



## The Perfect Souvenir Showcasing Japanese Patterns

Why not try creating cards inspired by Japanese calligraphy?

You can also enjoy using our brush pens for calligraphy, drawing, illustration, coloring, and a variety of arts and crafts projects, making them a versatile tool for creative expression.



## About Nara Fude Brushes

It is said that the first brushes arrived in Japan from China around 1,600 years ago. Centuries later, about 1,300 years ago, the Japanese monk, *Kobo Daishi* [*Kukai*], returned from China with brush-making skills and taught them to the people of Nara. This marked the start of brush-making in both Nara and Japan.

Our company, Akashiya, was founded about 300 years ago, and we were soon asked to make brushes for the Seven Great Temples of Nara. We continue to uphold this high quality, honoring our history and craftsmanship.




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# Akashiya's "Tenpyo no Yume" Color Brush Pens



Made in JAPAN



## Connect with Japan's ancient culture

This brush pen combines *Tenpyo* Era patterns from Nara and the traditional Nara Fude Brush brush-making technique, continuing these heritages in the current *Reiwa* era. With this pen, you can connect with Japan's culture, carefully preserved across generations.

Since ancient times, Japan has developed a unique culture by absorbing and adapting ideas from overseas, passing them down through generations. This practice is believed to be reflected in the Tenpyo patterns found on treasures from the *Shosoin* Imperial Repository. Inspired by these patterns, our new brush pen is crafted with hand-dyed *washi* paper and an authentic brush tip.

Enjoy a tranquil, creative moment with six elegant colors.

## Tenpyo Patterns

Tenpyo patterns appeared in the Nara Period (710–794), especially during the Tenpyo Era (729–749). They include imaginary plants, animals, and geometric shapes. These designs represent good fortune and happiness, and are still used and cherished today in temple decorations and high-class kimono patterns. They form the foundation of what is now understood as “Japanese-style” or “traditional Japanese patterns.”



## Six Ink Colors

- *Sumi-iro* (ink black)
- *Hi-iro* (scarlet)
- *Ruri-iro* (lapis blue)
- *Ni-iro* (cinnabar)
- *Rokushou* (verdigris)
- *Kodai-Murasaki* (ancient purple)

Water-based pigment ink

The ink's color is vivid when wet and softens as it dries, making it ideal for writing. These colors were chosen to match the elegance of the Tenpyo patterns, inspired by the phrase “*Aoni-yoshi*,” which praises the beauty of Nara.

## The Art of Traditional Craft

This pen lets you experience centuries of Japanese craftsmanship. When you hold the pen, you feel the warmth of the handmade Japanese washi paper, crafted and dyed one sheet at a time by skilled artisans. In use, the brush's softness and flexibility, achieved through our traditional Nara Fude Brush brush-making, create a smooth, fluid writing experience.

## Washi Paper

Unlike most other modern washi, which is made from wood pulp, our washi is handmade from *kozo* (paper mulberry) fibers. These *kozo* fibers give the washi a soft, gentle texture. Each sheet is hand-dyed in Kyoto by traditional artisans. Some designs require the paper to be dyed up to four times in different colors. This process takes time and results in subtle differences in color and design, adding to the paper's charm. We selected this washi to share the beauty of traditional Japanese craftsmanship and to preserve it for future generations.



## Brush Tip

Each brush pen tip is handmade by artisans, offering a delicacy and elasticity similar to a traditional calligraphy brush, making writing feel natural and comfortable. You can enjoy the excellent writing quality of a brush crafted using techniques derived from the traditional craftsmanship of the “Nara Fude Brush.”