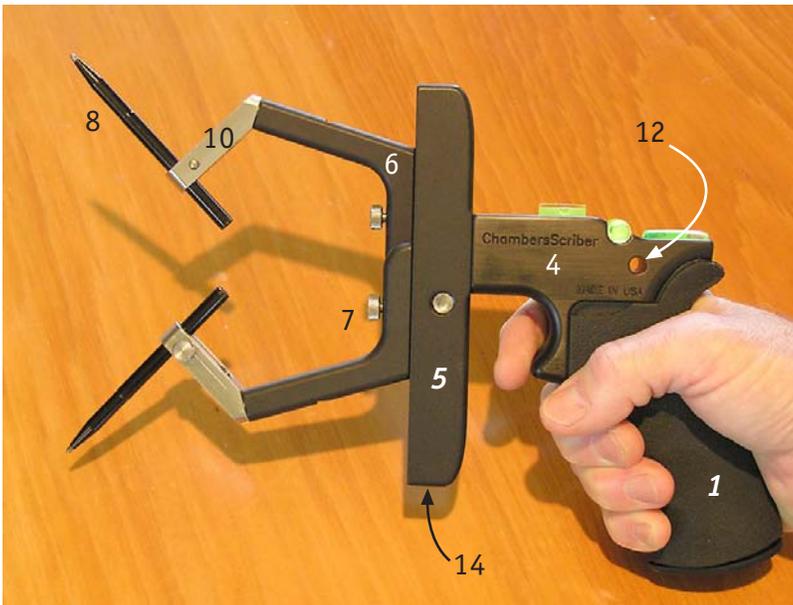


# ChambersScribers V.2

## Owner's Manual



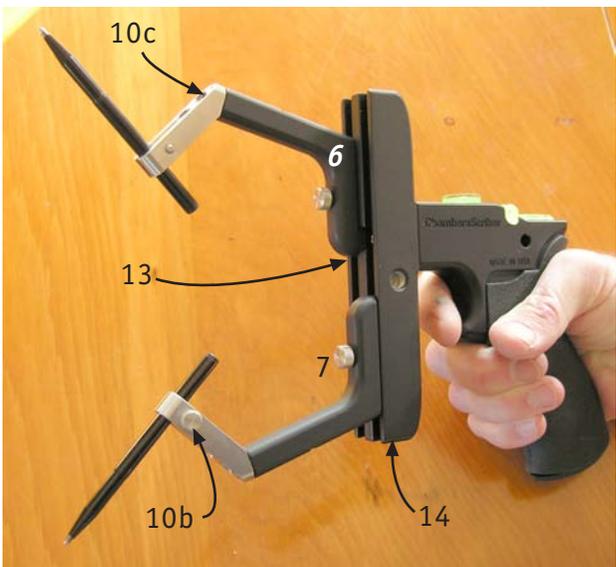
### Parts List

- 1- ErgoGrip
- 2- Straight vials
- 3- Bullseye vial
- 4- Receiver
- 5- Female slide
- 6- Sliders (qty 2)
- 7- Thumbscrew to lock Slider in place
- 8- Pen (Fisher SpacePen #RP/CSP, or "stowaway" refill)
- 10- Pen arm
- 10b- Screw, or thumbscrew (to lock pen in place, 3/32" allen hex)
- 10c- Screw to adjust friction of rotation (1/8" allen hex)
- 11- Side Handle (optional part)
- 12- Lanyard hole
- 13- Bolt for horizontal scribing (3/16" allen hex)
- 14- Hole for pen length adjustment (& optional bore-sight laser)

#### *Parts Included, But Not Shown:*

- Spare teflon washers
- 1/8" allen key hex wrench (for part #10c)
- 3/32" allen key wrench (for part #10b)
- 3/16" allen key hex wrench (for part #13)

*All parts are available for sale as spare parts*



ChambersScriber V.2  
Owner's Manual, June 2012  
[www.LogBuilding.org](http://www.LogBuilding.org)  
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## MODULAR DESIGN

The ChambersScriber has a modular design, which means that you can use your scriber for many different purposes, and that you will be able to get accessories for your ChambersScriber to perform special tasks. One accessory that is available now is an extra-long Slider that allows you to scribe at very wide scriber settings (up to 22", 560mm); and one planned for the future is a Sliding-Arc Pen Arm that gives you thousands more choices for pen angle than have been available with any other scriber.

All these 'upgrades' and accessories will fit onto your existing Grip, Receiver, Bubble Vials, and Pens. This makes upgrading easy for you, and because the parts are modular—you only buy the accessories that you need.

## PENS

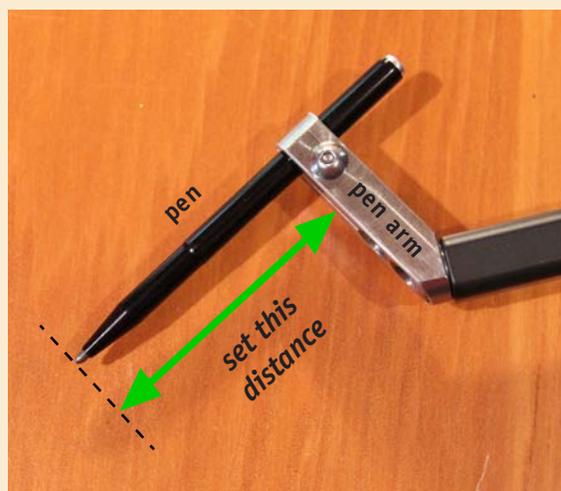
The ChambersScriber uses Fisher Space Pens. You can order extra pens directly from Fisher (800-634-3494, weborders@spacepen.com, +1-702-293-3011), or by emailing me (robert@LogBuilding.org). There are also retail shops in the USA, Canada, and the EU that sell my scriber, and they sell the refill pens, too.

[www.spacepen.com/contractorpenreplacementspacepen.aspx](http://www.spacepen.com/contractorpenreplacementspacepen.aspx)  
[www.spacepen.com/blackstowawaypen.aspx](http://www.spacepen.com/blackstowawaypen.aspx)

[www.spacepen.com/internationalinquiries.aspx](http://www.spacepen.com/internationalinquiries.aspx) (this webpage lists distributors in many countries)

The Fisher SpacePen model is called "Stowaway" and the refill is **Part # RP/CSP** (a refill for their "Contractor's Pen").

Fisher Space Pens have been proven over many years of use to be one of the most-preferred ways to scribe logs. They work on wet wood, and in cold and hot temperatures. The ink is permanent, and will not wash off. But they are not invincible. To remove ink from a surface (from log, fingers), to clean a plugged pen ball (nib) try using rubbing alcohol. It is possible to bend the pen body (the black tube). If a pen is bent, your scriber will not be accurate.



### **IMPORTANT SET PEN LENGTH**

The ChambersScribers will work properly *only* if the pen point (nib) is the correct distance from the Pen Arm.

Refer to the 3 photos below.

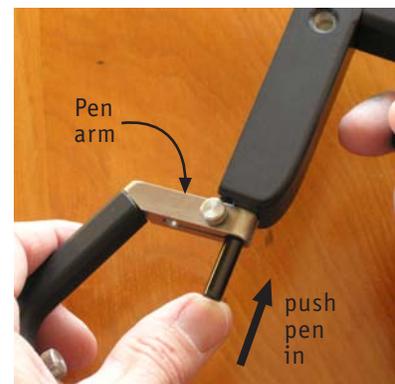
And, watch the video [www.LogBuilding.org](http://www.LogBuilding.org) (.org *not* .com)



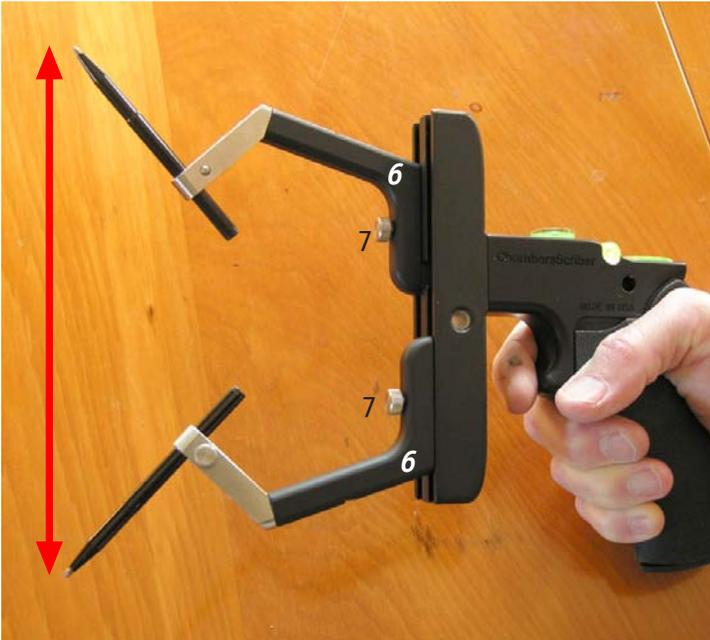
Step 1 : Remove one Slider from the scriber, and put a new pen in the arm.



Step 2: Insert pen into hole in the bottom of Female Slide. Hold the pen arm **tight** against the Female Slide.



Step 3 : Push pen into hole until it stops. Tighten screw (or thumbscrew, shown here). Do not overtighten the screw, or pen body could crush. This would deflect the pen, and cause inaccuracy.



## ADJUSTING THE SCRIBE SETTING

The distance between pen points is called the "scribe setting" or "scribe distance."

The RED ARROW in this photo shows a "scribe setting."

To change the scribe setting you move one of the Sliders (Part #6). Or you can move BOTH of the sliders. It's your choice.

Loosen the slider thumbscrew (Part #7) to move a Slider. Tighten the thumbscrew on each Slider to lock the slider in place before you start scribing logs.

You *never* need to "plumb" the ChambersScriber on a plumb board.

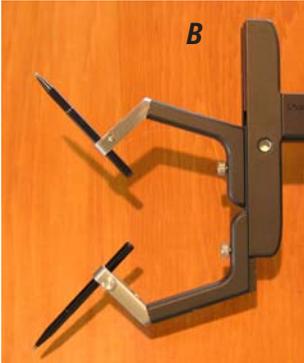


You can position the two Slider arms anywhere along the Female Slide that you want. If you find that the Female Slide gets in the way while scribing a notch (for example), then position BOTH Sliders higher (Photo A) or BOTH Sliders lower (Photo B) on the Female Slide.

The scribe setting in Photo "A" is equal to the scribe setting in Photo "B." Both positions will work the same. You can also use the Sliders anywhere in-between these extremes.

SMALL SCRIBE SETTINGS. Rotate the pen arms until the Sliders and Pens can bypass each other. This allows you to make very small scribe settings--down to zero!

LARGE SCRIBE SETTINGS. The ChambersScriber will open to scribe settings of up to 10-1/2" (27 cm).



EXTRA LARGE SCRIBE SETTINGS. You can buy my optional Long Female Slide that will allow scribe settings of up to 22" (56cm). Some production builders do not rough notch their logs, and so they scribe each log only once, and need a scriber that will open very wide. Scribing valley logs, log purlins, log trusses, and logs for stairs may require very large scribe settings. Watch my website for updates on these, and other attachments.

**WHEN YOU REMOVE A SLIDER, IT MUST BE RE-INSTALLED AS SHOWN IN THE TOP PHOTO.**

*The LEFTHAND slider must point DOWN.*

*The slider in the RIGHTHAND dovetail slide must point UP.*

*See the photo above, and photos on page 1, for proper installation of Sliders.*

## BUBBLE VIALS

The ChambersScribers has 2 straight vials (Parts #2), and 1 bullseye vial (Part #3) to help you keep the pen points plumb as you scribe.

Because some professional log builders prefer bullseye, and other professional log builders prefer straight vials, I put both types of vials on my scriber.

I use the bullseye for notches, and the double vials for long grooves! Try it.

The straight vials are custom made in the USA specially for my scribers. Replacement vials are available from Robert Chambers.

NOTE: You never need to "plumb" the ChambersScriber on a plumb board. And you must NEVER adjust pen length to make the scriber "plumb."



## SWINGING / ROTATING THE PEN ARMS

The Pen Arms (#10) can be rotated to change the angle that the pen touches each log. Rotate the arms by hand—do NOT use a wrench to rotate the pen arms. This rotation, or swinging, does NOT change the scribe setting; and it does NOT change plumb. The pen points stay plumb to each other through all rotation. As you rotate a Pen Arm, everything moves EXCEPT the very end of the ballpoint (the “nib”)— and it stays in one place.

Since SpacePens produce a good line when they touch each log at about 90-degrees, you should rotate each pen arm to improve the way each pen’s ballpoint tip (nib) touches its log.

Most builders change the pen angle only rarely while scribing a long-groove (lateral groove). But, when scribing a corner notch it is common to change pen angle frequently. The Pens write best when they hit the upper log and the lower log at about 90-degrees, so the purpose of rotating the Pen Arms is to keep the end of both Pens touching the logs ‘straight on,’ not glancing. Just grab the pen arm and rotate it by hand. Do not use a wrench. Rotate each arm as often as needed while scribing a corner notch.

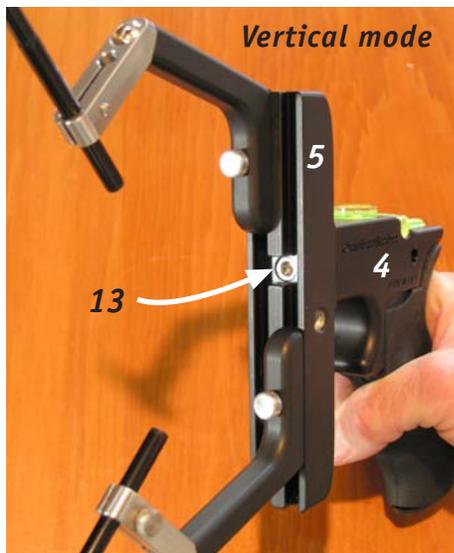
**SMALL SCRIBE SETTINGS.** Rotate the pen arms until the Sliders and Pens can bypass each other. This allows you to make very small scribe settings--down to zero!

**Swing Friction**—I have adjusted the friction, and you should try scribing several logs before adjusting them. Tighten or loosen the Pen Arm Screw (#10c) with the small allen key hex wrench to adjust friction. This wrench came in your scriber’s tool kit. The screw had lock-tite when it was assembled, it keeps the screws from turning too easily, so it may not be easy to tighten or loosen. NOTE that even when friction is light, the arms do not swing by themselves in use. Light friction is all that is needed.

**Teflon Washers**—You will see that there is a small teflon washer on both sides of Pen Arm (#10). Do not remove these washers. A few spare washers were sent with your ChambersScriber. Two thin black washers go under the arm. One white washer goes under the screw (#10c).

## HORIZONTAL SCRIBING

There are times when you may want to scribe horizontally, not vertically. Logs stairs, and scribing trim to a log wall are examples that can require horizontal scribing.



Use the wrench (3/16” allen key) supplied with your scriber to loosen the socket head cap screw (Part #13).

When the bolt is loosened, the Female Slide (#5) will become loose from the Receiver (#4). The attachment screw should be loosened, but NOT removed. Rotate the Female Slide and re-engage the locator pins, and tighten Screw #13.

See video on my website [www.LogBuilding.org](http://www.LogBuilding.org)



Use either the front straight vial (#2) or the bullseye vial (#3) to keep the pen points horizontal as you scribe. To keep the scriber **pointing** the correct direction you might want to use a laser pointer while horizontal scribing. The ChambersScriber has a hole (#14) that can hold a .25 caliber “bore sight” laser. A bore sight laser is a tool that is used to adjust, “sight in” a telescopic scope on a rifle.

The Grip is always held vertically—even when making a horizontal scribe.

## OPTIONAL SIDE HANDLE

The ChambersScriber can be fitted with an optional Side Handle (#11) to help you hold your scriber steady and control its movement. You can buy a side handle from my website, but many power tools come with a handle that will work. The thread must be metric M8 x 1.25, which is a common size used for Makita, Hitachi, Ryobi, Bosch, and other small sanders and grinders. You might already own a handle that will fit.

Lefthanded people can try this— rotate the Female Slider so it is upside-down, and tighten it to the Receiver. Now the optional side-handle will be on the right side of the grip, instead of the left side of the grip.

**PLEASE NOTE that the side handle is NOT 90° in either direction. For ergonomic comfort, the handle points down and it also points away from you.**

**To engage the handle into the threaded hole you will need to match the angles shown here.**



### LANYARD

I have provided a hole (#12) to attach a lanyard for hanging your scriber off a tool belt. A short piece of cord can be tied in a loop through this hole, and then a clip or carabiner on your belt will carry your ChambersScriber.

## TROUBLESHOOTING

### **Scribe lines or scriber is not accurate**

- 1) Both pens **must** stick out the correct amount (page 2), and thumbscrews clamping the pens must be tight.
- 2) Make sure sliders are correctly installed in lefthand and righthand female dovetail slides (see page 3)
- 3) Keep bubbles inside lines at ALL times when drawing scribe lines (beginners need practice! It's not easy.)
- 4) Pen-tube endcap has come loose and pen has moved inside black pen-tube. Glue the end-cap into place with Crazy Glue or epoxy. Push end-cap into black pen tube until it is fully seated and glued in place.
- 5) Pen is bent. Replace **both** pens. It is possible for a pen to be bent, and yet not see or feel the bend. Replace **both** pens with new pens and test the scriber. (After this, you can figure out which one of the old pens is still straight and can be used.) A pen can bend if the scriber is pushed too hard into a log, or if the scriber was dropped. The pens should touch the logs only just hard enough to produce a good clean line. Push no harder than that.

### **Pen won't write**

- 1) Rotate pen arm to make tip of pen touch log at about 90°. Pen will not write if it is glancing against log surface.
- 2) Pen is out of ink.
- 3) Pen tip has clogged. Try soaking in alcohol and writing on rough paper. The pen ball (nib) must **rotate** in order to draw a line.

### **Side handle won't screw in**

- 1) Handle must have Metric M8 x 1.25 thread.
- 2) The handle can NOT be installed at 90° — see compound angles at top of page 5. Screw in while matching these oblique angles.

### **I don't understand what's wrong**

- 1) Please send me an email and a photo of what's wrong: robert@LogBuilding.org I'll do my best to reply within 72 hours.
- 2) But keep in mind that this Owner's Manual is not a book on how to scribe, it is only a booklet about the features of this scriber. One example: the scriber is almost never 90° to either log when scribing a log corner notch (it's about 45° to both logs). You learn that technique in a log home course. There are many such scribing skills to learn.