



International Association of Penturners

Decorative Guitar Purfling

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Incorporating Decorative Guitar Purfling into a Pen.

I thought using purfling would eliminate gluing so many small pieces and my fingers together.

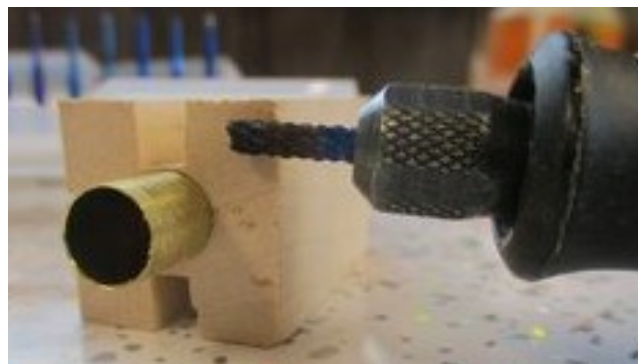


As you can see above purfling comes in different widths, thicknesses, and patterns. Generally, the thickness is around 2.5mm (0.01")

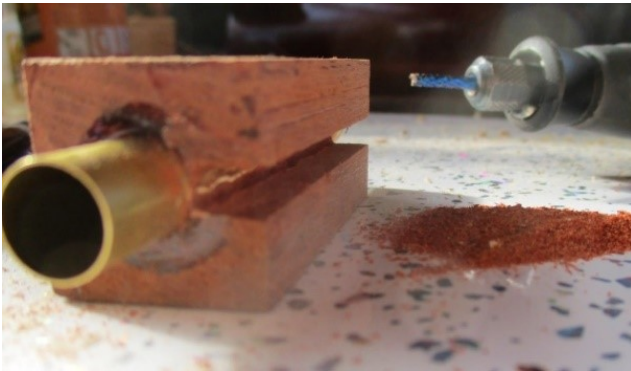
My method.

I needed to cut slots in the blank to accommodate the purfling. The blanks are epoxied onto the tube so there is little chance of it coming apart. I start by using a slot cutter bit on the router table. To eliminate issues, use a flat square blank for best results.

In the interest of safety as well as if the blank does not happen to be completely square, I leave the slot a bit shy of the tube. I can only cut so far with the slot cutter without the risk of touching the tube. To finish the slots, I complete the cut with a rasp on my Dremel as shown in the second picture. Also, if the blank is not drilled 100% down the center, then with the Dremel cutting down to the tube guarantees the purfling is placed correctly.



I have cut 1 to 4 slots on blanks without difficulty, but only if using Epoxy to glue the blank to the tube. Turn the blank 180 degrees and ensure the slot is centered. You can add more slots if you'd like.

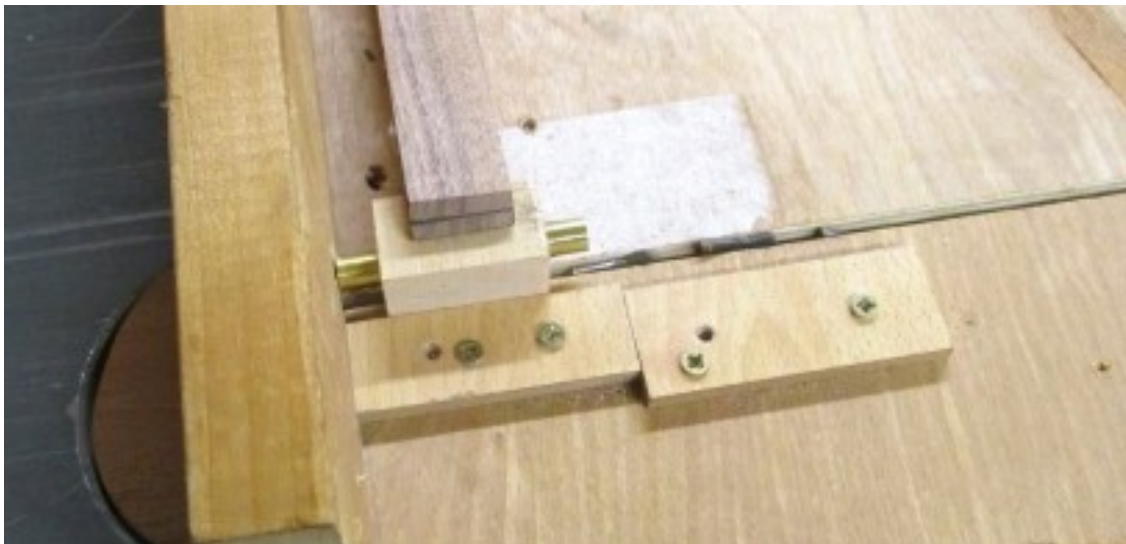


I retain the dust after using the Dremel to mix with the 2-part Epoxy, as it may be needed, to ensure a tight fit.

I cut slots right down to the brass tube. The purfling is around 2.5mm thick which is just sufficient for this pen.

I only use a single layer of purfling.

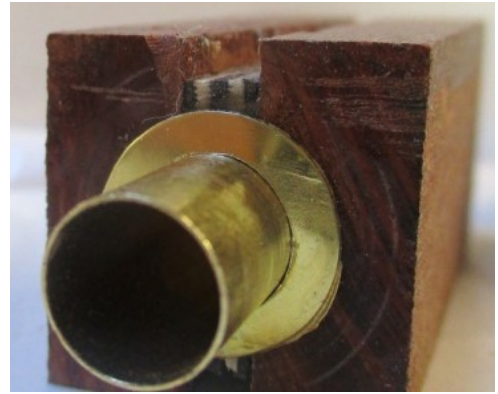
Narrower slots can be cut on a table saw. If I was making a lot of these, I would make a better jig.



The purfling is epoxied into the slots created. When the Epoxy is cured, I trim the blank flush with the purfling and then I'm ready to add ends and turn to finish the blank.



Below you can see I'm using brass rings to determine the final cut depth to gauge how much purfling is left after finishing.



The advantage of using these brass rings is that I can see them when I'm turning the blank.

If not using rings, I take a reading with a calliper, before assembling the blank ends.



Now the brass rings are starting to show, so I have a tad more turning before tapering to the ends. This also shows two lengths of purfling doubled up to form chevrons.



Here is another pen blank with all of the parts ready to be glued, assembled and turned.



Here are some of my recent pens using purfling.



Hope this gives you some ideas.

Thanks for Looking.

Alan