

## **RECIPE:        Iron-Gall Ink**

Iron-gall ink has been used for centuries. Even now it is the most commonly used writing ink. The name indicates that this ink essentially consists of iron salt and gallic acid (tannic acid).

A good iron-gall ink is obtained by diluting 23.4 g tannin (tannic acid) or 7.7 g crystallized gallic acid, 30 g green iron-II-sulfate crystals, 10 g gum arabic, 7 g crude hydrochloric acid and 1 g ascorbic acid (for stabilization purposes) in 1 liter of water.

Iron-gall ink is relatively liquid. Since it turns black only after a few days, pigments such as Indigotin or Atramentum are added to show a dark script. The pigments bleach after a while, and the Iron-gall Ink turns black.

Ascorbic acid or Salicylic acid can be added to prevent moulding. Gum Arabic delays premature flocculation of the black iron-gallic complex and causes the ink to absorb the oxygen in the jar, the black pigment precipitates as insoluble sediment.