

Smoothing averages your stroke as you draw it. A little is a tool. A lot is a crutch.

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Drills and learning

Every wobble is yours and you can see it. This is the only way the wobble goes away.

10 - 15

General drawing

Takes the jitter off without adding lag. Sensible everyday setting.

25 - 40

Deliberate inking

Long, confident, curved contour lines. You will feel the line trail behind the nib.

above 40

The software is drawing, not you

The line stops responding to what your hand actually did. Useful for one specific effect; a bad habit as a default.

Where the setting lives

In Photoshop it is Smoothing, a percentage in the options bar with a brush tool selected. Other programs call it stabiliser or smoothing and put it in the brush settings. Same idea, different name.

06 Two Tests, One Loop

Back of the stabilisation card.

Is it parallax, or is it calibration?

The ink does not appear under the nib. Hold the pen dead still and move your head from side to side.

Watch the gap between the nib and the cursor while your head moves.

The gap CHANGES as your head moves

That is parallax. It is the thickness of the glass, and it is physics - no amount of calibrating removes it. Sit square to the screen, keep your head still while you draw, and your brain will stop noticing within a week.

The gap STAYS THE SAME

That is a calibration error. Open the driver, run Calibrate, and tap the crosses using your normal grip. Do it sitting exactly as you draw.

The four-step loop - use it on every important line

1. Rehearse

Hover the nib just above the glass and swing the whole stroke three or four times. Nothing is drawn. You are teaching your arm the path.

2. Commit

Drop the nib and draw it in one movement, at the speed you rehearsed. Do not slow down halfway - that is where the wobble gets in.

3. Judge

Look at it. Not at the nib, at the line. Is it the line you wanted?

4. Undo, repeat

If it is not, undo and go again. Do not patch a bad line with more little lines. That is how you end up with a furry mess.