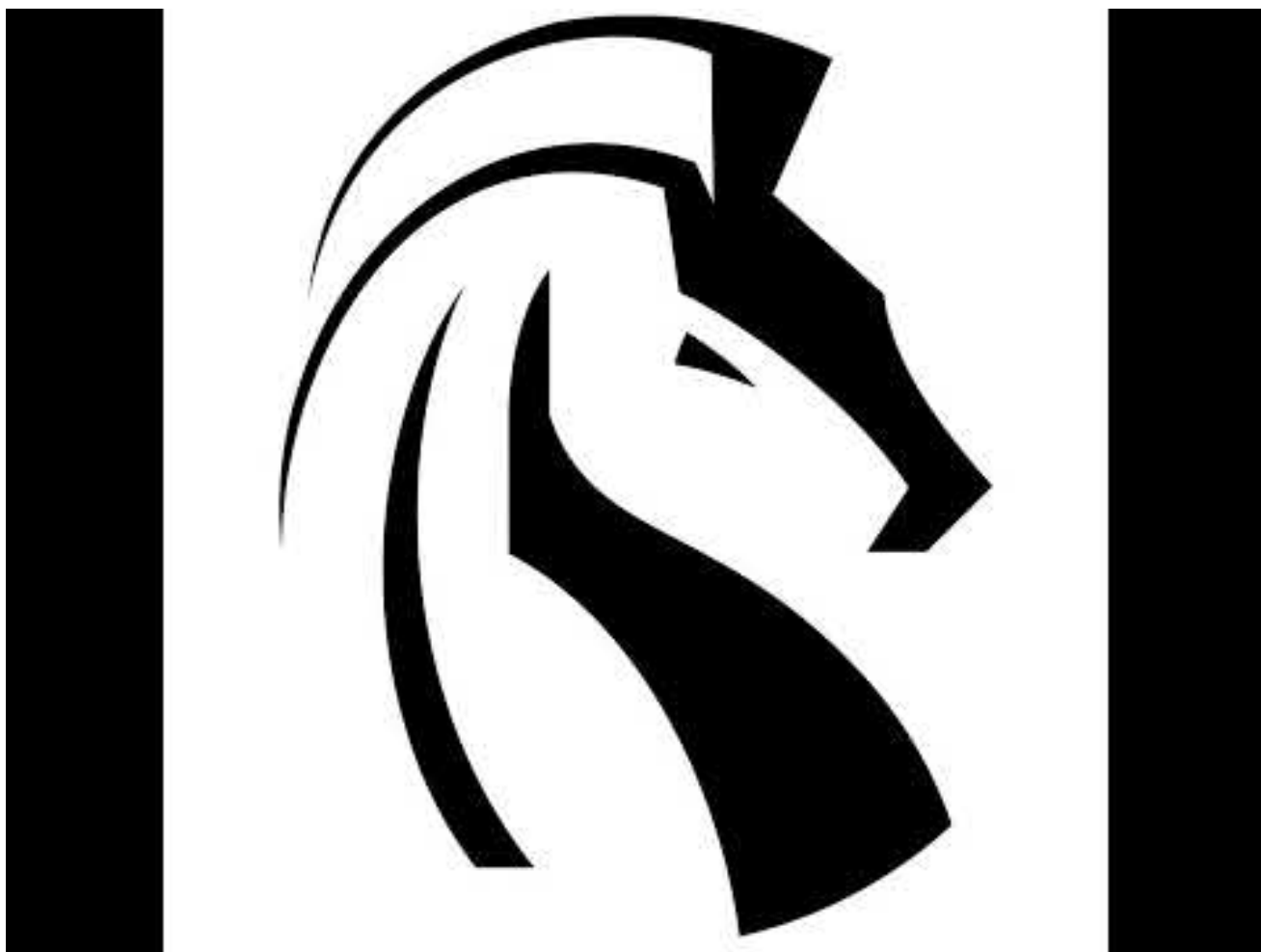


Why LeStallion Journals for Fountain Pens Are a Writer's Best Companion

I have been using fountain pens for over a decade, and I have gone through more notebooks than I care to count. The search for a journal that can handle wet ink without bleeding, feathering, or ghosting is a constant struggle. Most notebooks are designed with ballpoints or gel pens in mind, so when you put a fountain pen to the page, you often end up with a mess. That is why I was intrigued when I first heard about LeStallion journals for fountain pens. The promise was simple: a journal built from the ground up to work with the kind of ink flow that fountain pens deliver. After using one for several months, I can say that the reality matches the promise.

What Makes a Journal Suitable for Fountain Pens

Fountain pens lay down a much wetter line than most other writing instruments. The ink stays liquid on the page for a few seconds before it absorbs, and if the paper is not up to the task, that ink will spread along the fibers and create a fuzzy edge. This is called feathering. Worse, if the paper is too thin, the ink will soak through to the other side, a problem known as bleed-through. Ghosting is a milder issue where you can see the writing from the reverse side, and while it does not ruin the page, it can be distracting.



To avoid these problems, a journal needs paper with good sizing, which is a treatment that controls how much the fibers absorb liquid. Heavier paper also helps, but weight alone is not enough. The surface should be smooth enough that the nib glides without snagging, but not so coated that the ink beads up and takes forever to dry. Finding this balance is harder than it sounds, and many manufacturers get it wrong. [LeStallion journals for fountain pens](#) use a specific paper stock that hits that sweet spot. The sheets are thick enough to prevent bleed-through, and the surface finish keeps the ink where it belongs.

My First Impressions of the Journal

When the journal arrived, the first thing I noticed was the cover. It is a sturdy hardcover bound in a textured fabric that feels pleasant in the hand. The spine lies flat when the book is open, which is important for comfortable writing. I opened it to a random page and tested a few pens. I use a Pilot Custom 74 with a fine nib, a Lamy Safari with a medium nib, and a TWSBI Eco with a stub nib. All three wrote without any feathering. The fine nib left a crisp line, the medium laid down a nice wet stroke, and the stub produced the line variation I expect. There was some show-through on the reverse side, but no bleed-through. A few inks, like Noodler's Heart of Darkness, are known for being wet and dark, and even that behaved well.

The paper has a slight tooth, which gives the nib a bit of feedback. Some people prefer a glass-smooth surface, but I like a little resistance because it helps me control my handwriting. The drying time is reasonable. With a wet medium nib, the ink was dry in about ten seconds, which is fast enough that I did not smear my words when turning the page. The journal lies flat at any page, which is something I appreciate because fighting a stubborn spine can ruin the writing experience.



How the Journal Supports Productivity

A good journal does more than just hold ink. It should encourage you to write. LeStallion positions itself around the idea of a journal that actually inspires your productivity, and that

concept is built into the details. The pages are numbered, which may seem small, but it helps you keep track of your entries. There is a table of contents page at the front, so you can index important notes. The ribbon bookmark is sewn into the spine, so you never lose your place. These features might sound trivial, but they remove small frictions that can stop you from writing.

I use my journal for daily planning, project notes, and occasional long-form writing. The numbered pages let me create an index in the front. When I need to find notes from a meeting three weeks ago, I flip to the table of contents, find the page number, and go there directly. That alone has saved me a lot of time. The ribbon bookmark stays put even when I carry the journal in my bag, so I never have to search for where I left off. These are the kinds of details that make a journal feel like a tool rather than just a notebook.

Comparing to Other Options

There are other notebooks designed for fountain pens on the market. Brands like Rhodia, Leuchtturm1917, and Tomoe River all have their loyal followings. Rhodia uses a smooth, coated paper that works well with fountain pens, but the coating can make some inks look glossy and can slow drying time. Leuchtturm1917 is popular for bullet journaling, but its paper is thinner and can ghost more than I would like. Tomoe River is famous for being extremely lightweight while resisting bleed-through, but it is so thin that you can see the writing on the other side clearly, and the paper can be delicate.

LeStallion journals for fountain pens take a middle path. The paper is thicker than Tomoe River, so it feels more substantial. It is less coated than Rhodia, so the ink absorbs a bit more naturally and dries faster. And it ghosts less than Leuchtturm1917. No journal is perfect for everyone, but this one hits a balance that suits a wide range of writing styles. If you write with a very wet pen, you might still see some show-through, but for most fountain pen users, the performance is excellent.



Practical Considerations

The journal comes in a few sizes. I have the A5, which is a standard size that fits easily into a bag and works well for both sitting at a desk and writing on the go. The pages are 160 sheets, or 320 pages, which gives you a lot of writing space before you need a new book. The paper is cream-colored, which is easier on the eyes than bright white, especially when you are writing in low light. The ruling is a 7mm grid, which is subtle and works for both writing and sketching. If you prefer a different ruling, check the product page because other options might be available.

The binding is sewn, so the pages stay in place and the journal opens flat. I have had notebooks where the pages started falling out after a few months of use, but that has not happened here. The cover has a subtle embossed logo, which looks professional without being

loud. The elastic closure band keeps the journal shut when it is in my bag, and it does not damage the cover over time.

Who Should Consider This Journal

If you are a fountain pen user who has been frustrated by notebooks that cannot handle wet ink, this journal is worth trying. It is also a good fit for anyone who values thoughtful design. The numbered pages, table of contents, and ribbon bookmark are not just gimmicks. They are features that support a regular writing habit. If you are someone who likes to keep a bullet journal, a commonplace book, or a daily log, these details will help you stay organized.

On the other hand, if you prefer a very slick, coated paper that makes your ink sit on top of the page, Rhodia might be more to your taste. If you need an ultra-light notebook for travel, Tomoe River is hard to beat. But if you want a journal that feels substantial, behaves well with a variety of inks, and includes productivity-friendly features out of the box, this is a strong contender.



Final Thoughts

I have been using this journal for four months now, and it has become my primary notebook. I have written about 150 pages so far, and the paper has held up beautifully. The cover shows a little wear at the corners from being tossed into my bag, but that gives it character. The spine is still tight, and the pages lay flat. I have used a range of inks in it, from dry Pelikan 4001 to wet Iroshizuku, and all of them have behaved well. The only ink that caused any show-through was a particularly saturated Noodler's ink, and even then it was not bad enough to stop me from writing on the reverse side.

Choosing a notebook is a personal decision. What works for one writer may not work for another. But if you use fountain pens, you owe it to yourself to try a journal that was designed

with your tools in mind. LeStallion has made a product that understands what fountain pen users need, and they have executed it well. The focus on productivity is not just marketing. The features genuinely make it easier to write regularly and keep your notes organized. If you are on the fence, I would say give it a chance. It might just become your everyday companion.