



International Association of Penturners

Mini Tutorial- Angle-cut Casing Pen

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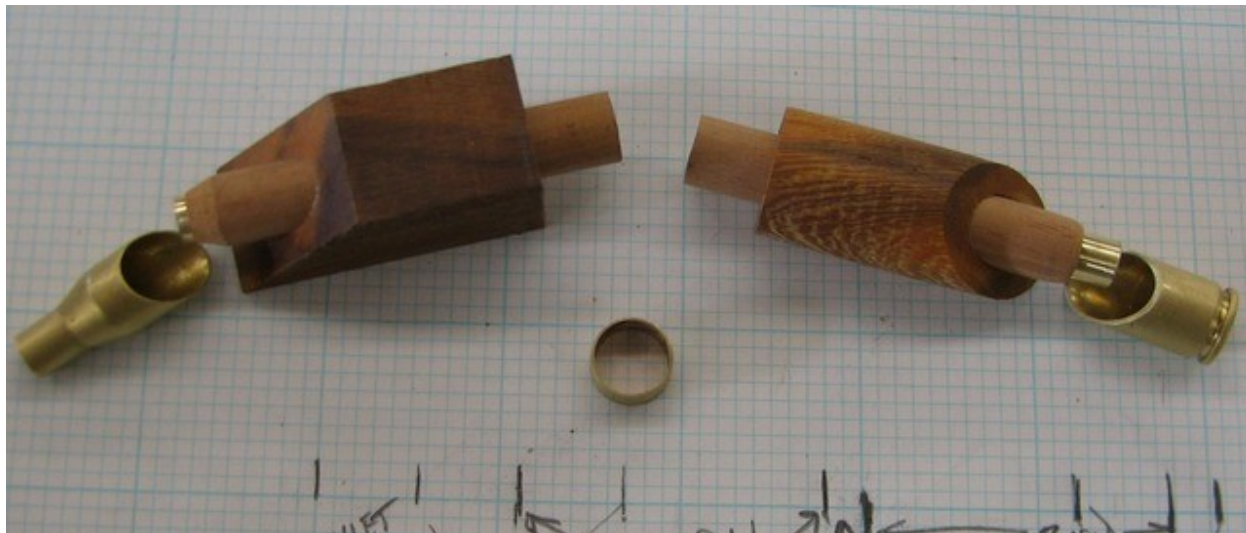
Some time ago Steve (Stevers) posted a photo of a “cut” casing pen, see below. I complimented him on it and said something like “try one with an angle cut casing, good luck.” That post has been bugging me ever since because I think it came off sounding a little pompous and sarcastic. I don't know if you took it that way or not Steve but if you did, I apologize.



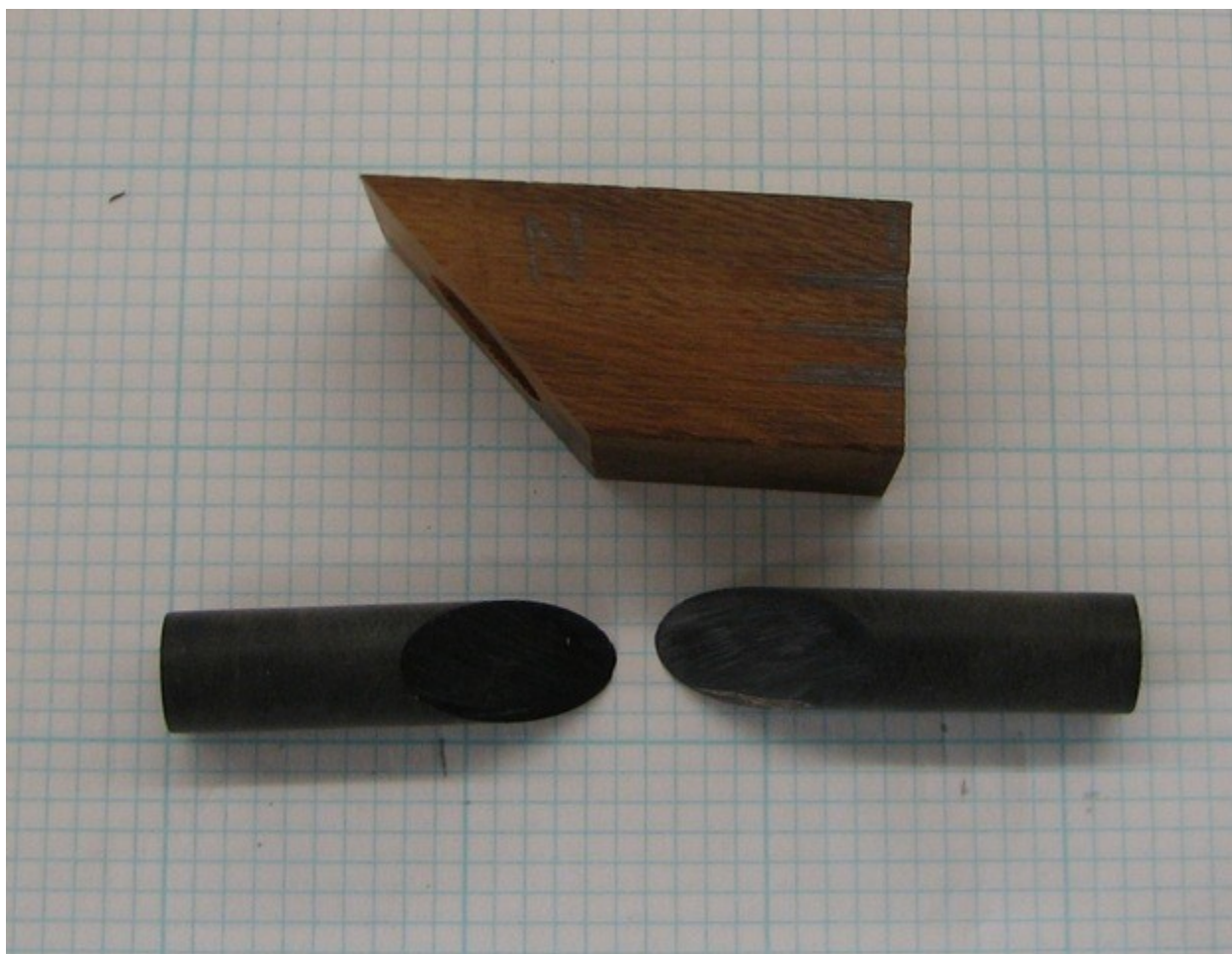
The reason I said “good luck” is a couple years ago I tried to make one and failed miserably. So, with a little more experience and a few tricks up my sleeve I decided to put my money where my big mouth was and try it again. Here's what I came up with.....



Some Desert Ironwood for the body, scrap mahogany inserts and a 25.06 casing.

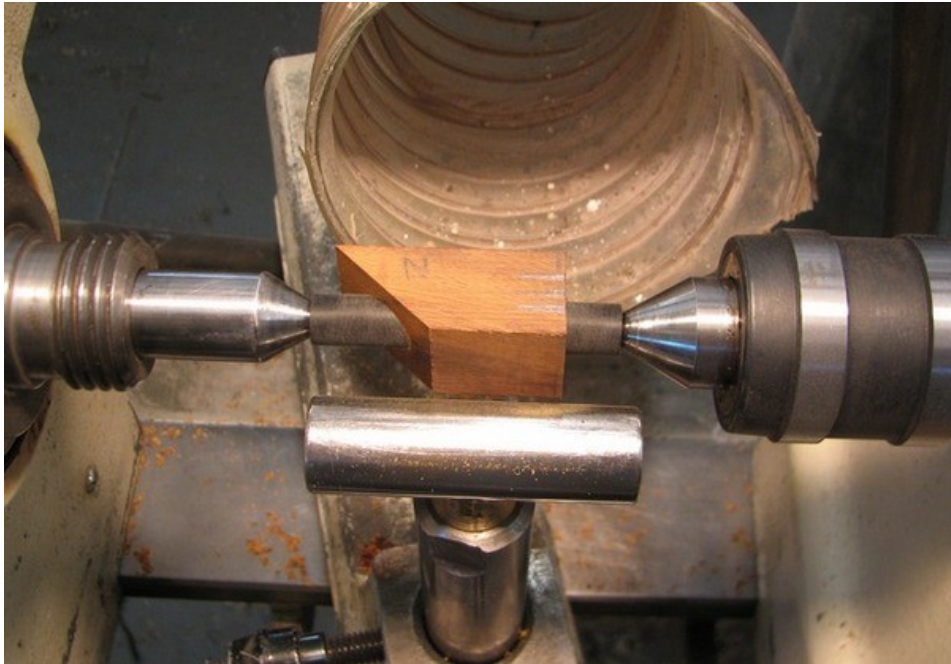


I made the inserts to match the I.D. of the casing. I didn't want them to fit too tight in the blank because of how thin it needs to be. They should just BARELY stay in place when you turn the blank vertical so, depending on what size casing you use and what size bits you have, a little filing of the blank might be in order. You'll also need to shape the ends to fit the nib and finial.



Turning the blank presents some challenges so I came up with this surprisingly simple solution. I took a 2 1/2" long piece of Delrin, used a #4 center bit to put a dimple on each end and turned it to fit snugly in the hole. I then cut it in half on a 30-degree angle.

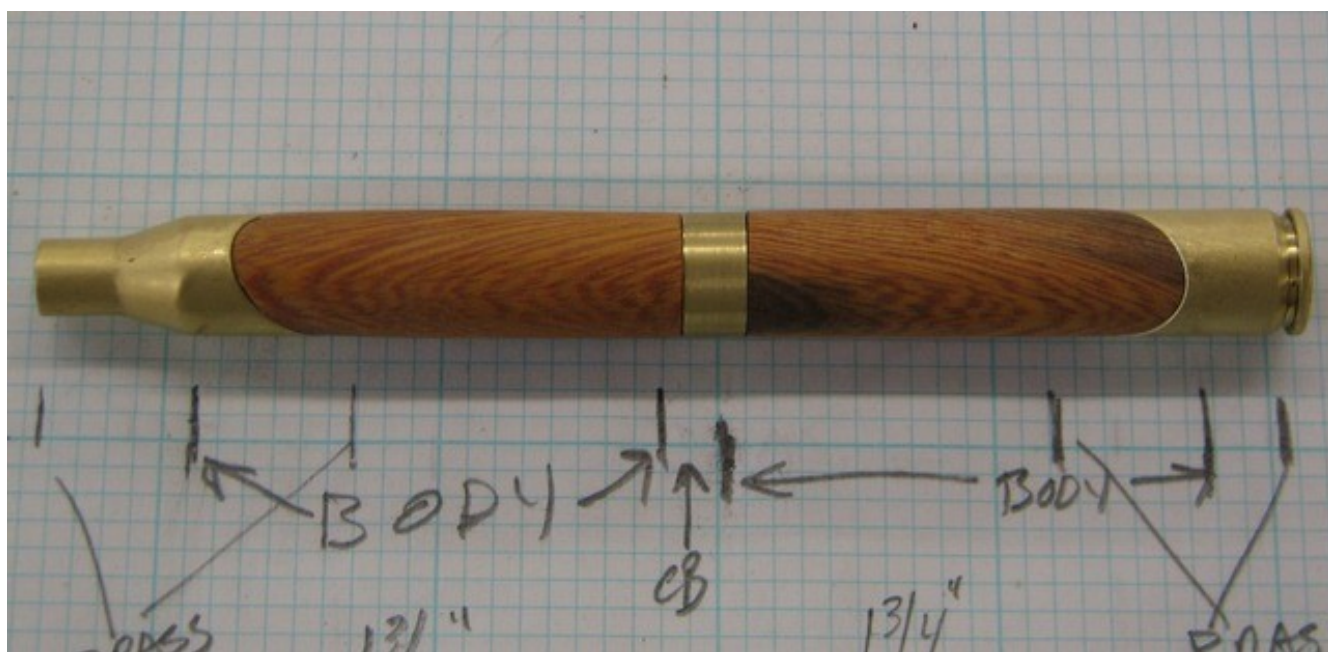
When you insert it in the blank the pressure from the centers forces it apart slightly and holds remarkably well. One word of caution, don't use too much pressure or you'll crack the extremely thin part you're about to make. I used Delrin so I could use it to apply a CA finish.



This shows how thin the piece is. I stopped at .050" over and used 400 sandpaper to get it down to the final dimension.

This is where some of you are saying, why not just glue the blank on the insert and turn it down to size? You probably could IF you weren't doing a CA finish. The pieces are so thin that CA would get all over the insert and would be virtually impossible to remove, ESPECIALLY on the angled end. I thought that doing it this way would give me a much cleaner result.

Here are all the pieces.



Here are all the pieces roughly put together with no glue or finish. Get yourself a marble floor tile, stick some sandpaper on it and spend a few minutes fine tuning the joints, you'll be glad you did.



Finished Angle-cut Casing Pen. I guess that's as good a name as any! Wood finished with CA and the brass clear powder coated.

Edit..... I just did a double take when I saw the last photo. You'll have to trust me but I have the pen in my hand and the CB is not THAT far off center.



Here's another idea from Sylvanite.