

30 Degree Herringbone

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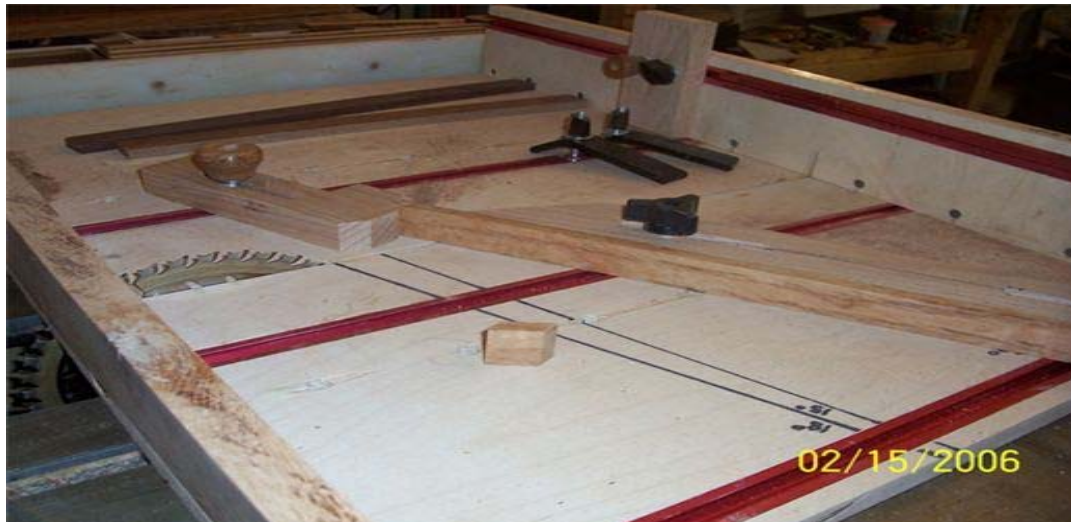
This is how I make my 30 degree herringbone pen blanks. The first step is to cut 3 small strips about 3/8ths of an inch wide and about 12 to 18 inches long from standard 7/8ths stock. In this case I am using three different woods Jatoba, Morado and Gonca Alves.

I use a thin strip cutting jig called a vacuum rip fence that I made loosely based on a design published by David Reed Smith. Since I am working with small stock I stick a scrap board to the side of the wood using double sided tape so that I can safely make the cut.

<http://www.davidreedsmith.com/Articles/VacuumRipFence/VacuumRipFence.htm#Vacuum%20Rip%20Fence>



Once the strips have been cut I use a miter sled that I made for making segmented bowls to cut the wood at a 30 degree angle.



You may use any method you prefer to cut an accurate angle. I personally feel that the miter sled is the safest and most accurate way to make this cut. There is some overlap when gluing the blank so your pieces needs to be about 1 1/4 inches long. If you are making a larger pen you will need to adjust the length accordingly. I set my stop block on the sled so that I can make this cut

quickly and repeatedly. In reality a discrepancy in length will not matter when gluing up the blank but the angle must be accurate.

Once all the wood pieces have been cut you can begin your glue up.



I begin the pattern by gluing the angled end of one of the pieces to the flat side of another piece using CA glue. Continue this pattern using alternating pieces of wood until you have something that looks like the picture bellow.



Once the blank has been completed all that is left is to trim the excess of the sides and ends and start turning. Your finished pen should look something like this.



Good luck and feel free to ask me any questions you may have.