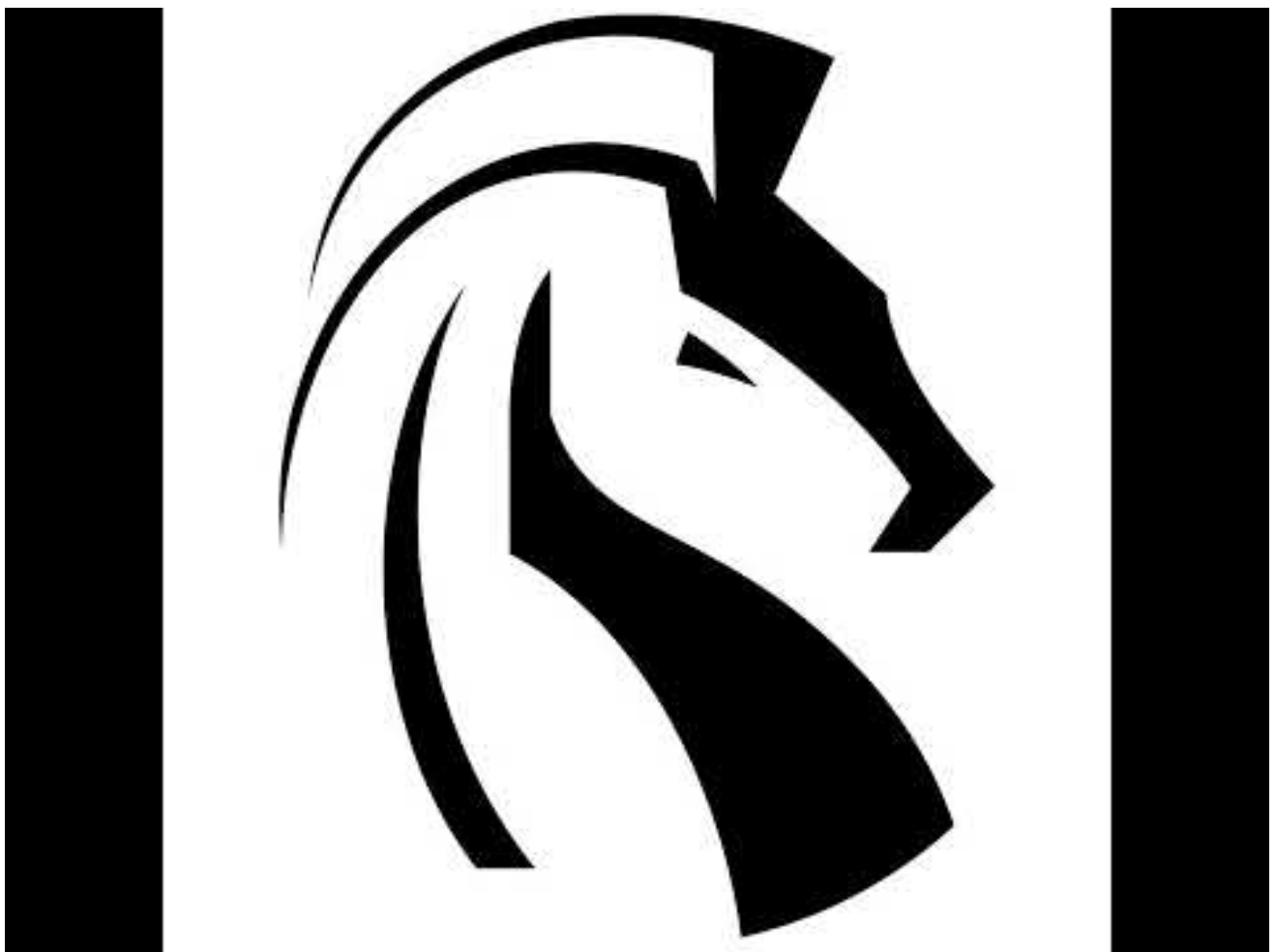


Why the Best Notebooks for Fountain Pens from LeStallion Are Worth Your Investment

I have been writing with fountain pens for over a decade. In that time, I have gone through more notebooks than I care to count. Some were too slick, letting the ink sit on top of the page like a puddle. Others were too thirsty, bleeding through to the next sheet and making my writing illegible. Finding a notebook that respects fountain pen ink without sacrificing paper quality or design is not easy. That is why I was genuinely surprised when I tried the Best notebooks for fountain pens from LeStallion.

Let me start with a bit of background. Fountain pen users have a specific set of demands. We want paper that shows the shading and sheen of our inks. We want a smooth writing surface that does not grab the nib. And we want a notebook that lies flat, stays open, and does not fall apart after a few weeks of use. Most brands cater to one or two of these needs. Few get all three right. LeStallion seems to have done the work, and the result is a line of notebooks that feel purpose-built for fountain pen enthusiasts.



Paper Quality That Performs

The first thing I noticed when I opened my first LeStallion notebook was the paper. It is thick, around 100 gsm, and has a slight tooth that gives the nib just enough feedback without feeling scratchy. I tested it with a Pilot Custom 823 filled with Diamine Oxblood, a wet ink that tends to feather on cheaper paper. On the LeStallion pages, the line was crisp. No feathering, no bleeding, and the shading came through beautifully. I also tried a dry ink, Pelikan 4001 Turquoise, with a fine nib. The flow was consistent, and the color looked vibrant without soaking into the page.

That kind of performance is rare. Most notebooks that claim to be fountain-pen-friendly use paper that is either too coated or too porous. LeStallion strikes a balance. The paper has enough surface sizing to resist ink spread but still feels natural under the nib. I have written on both sides of the page with a broad nib and found only minimal ghosting. Not enough to bother me, but enough to remind me that the paper is not plastic-coated. That is a good thing. Ghosting shows the paper is doing its job without being over-engineered.

Binding and Layout Choices

Another area where LeStallion excels is binding. The notebooks lie flat when open, which is essential for long writing sessions. I have used notebooks that fight back, forcing me to hold the pages open with my forearm. LeStallion notebooks open to 180 degrees without cracking the spine. The stitching is tight, and the cover feels sturdy without being bulky. I have been carrying one in my bag for three weeks, and it still looks new.



The layout options are practical, too. You can choose from dot grid, lined, or blank pages. Dot grid is my preference for fountain pen work because it gives structure without being intrusive. The lines are printed in a light gray that does not compete with the ink. For a journal that actually inspires your productivity, having a layout that fades into the background while you write makes a real difference. You stop thinking about the notebook and start thinking about what you are writing.

Why Fountain Pen Users Should Care

If you are reading this, you probably already know that not all paper is created equal. Fountain pen ink is mostly water. When it hits paper, the fibers absorb the water and leave the pigment

behind. If the paper is too absorbent, the pigment spreads, and you get feathering. If the paper is too smooth, the ink sits on top and takes forever to dry. The [Best notebooks for fountain pens from LeStallion](#) manage to avoid both extremes. The paper has a controlled absorbency that lets the ink dry in a reasonable time while keeping the line crisp.

I have also tested these notebooks with shimmer inks, which contain metallic particles that can clog feeds and look muddy on poor paper. On LeStallion paper, the shimmer was visible and even. The particles did not settle into the fibers the way they do on rougher paper. That is a testament to the surface treatment. The same went for sheening inks like Organics Studio Nitrogen, which needs a coated surface to show its red sheen. LeStallion paper brought out the sheen without the ink feeling greasy or slow to dry.

Practical Considerations

Let us talk about the practical side. Fountain pen users often carry multiple pens, so a notebook that fits in a bag without adding weight is important. LeStallion notebooks come in several sizes, from A5 to A4. The A5 is perfect for daily carry. It fits in my messenger bag alongside a pen case and a tablet without taking over the bag. The cover is a soft-touch material that feels premium but does not scuff easily. I am not gentle with my gear, and the notebook has held up well.

The page count is generous at 192 pages. That is enough for a month of journaling or a semester of notes. I have seen notebooks with similar paper quality that offer only half that many pages for the same price. LeStallion gives you more pages without cutting corners on the paper. That matters when you are writing daily and do not want to replace your notebook every few weeks.



One thing I appreciate is the lack of branding on the cover. The notebook has a small logo on the back, but the front is clean. That might seem like a minor detail, but for anyone who uses a notebook in meetings or at a coffee shop, a minimalist look feels more professional. It also means you can customize the cover with stickers or labels if you want, without clashing with a large logo.

How It Compares to Other Options

I have used notebooks from Rhodia, Leuchtturm1917, and Tomoe River. Each has strengths. Rhodia paper is smooth and handles wet inks well, but the orange cover is not for everyone. Leuchtturm1917 notebooks have numbered pages and an index, which is great for bullet

journaling, but the paper can ghost badly with broader nibs. Tomoe River is legendary for showing ink properties, but it is thin and prone to bleeding if you are not careful. LeStallion notebooks sit somewhere in the middle. They offer the ink performance of Rhodia, the structure of Leuchtturm, and the versatility of Tomoe River, but without the downsides.

For the price, LeStallion is competitive. A Leuchtturm1917 A5 dotted notebook costs around \$25 for 249 pages. A LeStallion A5 dotted notebook costs around \$22 for 192 pages. The paper is thicker and more fountain-pen-friendly in the LeStallion. You are paying for quality rather than brand recognition. That is a trade-off I am happy to make.

Who Should Buy These Notebooks

If you are a fountain pen user who writes frequently and cares about how your ink looks on the page, the Best notebooks for fountain pens from LeStallion are a solid choice. They work well for journaling, letter writing, note-taking, and sketching. The paper handles everything from fine Japanese nibs to broad italics. I would not recommend them for watercolor or heavy wash techniques, because the paper is not designed for that. But for everyday writing with fountain pens, they are excellent.

If you are new to fountain pens and want a notebook that will not frustrate you as you learn, start here. The forgiving paper means you can experiment with different inks and nib sizes without worrying about ruining your notebook. And if you are an experienced user looking for a reliable daily driver that does not compromise on ink performance, these notebooks deserve a spot on your desk.



Final Thoughts

Notebooks are personal. What works for one person might not work for another. But after using LeStallion notebooks for several weeks, I can say they have earned a place in my rotation. The paper is well-behaved, the binding is durable, and the design is thoughtful. For a journal that actually inspires your productivity, having a notebook that does not fight back is half the battle. LeStallion makes that part easy.

If you are on the fence, try one. The price is low enough that it is not a big risk, and the quality is high enough that you will probably want another. I know I do.