

Restoration of Duofolds and lever fillers

- Basic restoration: \$60 (includes cleaning, polishing and sac replacement).
- Nib/feed/section disassembly if required: \$35
- Gold plating (if required/desired):
 - \$90 Duofolds
 - \$130 lever fillers
- Parts (such as pressure bars) are extra.

Gold plating without restoration

- Clip not attached to pen (such as Parker Duofold): \$50
- Clip attached to pen: \$65
- Cap rings: \$55
- Fill levers: \$65
- Complete pen (clip, cap rings & fill lever): \$150

First, a word of caution about gold plating. Proper plating requires that the underlying metal be clean and shiny so polishing is required. When polishing metal trim attached to ca. 75 year old plastic there is always the danger of cracking the plastic. I cannot therefore guarantee that there will be no damage done when preparing the surface for plating.

Gold fill vs. gold plate

The trim on most quality vintage pens, e.g. Parker Duofolds, was gold *fill* (sometimes called *rolled gold*), not gold plate, i.e. gold that has been electroplated onto a layer of brass. Gold fill is made by bonding, under heat and pressure, a layer of gold onto base metal, frequently brass. The force is great enough to permanently bond the two metals. The thickness of the gold varies, but is usually about 20-40 thousandths of an inch, roughly 1000 microns. Gold plating deposits a few microns per minute. It is therefore impractical (read: impossible) to plate to a thickness of the original gold fill.

In essence, the plating of a brassed portion of the trim prevents tarnishing, but in time it can be worn off by use just as the original gold portion of the fill was worn. So, if the pen is to be heavily used in the original fashion it may have to be re-plated. If, on the other hand, it is to be displayed in a collection or used sparingly there is no problem.

One further point: Depending on the nature of the wear to the gold fill, the plating may or may not be detectable. If, as is sometimes the case, the fill has worn with a definite line of demarcation between the brass and the gold then there might be a line showing after it is plated, depending upon the location of the line. If there is a gentle curve to the piece, then this is usually not a problem. The ball of a Duofold clip usually looks pretty good, as do the portions of them near the top. Conklin clips usually come out pretty good because they have gentle curves. Sheaffer clips frequently show a line near the top. Wide cap bands with severe wear frequently cannot safely be turned down to the original brass so it sometimes shows "the line".