

Stages of Making a Slimline Pen

I start with a good figured, close grained timber .

The blanks are cut to roughly 20mm square and cut off about 1-2 mm longer than the brass barrel. The blanks are then drilled as near to centre as possible and the barrels are roughed up on sand paper (about 100 grit) to help the glue grip.

The barrels are then covered with medium thickness CA glue (Super Glue), and inserted into the barrels. You need to twist and turn to make sure the glue covers all the surface.

I normally leave the glue to set overnight, but I guess they can be turned a lot earlier than this.

The blanks are assembled onto a specially designed pen mandrill with bushes in between and turned down to the size.



After the turning is done I start with about 240 grit sand paper, the better the finish off the tool the higher grip you can start with.

I sand down to 1200 or sometimes use the micro mesh which goes to 12000 grit.

After this is done I use the CA glue again to finish the pen.

This is done by trickling a small amount of CA glue on the top of the blank with the lathe running VERY slowly. (Wear protective rubber gloves and glasses).As you trickle the CA glue along the top of the blank you use a piece of paper towel, (fold a paper towel twice over and cut into 10 strips) to spread the glue along the blank.

I then spray with accelerator to set the glue instantly.

I give my pens 20 coats (one each end of the 10 strips of paper towel). Saves me counting.

I then sand again starting with 800 grit and then use the 1200 and maybe the 2500.

You can use a variety of finishes, such as Kitten high quality car polish or Brasso.

This brings up a magnificent glass like finish

If using Polyester Resin the same applies except the 20 coats of glue are not needed.

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