For the 500 & 600 series SMART Boards (refer to SMART Board serial number to determine model series – i.e. SB-685-xxxxxxx indicates 600 series), the pens are nothing more than a piece of plastic. When a pen is removed from the tray, a sensor in the tray tells the computer which pen has been picked up and the computer will activate that pen color.

For the 800 series, the pens have sensors built into the pen to help the board recognize actions. The four traditional colors are activated by pressing the corresponding color button on the pen tray.

The button labeled with an icon that resembles a keyboard will activate an onscreen keyboard for quick access to type on the SMART Board.

The button labeled with an icon that resembles a computer mouse will activate the right-click command. When activated the next contact on the SMART Board will be treated as a right-click on the mouse.

The button labeled with a question mark will activate the help function for the SMART Board/SMART Notebook.

The 800 series SMART Board includes the above buttons as well as buttons that allow the user to select the color of the pen they are currently using from the four traditional SMART Board pen tray colors: red, green, blue, and black.