EMG Pen to label optical media:

Following the guidelines outlined in section 5.2.5 'Marking' of CLIR's *Care and Handling of CDs and DVDs; A Guide for Librarians and Archivists* (Fred R. Byers, October 2003), EMG recommends labeling only on the clear inner hub of the disk.

Two ways to obtain an EMG Pen:

1. Join EMG. Become a member of EMG and receive your EMG Pen FREE! (Current members will receive their pen in the mail.) EMG annual membership dues to AIC members are \$15. Membership benefits include access to the EMG listserv and affiliation with AIC's newest speciality group.

Your dues support EMG's programs at the annual AIC meetings, programs which explore some of the newest challenges facing conservators of modern media today. To become a member of EMG, visit the AIC membership web page (<http://aic.stanford.edu/about/overview/membership>).

2. Purchase

Your purchase of EMG pens supports future EMG programming and education efforts.

Pens are priced as follows:

1-3 pens	\$4.00 each
4-10 pens	\$3.50 each
11+ pens	\$3.00 each

(prices include shipping and handling charges).

To order pens, download the order form http://aic.stanford.edu/sg/emg/pen/pen_order.pdf and follow the printed instructions. Pens will be on sale during the EMG 2005 program at the AIC Annual Meeting in Minneapolis.

To find out more about the EMG specialty group, see <http://aic.stanford.edu/sg/emg/> and for the EMG 2005 program see <http://aic.stanford.edu/sg/emg/minneapolis2005-NEXT.html>

Originally posted on the Conservation Distlist on April 19, 2005 by Kate Murray (kate.murray@emory.edu).

Albrecht Gumlich, column editor

Sources for Rolled Cotton

As you know, Johnson and Johnson, has discontinued its rolled sheet cotton (Red Cross Brand) indefinitely. When asked for a replacement product, a Johnson and Johnson spokesperson suggested Kendal Curity. At this time, most of Johnson and Johnson's distributors are offering the brands Dukal or US Cotton.

Last June, a very informal survey of some of the available options was undertaken by some of the painting and frame conservators at the National Gallery of Art, rating the cotton for use in conservation work.

The poll takers considered such factors as length of fibers, softness, smoothness, etc. We have found that the quality varies considerably, and we recommend asking for samples or at least requesting small orders of new brands before purchasing.

Of course preferences will vary due to personal taste and intended use. Prices reflect those advertised during May 2004. We would be interested to know what other brands people prefer for conservation use. The following list includes the cotton surveyed (more or less in descending order of preference) and general comments (see also note below):

Discontinued Indefinitely

Johnson and Johnson Health System
Product: Red Cross Brand First Aid Rolled Cotton 16 Oz. (Product No. 6026)
425 Hoes Lane
PO Box 6800
Piscataway, NJ 08855
800-255-2500
Note: Recommended Kendal Curity Product No. 6030 as replacement

Somewhat long fibers, soft, rolls well, some nubs, general favorite of those tested

Hanna's Pharmaceutical Supply Company
\$100 per case of 25, \$3.98 per roll
Product: DE Healthcare Products Rolled Cotton 1 pound roll (Item No. 08-14426-E)
2505 West Sixth St
Wilmington, DE 19805
302-571-8761 (Contact Patty)

Shorter fibers, soft, rolls well, less nubs than Hanna's

Dukal Corporation
\$53.75 per case of 25 one pound rolls
Product: Dukal One Pound Cotton Roll 16 Oz. (Reorder #CR1-25)
5 Plant Ave.
Hauppauge, NY 11788
631-656-3800

Note: Also distributed through Mercy Surgical Supply 888-637-2909 who used to be the distributor for Johnson and Johnson.

Fairly long fibers, soft, rolls well, slightly more nubs

Personna Cotton
\$154 per case of 12 one pound rolls
Product: Personna Sterile Cotton Roll 16 Oz. (Product No.79410016)
Distributed through Starline Medical by Tryco, Incorporated
6736 Old McLean Village Drive
McLean, VA 22101
800-934-3452 (Contact is Nicole Flesch)
[tryco\[at\]tryco__org](mailto:tryco[at]tryco__org)

Note: Call or visit Personna website for local area distributor
800-497-7827
www.starlinemedical.com/

Very short fibers, soft, rolls well

Practical Cotton
\$8.95 per roll or \$173.75 per case of 25 one pound rolls
Product: American Fiber and Finishing Practical Cotton Wool 16 Oz Roll (Item No. TCD 105001)
Talas (distributor)
568 Broadway
New York, NY 10012
212-219-0770
www.talasonline.com
info@talasonline.com

Relatively short fibers, nubs, somewhat scratchy, rolls ok

US Cotton
\$112 per case of 20 one pound rolls
Product: Sterile Absorbent Cotton Roll 16 Oz. (Product No.79410016)
401 Marshall Rd
Valley Park, MO
888-835-8029 (Kim in Sales ext. 1126.
Shirley in Samples ext. 1122)

(This brand is sold by Square One Medical and, at a better price, by Conservation Support Services. Editor)

Noticeably nubby texture, fairly short fibers, rolls ok

Kendal Curity
\$14.62 per bag or \$297.39 for case of 25 rolls
Product: Curity Lakeside Cotton Roll (product # 6030)
Tyco Health Care
301-736-9570
800-962-9888

Rough and scratchy, synthetic feel, tough to pull apart, does not roll as well

C&P Healthcare Inc.
\$52 for case of 25 one pound rolls
Product: C&P Sterile Cotton Roll 16 Oz. (Item No. 5501)
106 Ferry St.
Fall River, MA 02721
800-626-5582
508-675-0181

Many, many nubs, more expensive, unanimous last place finisher

Fisher Scientific
\$18.98 per roll or \$474.50 for case of 25 one pound rolls
Product: Absorbent Sanitary Cotton 16 Oz. (Cat. No. 07-900)
800-766-7000
www.fishersci.com/index.jsp

Note: One brand not included in the survey but preferred by one conservator at the NGA is called Webril Wipes, which are made from 100% cotton that is spun into sheets and perforated for easy tears. Her opinion is that the cotton is easy to roll with some manipulation and practice. Although the fibers are on the short side, the rolled swabs do not leave fibers behind. Available from

Village Supplies, Ltd.
\$8.99/ roll 3802
Product: #8178
West 127th Place
Alsip, IL 60803
708-842-1402
www.villagesupplies.com

Originally posted on the Conservation Distlist on April 19, 2005 by Pamela Betts, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

Help in Color-Balancing Digital Images

The Qpcard 101 is useful for conservators taking digital images to document conditions or treatments. It is a small, easy to use, and cost-effective aid for color balancing digital images.

The Qpcard 101 is a multi-functional reference card that makes color correction relatively easy during image processing in Adobe Photoshop. The process of gray balancing of the light is fast and results can be considered highly accurate.

The size of each card is just over 5 1/2" by 1 1/2". A stack of 15 individual Qp-cards comes in a lightproof foil package. The pack is sold for about \$20 in most good camera stores in the US. Alternatively, you can order by phone for the same price (plus shipping!) from Martin M. Lipton, Argraph Corp. in NJ, (201) 939-7722. General information about this Swedish-made product (including instructions) can be found online at: www.qpcard.com.

Instructions on how to use the Qpcard 101 to correct the color of digital images have been compiled by Yosi Pozeilov. These instructions can be found online in form of a PDF file at: www.pozeilov.com/Qp.



Thanks to Yosi A. R-Pozeilov for sharing his rich experience in the field of photography and for the kind permission to send out his instructions on how conservators can use Qpcard 101.

Please remember that any tip (great or small) is most welcomed. Other WAAC members want to hear about your creative solutions. Submit your trick or recipe to the Technical Exchange column by contacting Agumlich@getty.edu.

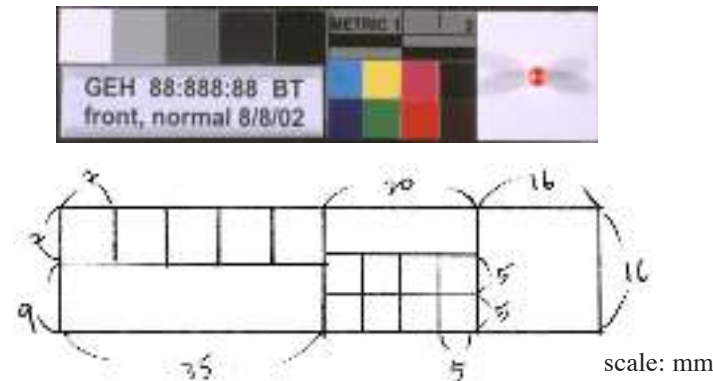
Small Scale Reference Plates for Photodocumentation

Thanks to Dan Kushel and Jiuan-jiuan Chen for permission to print their instructions on how to fabricate small-scale reference plates for photodocumentation.

They have designed two different small-scale reference plates in order to maximize image size of photographs taken for documentation purposes. The plates hold all necessary photographic references and provide space for artifact and image identification. They were originally designed for 35mm-format documentation of 1/6 plate and 1/9 plate daguerreotypes, but are equally useful for the photodocumentation of any small artifacts, or of details.

Construction of the Larger Scale Reference Plate

Overall measurements are 16 mm x 71 mm. The plate is constructed from a piece of 4-ply mat board toned with indelible black ink. (One can use black mat board, but museum-quality board is suggested for best durability.)



The gray scale and color scale (full-intensity only) patches are cut from a Kodak Q-13 Color Separation Guide and Gray Scale (small-20 cm), cat. #152 7654. (Note that as of January 2000, Kodak turned over manufacture and distribution of this item to the Tiffen Company, LLC.)

The gray scale uses only 5 of the 20 steps printed on the Q-13 scale. The individual gray scale patches for the reference plate are cut to measure 7 mm x 7 mm. The steps used are:

Grayscale patch number	A	3	M	13	B
Density	0	.3	.7	1.3	1.6

The color separation patches measure 5 mm x 5 mm and are positioned as follows (full-intensity only):

cyan	yellow	magenta	black
blue	green	red	3/color

The illumination direction indicator at the right end of the plate measures 16 mm x 16 mm. The gnomon is a spherical pin head 3 mm (1/8") in diameter. (Small map pins, available in office supply stores, serve well for this purpose.)

The gnomon can function as a polarized illumination indicator if a pin with a shiny metal head is used. The pinhead will appear black in a standard set up (i.e., vibration direction of the camera's polarizing filter oriented at right angles to that of the polarizing screens) because the reflections of lamps in the pinhead will be at extinction.

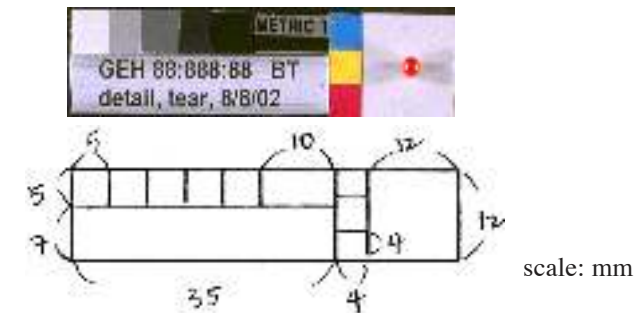
The size scale is a 2 cm portion of a gray metric ruler.

The data holder for date and identification information is constructed from a strip of 3 mil (0.003 inch) Melinex® polyester film. The top and bottom edges are folded to create a channel which can hold a paper label with date and other identification data. The data holder measures 35 mm long with a channel width of 9 mm. Because of the small size of the holder, it is easiest to make the first fold, and then trim it to proper width. The second fold is made against a piece of 2-ply mat board cut just a hair line smaller than the size of the channel. Again, the excess polyester is trimmed to proper width. This creates an open channel. In cross-section, the label holder appears:



Construction of the Smaller Scale Reference Plate

Overall measurements are 12 mm x 51 mm. It is also constructed of a piece of 4-ply mat board toned black.



The gray scale contains the same 5 patches as the larger plate. Each patch is cut to measure 5 mm x 5 mm.

Because of the small size, only three of the full intensity color patches are used. Each patch measures 4 mm x 4 mm. They are:

cyan
yellow
magenta

The illumination direction indicator measures 12 mm x 12 mm. The gnomon is a spherical pin head 3mm high.

The size scale is a 1 cm portion of a gray metric ruler.

The Melinex® data holder measures 7 mm x 35 mm.

If you would like to receive these instructions as a word.doc attachment or print-out (with inserted color images) feel free to send your request to Agumlich@getty.edu or call (310) 440-7448.

WAAC Publications

Handling Guide for Anthropology Collections

Straightforward text is paired with humorous illustrations in 41 pages of "do's and don'ts" of collection handling. A Guide to Handling Anthropological Museum Collections was written by Arizona State Museum conservator Nancy Odegaard and illustrated by conservation technician Grace Katterman. This manual was designed to be used by researchers, docents, volunteers, visitors, students, staff or others who have not received formal training in the handling of museum artifacts. Paper-bound and printed on acid-free stock.

Price, postpaid:

\$8.85 (\$6.60 per copy for orders >10 copies)

Loss Compensation Symposium Postprints

A compilation of the talks comprising the Loss Compensation panel from the 1993 meeting at the Marconi Conference Center, enhanced by a detailed introduction into the history of loss compensation theory written by Patricia Leavengood.

Price, postpaid:

\$12.50

Back Issues of WAAC Newsletter

Back numbers of the *Newsletter* are available. Issues **before 1993 cost \$5 per copy**, issues **from 1993 on cost \$10 per copy**. A discount will be given to libraries seeking to obtain back issues to complete a "run" and for purchases of ten copies or more of an issue.

Make your check payable to WAAC. Mail your order to:

Donna Williams