Hipwood's Process to Turn Pens 11-10-2026

Same Process for other Pen Mandrel Items

Fellow Turners, this is an addition to the Hipwood's Pen Making Guide for Equipment published Feb 2023. This document is to provide the process I use to actually make pens/other.

I will attempt to provide a step-by-step process aimed at beginners making and finishing pens and other pen mandrel projects.

1. **Choose and purchase pen kit(s) of your choice. Best vendors are Woodcraft and Craft Supply among many. (My strong opinion is to buy ONLY high-quality pen kits and not junk from China)**
2. **Print and follow the kit's vendor directions. Attached is a sample of directions from Woodcraft for the Wall Street II twist pens. NOTE the correct size of supplies needed. Directions includes: cutting the blank, gluing the brass to wood blank, (I always let glue dry**

overnight-fewer blow ups). Sand or use barrel trimmer to reveal ends of brass tubes in wood, turn pen, and assembly.

3. **I will expand on my current step- by- step process for turning/sanding /finishing with my choice of friction polish.**
   A. **Turning the blank for beginners; use a roughing gouge and aim to design a 1/3-2/3 pen blank. (Means slightly fatter at 1/3) Ensure wood is flush with bushings.**
   B. **Hand sand with a vacuum on (required). Use 120 grit if needed to finalize shape and match ends at bushings.**

      Then hand sand with 150-600 grit paper. After 320 grit, apply a very quick coat of thin set CA on a paper towel, quickly apply and then use accelerator. Then proceed with 400 and 600 grit sandpaper.

      Next, you burnish with Scotch Brite (fiber wool) with gray (800 grit), GOLD (1200 grit), and then white (2000 grit). Can use medium to firm pressure when burnishing.
   C. **I use a friction polish made by Doctor's Pen Plus (buy at Woodcraft/other/shop) Apply with 3-4 drops on a paper towel onto the turned pen blank**

with some pressure and move side to side quickly!! Repeat 3 more times and rest for 30 seconds before removing it from mandrel.

D. Assemble kit with wood blank per directions.

NOTE:

A.) The "Other" turned items I referred to are most any spindle made items can use sanding/finishing process (see # 3 A-C). Except do not use CA glue like on pens.

B.) An alternative, if you have the three-wheel Beall buff system one can use all three wheels on bare wood too with excellent results.

NOTE: Feel free to explore other methods and settle on one that you like and works for you!!!

HIPWOOD- Dennis Hippen

https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0616/1711/1178/files/77C09_WallStreetIIPenKit_20Instructions.pdf?v=1705261774