

Pentel Pencils Identification Book

MEC / MEC-5 Mechanica Pencil



Image Source Jimmy Simpson [1,2] | <http://mechanicalpencilmuseum.blogspot.com/2013/05/pentel-mechanica.html> [3]

Size	0.3 / 0.5
Base Colors	0.3 Red Band 0.5 Yellow Band
Years Available	1968 to early-00's
Mfg Country	Japan
Dist Country	Japan
Price Tags	MEC ¥3000 MEC5 Early ¥2000, Later ¥3000
Dimensions	Overall (retracted/extended): 148.0mm / 149.5mm Plunger: 6.0mm Extender: 6.9mm Hardness Ring: 7.9mm Body: 82.4mm Grip: 30.1mm Shield (retracted/extended): 3.7mm / 16.2mm Tip (retracted/extended): 11.0mm / 0.0mm

Pentel's flagship drafting pencil. This was the first pencil released in 0.3mm by any company.

Mechanica 0.3mm

First version from 1969: Clip has 'PENDEL' in capital letters, the twist grip has 2 etched arrows ↔ . Box also has 'PENDEL' in capital letters.

'Mid' version from 1971 thru 1980s: 'Pentel' logo on clip and box has changed to modern rounded font. The grip loses the 2 arrows.

'Late' version from the 90s thru end of production in 2002: the grooves on the grip become shallower. The latest versions lose the JIS mark on the collar behind the grip and also come with only a clip and a sleeve, no box.

In 1987, a model with a white ring was released for film. It was discontinued in 1989.

Winner of the 1969 Good Design Award.

<https://www.g-mark.org/award/describe/3004>

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Pentel Pencils Identification Book

MEC / MEC2-5 Mechanica Pencil



Image Source Jimmy Simpson

Size	MEC 0.3 MEC2-5 0.5
Base Colors	MEC - Red Band MEC2-5 - Yellow Band
Years Available	MEC - 1968 to 2002 MEC2-5 - 1970 to 2002
Mfg Country	Japan
Dist Country	Japan
Price Tags	MEC ¥3000 MEC2-5 Early ¥2000, Later ¥3000
Dimensions	Overall (Shield retracted/extended): 148.0mm / 149.5mm Plunger: 6.0mm Extender: 6.9mm Hardness Ring: 7.9mm Body: 82.4mm Grip: 30.1mm Shield (Shield retracted/extended): 3.7mm / 16.2mm Tip (Shield retracted/extended): 11.0mm / 0.0mm

Pentel's flagship drafting pencil, the original Mechanica was the first 0.3mm pencil released by any company. In general, the grip on the MEC had 12 grid rows with the grooves being inked. The MEC2-5 had 14 rows, not inked. For both the MEC and the MEC2-5, the designs fall into 3 general periods.

Early Period– 1968 (1970 for the MEC2-5) to around 1972

Grip Text: ↔PENTEL |Y|echanica Ring Text: MADE IN JAPAN

The initial MEC had different text on the grip, and only had 11 rows. Late Early period MEC was a thicker text.

Middle Period – Around 1972 to 1990

Grip Text: Pentel Mechanica 0.3 (or 0.5) Ring Text: JIS S 6013 (♻) Display permission 375127 MADE IN JAPAN

I believe Pentel received their JIS permit in 1975, so I suspect that the Early Middle pencils did not have the JIS information on the Ring.

Late Period – 1990 to 2002

Grip Text: Pentel Mechanica 0.3 (or 0.5) Ring Text: [none]

Winner of the 1969 Good Design Award and the 1985 Good Design Long Life Design Award.

<https://www.g-mark.org/gallery/winners/9c4b4289-803d-11ed-862b-0242ac130002>

<https://www.g-mark.org/gallery/winners/9e6f633a-803d-11ed-af7e-0242ac130002>

<https://note.com/leun/n/n2d67d7ff1131>

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