

Pen World

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Small and ingenious, this pen belongs in the same class as our greatest icons of strength in compact packages: the Porsche 911, the Swiss Army Knife, Sugar Ray Leonard. Made to go anywhere--with a stainless steel ring that attaches to backpack loops, notebook spirals--this laser engraved, stainless steel tube of about 2 inches converts to a full-size writing instrument with a comfortable, slip-resistant grip in a matter of seconds. A weapon in the war against wordlessness. -*Barry Gabay*

Initially, it was a bit challenging to assemble a full-size pen, but the results are worth it. This pen is so small and light that it feels like an extension of my forefinger; however, it may be a tad difficult for larger hands to grasp. Eager to test its performance claims, I found that the pen does write upside down and under water; after spending eighteen hours in subzero temperatures, it warmed quickly to my hand and wrote perfectly well! -*Sarah Mertins, assistant editor*

Inka is not only for the outdoor adventurer. It is the ideal journalist's pen as well--compact, lightweight, reliable and difficult to misplace when attached to a press badge or reporter's notebook. I prefer it in what the maker refers to as its "quick-use" format--just the black carbon fiber portion of the pen pulled from the metal tube and used on its own. It's not the pen I'd want to write a novel with, but it is perfect for note-taking on the fly. -*Marie A. Picon, editorial director*