



Pen making

Ken Croft has in the past been a partime salesman for pen parts. Due to various cost risers and other problems he gave up this part time job.

However, he still retained some of the parts and equipment needed to make



pens and was prevailed upon to give this months demo' "So what's involved in turning a pen" First you need various bits of equipment. A mandrel to hold the wood or plastic. Basically a long thin rod. The tool for turning, according to Ken, is a curved skew chisel. But the real piece of necessary equipment is the device to push through the pen tubes into the turned wood.



So starting with the blanks these need to be drilled out fitted onto the mandrel and turned down to the desired size. If you are using a plastic blank it pays to warm it first other wise the drilling may shatter the plastic. This is because you are turning down to a very thin tube.

Also if you are making the pen

in two parts like the photo above remember to align the grain so it matches.

Ken advises using max speed on the lathe as this gives a better finish and you are only turning a small diameter object.

The example above has a barrel shape which is reputedly more pleasing and better to hold in the hand! To get a good finish go down the grits as you normally would but then apply super glue as a finish. This is because a pen is constantly handled and grease etc from the hand will ruin the finish but super glue usually gives a finish that lasts.



The mandrel



two blocks threaded onto it

Aim to match the grain of the blocks before you start turning. Sand down through the grits to get a good finish. Once done then assembly can take place. Generally you will need a specialist tool to compress the pen parts and the turned barrel together. These can be purchased at around £40-£50 or you can make your own. The aim is to squeeze the pen tubes and ends onto the barrel parts.





Ken's home made version of a press Axminsters version @ £45



A couple of interesting trials



First a tea pot stand using a parting tool to cut the grooves and offset the circles on the underside. Just cut half way through.



Second why not have a go at making a floral display? Stems are barbecue sticks steamed in a wall paper remover to get the curve. Flowers just disks and then fret sawed

Forthcoming Attractions – 2017-2018

Meetings normally are on the first Thursday in the month except when there are elections. Meetings start at **7pm**.

Dec 7 th	Small Christmas Items
Jan 6 th	Christmas get together & party – 6pm
Feb 1 st	Turning a cup then carving the outside
Mar 1 st	AGM

Remember: members who demonstrate will receive payment.

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