

## Penturning is the “Write” Thing To Do

My new hobby is penturning, or making pens. My dad has been making pens for several years and I got interested while watching him make them. Making pens gives me a chance to spend time with my dad. It is a fun and creative hobby. It is also something you wouldn't think many people are interested in. There are many interesting things about penturning to discuss: the process of making the pens, why penturning is such an enjoyable activity, and how wonderful it is to give away or share the finished pens.

The process of penturning requires several tools and materials. First you get a blank, which is the pen design, and which comes in a rectangle or a rod. Then you pick a kit, the pieces in the pen, for example, the top, the middle piece. Then you drill a hole through the middle of the blank. You can either just drill a hole through it, or put it on a lathe, which is a stand where you can hold things on either side. It has an automatic motor that makes the sides spin, which you use to turn the pen, but that comes later. You can put the blank on one side, and put a drill bit on the other. You drill a hole through the blank, and then you put tubes inside the blank. Now you are ready to turn the blank into a pen. Depending on whether or not the pen that is turning is a one or a two piece, you put either one or both pieces on the sides. You use a sharpening tool while it is spinning, and you shape it; also sand it, and polish the piece. The last step is to put the kit pieces onto the blank. After you put it all together, you have made your first pen!

I enjoy penturning because I can do it with my dad, and spend time with him, because he is usually very busy. My dad is very good at it, and can help me, and teach me to be as good as him one day. Another thing is you get to see the finished product, and see how much work and effort

you put in to make your pen; Even if your pen doesn't turn out the way you wanted it to turn out, you can still try, and try again till you get it perfectly. If you get into penmaking and are interested, you can even lose yourself while in your workshop. You can also enjoy picking out the perfect blank, kit, for your perfect pen just for you. There are some many different designs and styles, which you may even want to do them all.

I like to share my pens, because it makes people happy to get such an awesome pen. I have made some pens, and so far I have gave all of them as gifts except one of them, which was my first pen. My first pen was a one piece computer circuit board pen, which looked awesome. I also made an account and started posting my pens of IAP, or penturners.org. My dad is a user on there and posts many pens on there, and has friends on there that send him and I blanks, and kits. The people on there gave me a very warm welcome on there, and gave me lots of support. Recently I even got on the front page, and got nice comments even from the owner. A pen can be a gift that can last for a lifetime, and doesn't have to be replaced: All you have to do if you don't break it, just replace the ink cartages when you run out of ink. The pen could be a memoir for a teacher, or something to remember something or someone. I also enjoy seeing the looks of happiness or amazement when I give a teacher a present like that; it means a lot to them that they have left a big impact to me or the student.

I think that Penmaking is fun, creative, relaxing. Making pens can make you feel good of all the effort you put into making the masterpiece. And that it is fun to share you creation, and can mean a lot to some people more than you would think it would impact them.

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