# What is a Felt-tip Pen?



Felt-tip pen (Flomaster) is a type of pen with a tip made of felt or fiber material, containing an ink reservoir and used for drawing and writing purposes. Derived from the English concepts "felt tip marker" or "flow master," this term is widely used in Turkish. In the art world, the felt-tip pen is a practical tool preferred for quick sketching, concept drawing, and illustration. During the sculpture making process, the felt-tip pen stands out as a material frequently consulted at the stage where the idea is first transferred to paper.

## Types and Features of Felt-tip Pens

Felt-tip pens are produced in many different types. There are significant differences between fine-tipped technical drawing pens, medium-tipped general drawing pens, and thick-tipped markers in terms of tip thickness. Regarding ink content, they are divided into two main groups: water-based and solvent-based felt-tip pens. Water-based felt-tip pens create clean lines without spreading on paper and can be easily erased. Solvent-based felt-tip pens provide brighter and more saturated colors while possessing the feature of being usable on different surfaces.

## The Relationship Between the Sculptor and the Felt-tip Pen

The felt-tip pen is one of the indispensable tools in the sculptor's design process. The first ideas of a sculpture are mostly poured quickly onto paper with a felt-tip pen or pencil. In this sketching stage, the general form, movement, and composition idea are transferred rather than precise measurements. At this stage, the felt-tip pen provides a faster and stronger visual impact compared to a pencil. In preliminary meetings with the client, the sculptor also creates a concrete point of reference by presenting their idea with felt-tip pen drawings.

## Drawing Techniques with Felt-tip Pen

Different techniques are applied in drawing with felt-tip pens. In the hatching technique, shadow and volume are expressed with parallel lines. In the stippling technique, dots placed in different densities create texture and tonal value. In the free-line technique, the form is attempted to be captured with a continuous line without ever lifting the pen from the paper. The fast applicability of these techniques makes the felt-tip pen an extremely valuable tool, especially during the creative discovery stages.

## Use of Felt-tip Pens in Art

Since its invention in the mid-20th century, the felt-tip pen has gained an important place in the contemporary art world. In pop art and graffiti art, the felt-tip pen and marker technique has developed an independent artistic language. It is possible to see traces of felt-tip pens in the works of artists such as Keith Haring and Jean Michel Basquiat. Today, the felt-tip pen continues to be used as a primary drawing tool in the fields of illustration, caricature, and conceptual art. It was used by our artist in the initial graphic works of our recent spider sculpture project.

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