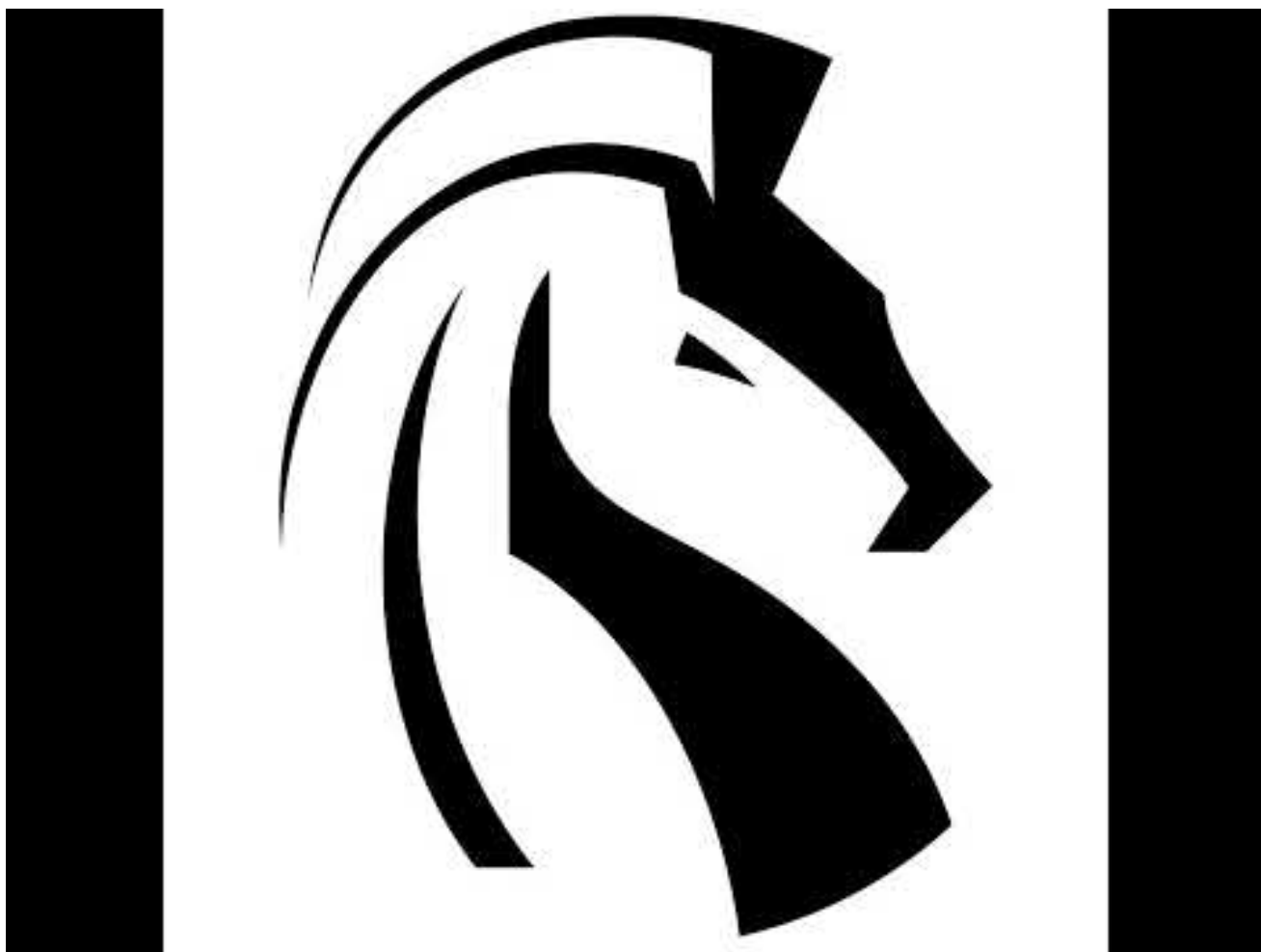


Why the Best Notebooks for Fountain Pens from LeStallion Elevate Your Daily Writing

I have been using fountain pens for close to fifteen years now, and I still remember the first time a cheap notebook betrayed me. The ink feathered into a fuzzy mess, bled straight through to the next page, and left ghostly shadows that made my notes look like a crime scene. That experience taught me a lesson I have never forgotten: the notebook matters as much as the pen. If you are serious about fountain pens, you need paper that can handle wet ink without turning your writing into a disaster. That is where the search for the best notebooks for fountain pens from LeStallion becomes more than just shopping. It becomes a matter of preserving the joy of writing.

LeStallion builds journals and notebooks with one clear goal: to create a tool that actually inspires your productivity. The company understands that when your pen glides across a page without catching, and the ink stays where it belongs, you want to keep writing. That momentum is hard to find with generic notebooks that treat paper as an afterthought. Over the past year I have tested several LeStallion notebooks, and I want to share what I have learned about their paper, their construction, and how they compare to other options on the market. If you are looking for the best notebooks for fountain pens from LeStallion, these insights should help you decide which one fits your routine.



What Makes a Notebook Fountain-Pen Friendly

Before I get into specific models, it helps to understand why some notebooks work beautifully with fountain pens and others do not. The key factors are paper weight, surface finish, and sizing. Fountain pen ink is water-based and flows freely, so thin paper will let it soak through. Most LeStallion notebooks use 100 gsm paper, which is thick enough to resist bleed-through and show-through. The paper also has a subtle coating that prevents feathering while still giving the nib enough tooth to feel controlled. That balance is harder to achieve than most people realize. Too much coating makes the ink sit on top of the paper and dry slowly. Too little coating lets the ink spread into the fibers. LeStallion has found a sweet spot that works well with both fine and broad nibs.

Another factor is the binding. A notebook that does not lie flat is annoying, especially when you are writing near the spine. LeStallion uses lay-flat binding on most of their journals, which means you can open them to a full spread without fighting the spine. This sounds like a small detail, but once you have used a notebook that stays open on its own, you will not want to go back. The pages are also perforated for clean tearing, which is useful if you like to remove completed pages or carry only a few sheets at a time.

LeStallion Classic Journal: The Everyday Workhorse

The Classic Journal is probably the most popular notebook in the LeStallion lineup, and for good reason. It comes in several sizes, from pocket to A5, so you can choose based on how you use it. I have carried the A5 version for three months as my daily driver, and it has held up well. The 100 gsm paper handles a wide range of inks, from dry-running Pelikan 4001 to wet Noodler's Apache Sunset. I have not seen any bleed-through, and feathering is minimal even with a stub nib that lays down a heavy line.

One thing I appreciate is the dot grid layout. The dots are subtle enough that they do not distract from writing, but they help keep lines straight when I am taking quick notes. The cover is a soft leatherette material that feels good in the hand and picks up a bit of character over time. It is not a hardcover, so the notebook bends slightly when you carry it in a bag, but that has not caused any damage to the pages. If you want a sturdy everyday notebook that works with fountain pens, this is a solid choice.



LeStallion Premium Lined Notebook: For Structured Writing

If you prefer ruled lines over dots or grids, the Premium Lined Notebook is worth a look. The lines are a comfortable 7 mm apart, which gives enough room for most handwriting sizes. I tested this one with a medium nib and a wetter ink, and the writing experience was smooth. The paper has a slightly cream color rather than bright white, which reduces glare under desk lamps and makes the ink appear warmer. That might sound like a minor cosmetic preference, but after hours of writing, the softer tone is easier on the eyes.

The Premium Lined Notebook also has a stitched binding that reinforces the spine. I have opened it fully and laid it flat many times, and no pages have come loose. The notebook comes with an elastic closure band that keeps it shut when you are not using it. Some people find that

band unnecessary, but I like it because it prevents the pages from curling at the edges when the notebook is in a bag. I should mention that the paper is 100 gsm here as well, so you get the same bleed resistance as the Classic Journal. The main difference is the layout and the slightly more formal look of the cover.

When people ask me for recommendations, I often point them toward these two models because they cover the most common use cases. But if you want something more specialized, LeStallion has a few other options that are worth knowing about.

The Traveler's Notebook: Flexible and Modular

LeStallion also makes a traveler's notebook system that uses elastic bands to hold multiple inserts. This setup lets you carry separate notebooks for daily notes, long-form journaling, and sketches, all inside one cover. The inserts come in different paper types, including a 100 gsm option that works well with fountain pens. I have used the blank insert for sketching with a fine nib, and the paper handled wash techniques better than I expected. There is a slight texture that catches the nib just enough to give you control without slowing you down.

The modular system is great if you like to organize your writing by topic, but it does require a bit of commitment. You have to swap inserts when you fill them, and the elastic bands can lose tension over time if you open and close the cover frequently. Still, for someone who wants one notebook cover that can adapt to different tasks, it is a well-designed option. Just make sure you buy the 100 gsm inserts if you plan to use fountain pens, because the standard inserts use thinner paper that will show ghosting.

How LeStallion Compares to Other Fountain-Pen Notebooks

I have used notebooks from Rhodia, Leuchtturm1917, and Tomoe River Paper over the years. Each has strengths. Rhodia paper is famously smooth and handles fountain pens beautifully, but the notebooks are often staplebound and do not lay completely flat. Leuchtturm1917 has great organization features like page numbers and a table of contents, but the 80 gsm paper can ghost with wet inks. Tomoe River Paper is legendary for showing ink properties, but it is thin and fragile, and it can bleed if you use a very wet nib.



LeStallion occupies a middle ground that I think a lot of writers will appreciate. The 100 gsm paper is thick enough to prevent bleed-through and ghosting, yet it is not so thick that the notebook becomes bulky. The paper surface is smooth enough for fountain pens but not so slick that ink takes forever to dry. I have timed dry times with several inks, and most are dry within ten to fifteen seconds, which is fast enough for left-handed writers like me who tend to smudge. The [best notebooks for fountain pens from LeStallion](#) combine this paper quality with thoughtful construction details that make them pleasant to use every day.

Another advantage is the price. LeStallion notebooks are priced competitively for the quality they offer. You are not paying a premium for a brand name, and you are not getting cheap

materials that will fall apart after a few months. For the money, you get a notebook that will last through a full fill of ink and then some.

Practical Tips for Choosing Your LeStallion Notebook

If you are trying to decide which LeStallion notebook to buy, think about how you write. Do you carry your notebook everywhere? Then a pocket-sized Classic Journal or a traveler's notebook might be best. Do you write at a desk for long sessions? An A5 Premium Lined Notebook gives you more space per page and a consistent writing surface. Do you prefer blank pages for sketching and diagrams? Go with the blank insert in the traveler's system or the Classic Journal in dot grid, which is almost as free as blank but gives you a little guidance.

I also recommend testing your ink and nib combination on a sample page before committing to a full notebook. LeStallion offers sample packs on their website that let you try different paper types. This is a smart way to see how your favorite ink behaves before you buy a whole journal. I wish I had done that years ago instead of guessing and ending up with notebooks that did not work for me.

One more thing: if you use shimmer inks or sheening inks, the 100 gsm paper in LeStallion notebooks handles them reasonably well. The coating does not absorb the shimmer particles, so they stay visible on the page. Some papers can dull the effect of sheening inks, but I have found that LeStallion paper shows the color shift well. That is a nice bonus for writers who enjoy experimenting with specialty inks.

Final Thoughts on Finding Your Ideal Notebook

Choosing a notebook for fountain pens is a personal decision. There is no single best option that works for everyone. But if you value paper that resists bleed-through, a binding that lies flat, and a design that feels intentional rather than generic, the best notebooks for fountain pens from LeStallion deserve a close look. They have earned a spot in my rotation alongside more established brands, and I expect they will stay there for a long time.



The key is matching the notebook to your habits. Do not buy a traveler's notebook just because it looks cool if you prefer a single bound journal. Do not buy a lined notebook if you hate ruled lines. LeStallion offers enough variety that you can find something that genuinely fits your workflow. And once you find that fit, the act of writing becomes a little more effortless. That is the whole point, is it not? A tool that fades into the background and lets you focus on what you want to say.

I still remember the frustration of that first bad notebook, but now I know better. Good paper is worth seeking out. And when you find a notebook that makes your fountain pens sing, you will understand why so many of us are picky about what we write on. The best notebooks for

fountain pens from LeStallion do exactly that. They let the ink do its thing, and they get out of your way.