

Scorers Tools

Here are my notes on what I use to help me score cricket games. I have made these notes to help scorers who want examples of what another scorer uses.

Clipboard

I print my own scoresheets and for most games use an A3 size scoresheet in landscape mode. To provide a firm base I use a clipboard so I can score seated at a desk, seated without a desk or standing up.

Specifications of my A3 clipboard:

- Purchased from Viking Direct;
- Product is labelled as - Office Depot Clipboard Brown 44 × 34 cm;
- Viking stock number: 3227684;
- Price in April 2019 - €8.60 each, inclusive of VAT; and
- URL in April 2019 was - www.vikingdirect.ie/en/office-depot-masonite-clipboard-a3-p-3227684 .

The clipboard arrived with the Masonite covered in plastic onto which the large clip was then riveted. I left the plastic on to protect the board from those wet days.

I also carry large bulldog clips, see Figure 1 if you do not know your bulldog from your fold over clips. These are used with the clipboard to hold down the edges of the paper on windy days as well as keep the team sheets and DLS printouts all together in one pile. Viking sell these in boxes of 6 – product code 6770956.



Figure 1. Bulldog clip - 100mm long

Stationery Items

Pens

I see that a number of scorers use fibre tipped pens such as the Staedtler Triplus Fineliners, especially those scorers that like to do full colour scoring (i.e. where each bowler is assigned a unique colour).

Based on experience I do not fibre tipped pens for two reasons:

- One drop of water and they run badly;
- They have a 1mm nip – not fine enough in my view.

My preference is for the Pilot G-TEC-C4 range of pens¹ for the following reasons:

- The rollerball has a diameter of 0.4 mm so they produce a 0.2mm line²;
- A modern bio-polymer ink is used which is more akin to a resin³ and is resistant to spreading; and
- Has far better water resistance than fibre tipped pens.

The only detractor is that they are not cheap, seldom available for less than €2.50 per pen. Have a look online at Amazon or www.huntoffice.ie or walk into The Pen Corner (12 College Green, Dublin 2) where they usually have a few in stock.

If you are convinced and you like to do full colour scoring then they are available in packs of 10 assorted colours – for about €25.00.

Figure 2 is an example of the advantage of using a fine tip pen.

6	B. BOLAND	+ + .	W	. 1 .
		. . +	W	+ . +
		1 4 .		4 .
		10	10-1	17-1

Figure 2. Example of a fine tip in action

In Mr. Boland's first over he needed to bowl 9 balls to get through this over. The fine tipped pen allows everything to fit (with space for lots more) and permits clear capture of the symbol indicating 3 wides.

¹ I believe these pens were developed in Japan for Manga Artists. These pens are used extensively in accounting, editing, proof-reading, annotations (especially in bibles) and correcting navigation charts.

² The production of a 0.4mm ball point tip has been achieved using a 3-dimple supporting system technology. In this system, the 0.4mm carbide alloy ball is mounted by making three depressions in the tip of a fine stainless steel pipe, in contrast to the traditional system of hollowing out the metal tip. Since the ball will be supported on 'points' the reduction in wear surface allows smoother rotation. The resulting stroke width is just 0.2mm.

³ The resin is made from a micro-organism very similar to yeast. Although this ink is in a highly viscous gel form during storage, the ink viscosity reduces during the writing process due to the action of the ball rotation. The ink immediately becomes viscous again once on the paper - this special characteristic prevents ink spreading, feathering and bleeding.

Pencil

I use a pencil to assist with ball counting and making notes to identify batsmen (Green helmet, orange straps, red shoes, etc).

I use a clutch pencil with 0.5mm lead⁴.

Ruler

I tried a range of plastic rulers which all ended up getting chipped or cracked or both. I settled for a 150 mm Aluminium metal ruler.

I prefer a Staedtler model 563 – which I see is available on Amazon.

Eraser

To rub out those batsmen descriptions I use a Staedtler plastic pencil eraser (# 526 53).

These are freely available at stationery shops and of course Amazon.

Correction Fluid

To cover my mistakes I use correction fluid - I like the accuracy and controllability of the Tipp-Ex shake n Squeeze Fine point pen – model # 802420.

Calculator

I have a cheap office calculator to add up scores but I note a lot of scorers are using their mobile phones.

Last things

I have no connection or financial interest in Viking, Staedtler, Hunt Office, the Pen Corner, Pilot pens, Amazon or Tipp-Ex.

⁴ Lead is toxic – pencils actually use graphite (called black lead) – modern pencil “lead” is made from graphite powder mixed with a clay binder.