

Sublimated Pen Blank Tutorial

Step 1: Two options,

A: Purchase sublimation pens, I get mine at Amazon, approximately \$2.00 each.

B: Purchase sublimation coating and use you own brass tubes.





The next steps will assume you have purchased the sublimation pens. It is important to know, these purchased pens will only work for pens that utilize a 3/8 brass tube.

Step 2: Two options

A: Print image on sublimation paper, using sublimation ink. You want the image sized so it overlaps a little when wrapped on the tube and slightly longer than the tube.

B: Purchase infusible ink sheets. They are already printed with various designs.



Step 3: Cut out the labels. I make mine about 2 ½ inches long.



Step 4: Disassemble the purchased pens, very easy, no tools or punches needed.
You will only be using the white coated barrel. Be careful and do not scratch it.



You will find a 3/8 brass tube fits very nicely inserted into it. The sublimated tube is aluminum and the wall thickness is only .012.



Step 5 : Cover the white sublimation tube with painters tape and cut it just slightly longer than the brass tube you are going to glue inside it.



Step 6: Glue the brass tube inside the white tube, I use epoxy. When dry, sand it back so it's flush with the brass tube inside. I use a disk sander and be very careful, that thin alum sands back very very quickly. Remove the masking tape.



Step 7: Gather your prints, tubes, shrink wrap (shrink wrap comes with the pens), you'll need heat proof tape and a heat gun.



Step 8: Clean the tubes with a little rubbing alcohol and let dry. Wrap the image around the tube, image side facing the tube. It's very important to get it as tight as you can. Tape it in the middle and both ends with the heat proof tape.



Step 7: Insert the wrapped tubes into the heat shrink tubes.



Step 8: Apply heat with a heat gun, be careful here, you want it tight but not melted.



Step 9: Bake them at 375 degrees for 5 minutes.

Step 10: Remove from oven, let them cool until you can handle them and unwrap them.



Step 11: Clearcast them in the resin of your choice.

Here are a few examples I have done.



If you want to go the route of applying the sublimation material on the brass tubes, you will need to first paint them with high temperature white paint and then follow the directions on the sublimation coating bottle. Also make sure you buy the kind for hard substrates.