

Colored Leads and Colored Lead Pencils



ALMOST everyone has need of "colored pencils" now and then—even the home-maker. Many people, editors, draftsmen, computers, engineers, checkers, use them frequently, and to those to whom these are a necessary part of the working equipment, probably no factor is more important than the lasting quality of the mark made.

Unfortunately most everyone assumes that a pencil mark with almost any kind of pencil is quite permanent. The facts are that traces made with colored pencil leads are often impermanent, and the so-called indelible pencil (often used because of its supposedly greater permanence than black lead) may be one of the most "delible," as subsequent listings will show. Black "lead" pencils make marks that are really permanent, except that wear and rubbing of documents may cause the traces of graphite to be lost by being loosened and rubbed off the surface of the paper.

In the test recently made by Consumers' Research, marks made by colored leads for mechanical pencils tended in every case to give less durable writing than the regular wood-encased colored lead pencils. On this account, the mechanical pencil is rather ruled out for this use in spite of the fact that particularly with colored pencils (because of their need for sharpness and for frequent resharpening) it affords a considerable advantage in convenience over

the wood-encased pencil.

So-called fine-lead mechanical pencils using lead of .036 inch in diameter, though much more desirable from the standpoint of quality of the line which they give, are, as a rule, impracticable for use with colored leads, for they tend to give trouble with clogging, and for the process of clearing out the crushed "lead," the services of an expert may be required, or the pencil may even be ruined beyond repair.

Indelible Pencils a Hazard

Some "indelible" pencils were also tested. The consumer should remember that the dye of this kind of pencil is poisonous, but in varying degrees: Black is reported to be the most harmful, followed by violet, blue, brown, red, yellow, and green in order of decreasing toxicity. By all means keep these pencils out of the hands of children at all times. If and when they must be used by adults, take care never to put them into the mouth or to permit them to touch any skin abrasion. By all means guard against any accident in which the point could puncture the skin. This type of accident, usually involving the palm of the hand, is so dangerous potentially that it has been discussed in leading medical journals. Any wound by such a pencil must be regarded as a serious matter, for the anilin dye when introduced into the tissues can cause very dangerous cell damage with necrosis (death of tissues) and ulceration

that may take months and even years to heal.

CR's Tests

The listings which follow are based entirely on the permanence of the markings during the period of about 20 days exposed to ordinary daylight behind a glass window. Black leads made of graphite (plumbago) were not tested as this type of black lead gives no fading at all in light. Leads for mechanical pencils were round leads of standard (.046 inch) diameter except where noted.

Blue Leads for Mechanical Pencils

B. Intermediate

All of the following brands showed slight fading.

Diana No. 151 (J. S. Staedtler, Inc., New York City)

Faber No. 3346 (A. W. Faber, Newark, N.J.)

Longrite (Goldsmith Bros., 77 Nassau St., New York 7, New York)

Scripto (Scripto Mfg. Co., Atlanta, Ga.)

The following brands showed some fading, a little more than the blue leads immediately preceding.

Autopoint (Autopoint Co., Chicago)

Ever-Ready S-1068 (Distributed by The American News Co.)

Eversharp Red Top (Eversharp Inc., Chicago) One box, 10c. Extra thin (.036 in.).

Herald Square 146-B (Distributed by F. W. Woolworth stores)

C. Not Recommended

Eagle T-2518 (Eagle Pencil Co., N. Y. C.) Severe fading.

"Speed" Leads (Empire Pencil Co., Shelbyville, Tenn.) Extra thin (.036

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Please Note: Prices quoted do not include postage; C, not recommended.

DURING the past few months scores of single discs and many shops have reported out of stock for a year. The selections brilliant *Hora Staccato* and *Lein* (2 sides) to the *La Strada* (30 sides). Now is the time for those "impossible-to-get" records.

ORCHESTRA

Mendelssohn: *Fingal's Cave* Overture under Fiedler. 2 sides, Victor. A brilliant recording, part of the standard repertoire, the best recording heretofore available and the London Philharmonic on C. The recording lacks the refinement of B with a little more body. Surfaces fine.

Ravel: *Daphnis and Chloé* Suite No. 1. Orchestra under Koussevitzky. 2 sides, Victor. Music composed in 1912 for the Ballets Russes, heard on rare occasions. Koussevitzky long been hailed as miraculous. T. Ormandy's Victor 16147/8. The side 2 cause my Audax and Brush the same measures in the Ormandy volume level, come through flawlessly.

Wagner: *Lohengrin*—Prelude to Act I under Toscanini. 2 sides, Victor. Music composed in 1912 for the Ballets Russes, heard on rare occasions. Koussevitzky long been hailed as miraculous. T. Ormandy's Victor 16147/8. The side 2 cause my Audax and Brush the same measures in the Ormandy volume level, come through flawlessly.

VOCAL

Moussorgsky: *Boris Godounoff* Excerpt. Alexander Kipnis (bass) with Victor. Chorus—Berezowsky, conductor. 1 side, \$5.50.

Ezio Pinza (bass) with Orchestra Metropolitan Opera under Emil Gilels. \$5.50.

High spots of an intensely dramatic work. The music here recorded "Coronation Scene," Victor (some c 14. "City of Kazan," Victor side 4. Have Attained the Highest Power Side 5. "Duet with Prince," Victor omitted. "Hallucination Scene," (omitted. "Polonaise," Columbia: "Clock Scene," Victor Side 8, Columbia: "Polonaise," Columbia Side 8, Victor or "Death," Victor and Columbia, Side 8. The music recorded by Victor and more important than that recorded by Victor. Chaliapin who made this memorable records which, however, ones from the viewpoint of fidelity. Pinza sing the role at the Metropolitan. The Victor album presents a careance with conductor, chorus, orchestra contributing to the overall excellence.