

Basic Designer's Kit

- ◆ **Mechanical Pencil** - Typically a .5mm holder with a medium lead, i.e., 2H, H, F or HB, will work well. Leads that are too hard make a light, easily erasable line, but often leave indentations in the paper that cannot be removed. Leads that are too soft leave so much graphite on the paper that it can be difficult to clean completely off.
- ◆ **Pencil Eraser** – Use an eraser that works well with the pencil lead you have chosen. The standard Pink erasers, like those on the ends of pencils, are NOT the best choice as they can smear the graphite and damage the paper.
- ◆ **Technical Pen(s)** – Also called Rapidograph Pens. You may want a variety of sizes, the 0, 1 and 2 make a good set. Some people prefer instead to use disposable Pigma Micron Pens or something similar, because Technical Pens require frequent and careful cleaning. Do not use a pen that bleeds ink.
- ◆ **Finely divided Scale** – Some people call this tool a "Ruler". The common "US Customary Units" Scale usually comes with 1/16" divisions. Metric Scales are more finely divided in millimeters. Some find Engineer's and Architect's triangular Scales to be useful because of the fineness of the divisions. A transparent plastic scale with 1/16" divisions on one edge and millimeter divisions on the other is a good choice. This instrument is not designed as the proper tool to use for ruling ink lines, as the ink can be sucked under the edge thus spoiling the line.
- ◆ **Drafting Straightedge or Ruling Edge** – You do not need to use a true Drafting Straightedge. A common Drafting Triangle with raised inking edges works well.
- ◆ **Calligraphy Pens** – You will probably want a variety of nib sizes on hand as you will need to fit Their Majesties' chosen text into the design. The Rotring 1.1, 1.5 and 1.9 pens make a nice balanced set of nib sizes.
- ◆ **Ink** – Because you will probably use this also when making original scrolls, this should be archival, fade-proof, permanent, black ink. CAREFUL – as Ink bottles always seem to spill or leak their contents on the other tools in the kit.
- ◆ **Disposable Droppers** – If your bottle of Ink does not have a built-in dropper some of your tools may require you to carry disposable droppers.
- ◆ **Whiteout** – Only use this on Charter Masters. Never use this on Original Scrolls.
- ◆ **Clear Tape** – In the photocopy process, clear tape can successfully eliminate the shadow lines that occur when a separate text sheet is applied on top of a design master. When you completely tape all the edges of the smaller text document down to the master document, the join shadows should disappear from the copies.
- ◆ **Protective papers or cloths** – This is whatever you want to use to lay over completed artwork so that you do not touch it with your clothed or bare forearm or the base of your wrist when you are working.

Some "Nice to Have" Optional Tools

- ◆ **Erasing Shield** – This tool helps to contain the erasing motion to a small and precise area.
- ◆ **Drafting Brush** – This tool is used to brush off eraser crumbs instead of using your hands - which helps to keep your skin oils from coming in contact with the paper and attracting dirt.
- ◆ **Drafting Templates** – These are purchased and used per an Artists preference. Common tools are a protractor, French Curves and various shape templates.
- ◆ **Bow Compass** – These normally come with a mounted Pencil Lead and you will need some means of keeping the lead sharp, like a small piece of fine grit sandpaper. If you are using Rapidograph Pens, you can purchase a Bow Compass that allows for the interchange of the Pencil Lead with the Pen points.