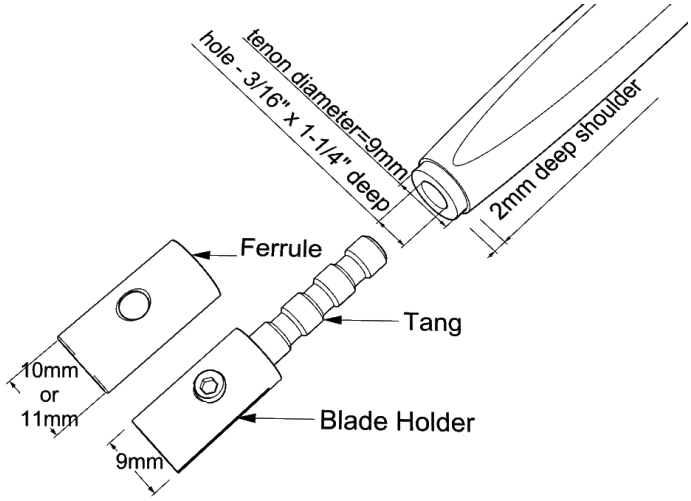
Person Make Object

Tools
Materials
Craft
Design
Utility

The video how-to is better developed than this document.

Check that out: if you have questions get in touch.
personmakeobject@gmail.com



Craft Knife Handle Turning

Instructions

[HOW-TO VIDEO HERE]

1. cut turning blank
   a. dimensions will be determined by the handle shape you want
   b. the finished handles I make are ~ 1/2" x 6.0" and the blanks are ~ 5/8" x 8.0"
   c. if using a chuck (recommended) allow enough material for workholding and clearance

2. chuck blank in lathe
   a. I have had good results with a square blank in spigot jaws.
   b. I have turned these handles between centers, but it is more challenging

3. drill blank - drill a 3/16" hole ~1.25" deep using a drill chuck in tailstock
   a. alternatively, use a drill press if turning between centers

4. place live center in drilled hole - the smaller the live center the better

5. rough out handle profile (leave headstock end diameter ¼"+ for subsequent turning)
   a. I mostly use a skew for shaping the handle
   b. I turn the tailstock end to ~10.5mm which is 0.5mm over the diameter of the ferrule
      - this leaves enough material to sand the handle flush with ferrule later

6. sand handle
   a. I work from 150 to 800 grit abrasive and sand under power then along the grain with each grit.

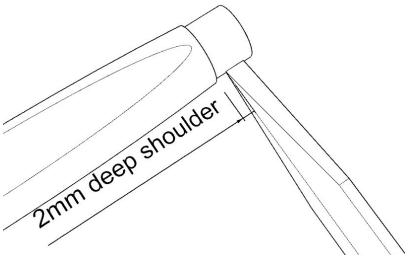
7. use parting tool to turn tenon diameter to fit into ferrule - THIS IS THE MOST CRITICAL CUT!
    a. 9mm dia - a light “press fit” is ideal
        - the ferrule gets epoxied to the handle tenon, so leave some space for adhesive.
    b. this shoulder needs to be 2mm long
        - if handle shape can be held in chuck, you can trim the shoulder to length later
        - this could also be sawn or sanded to length later

8. shape and sand headstock end, keep ~¼” diameter stock for now

9. finish on lathe if that's how you roll
    a. I usually just apply a couple coats of paste wax (dark wax if dark porous wood)
    b. I have dyed curly maple on the lathe which also looks nice
    c. Friction polish, CA, or a hard wax oil like Odies Oil would be good alternatives
    d. Let me know what you use and how it works!

10. part off handle
    a. I roll a curve onto the butt end of the handle with a detail gouge as I part it off.

11. trim shoulder length to fit into ferrule (if handle shape permits)
    a. protect turned handle by slipping it into a piece of vinyl tubing
    b. chuck turned handle into lathe chuck with appropriate jaws.
    c. measure the depth of the ferrule to blade holder (~2mm)
    d. use a parting tool to turn the shoulder to the appropriate depth



12. epoxy blade holder into handle - any 2 part, 5 minute epoxy should be fine
    a. carefully apply epoxy to mating surfaces
        - apply epoxy to inside edges of hole and to the outside of the tang
        - apply a thin layer of epoxy the the tenon on your turned handle
        - be careful not to use too much epoxy as it can get into the blade slot and it’s a bear to get out.
    b. a toothpick makes a good glue applicator for this.
    c. orient slot to handle as desired
    d. orient assembled knife vertically with the blade holder up so that epoxy doesn’t run into blade slot.