

Medium CA Only Pen Finishing

By

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Through experimentation along with some trial and error this is what I have found that works for me. I am sure that others will find what works best for them when trying this application of Medium CA Only as a pen finish on wooden pen barrels. I no longer use Micro Mesh to get a High Gloss finish.

To avoid gluing the bushings to the pen blanks and prevent bushing iron filings from sanding getting imbedded into blank ends, I use bushings that have a smaller diameter than the kit bushings being used. I use old Slimline bushings. In order to use the smaller diameter Slimline bushings for the larger kits that require a "B" Mandrel, I have turned Corian Inserts using 7mm tubes that fit on my Adjustable "A" mandrel. These inserts fit snugly inside the diameter of the tube required for the kit I am turning.

1. Preparing The Pen Blank:

- Turn the pen blank just proud of the kit bushings being used for the pen kit.
- Remove the kit bushings.
- Install the required Corian insert into the pen blank.
- Install the Slimline bushings on the "A" Mandrel.
- Turn and sand the pen blank down to approximately 0.001 " smaller than the diameter of the kit fittings. I use a micrometer to measure the kit fittings to match the appropriate pen blank ends.
- Fill all voids with CA by applying a bead of Med CA along the length of the blank. Spread and smooth out the Med CA along the length of the blank with the back of a small piece of used sand paper while rotating the lathe by hand.
- **Do Not** sand the blank until all the voids have been filled to avoid getting white CA sanding dust into the voids.
- With the lathe running at 500 rpm, sand with 400x, stop the lathe and sand the blank length-wise. Then with the lathe running use a Tack Cloth to remove all the sanding dust.

2. Applying The Medium CA:

1. With the lathe running at 500 RPM apply 6-8 drops of Med CA to form a puddle on a small folded piece of blue shop towel.
2. Make one pass along the length of the blank.
3. Immediately stop the lathe and quickly wipe the blank length-wise with the remaining CA on the shop towel while rotating the lathe by hand. This will smooth out any turning rings before the CA has a chance to dry.
4. Let dry for a few minuets. **Do not use accelerator!** There are too many curing problems associated with accelerators.

5. With the lathe running, buff with Super Fine Steel Wool.
6. With the lathe off, rub down the blank length-wise with Super Fine Steel Wool to remove any turning rings and then wipe down the blank with a Tack Cloth.
7. Repeat steps 1 thru 6, applying enough coats of Med CA to get enough build-up to match the kit fittings. I use a micrometer to measure the kit fittings to match the appropriate pen blank ends.

3. Finishing The Medium CA:

1. With the lathe running, buff the final coat of Med CA with the Super Fine Steel Wool.
2. With the lathe off rub down the blank length-wise with Super Fine Steel Wool to remove any turning rings.
3. Wipe the blank down with a tack cloth.
4. With the lathe running, polish with Hut Ultra Gloss Plastic Polish.

Finished Results



Gold Cigar Double Twist with Figured Maple