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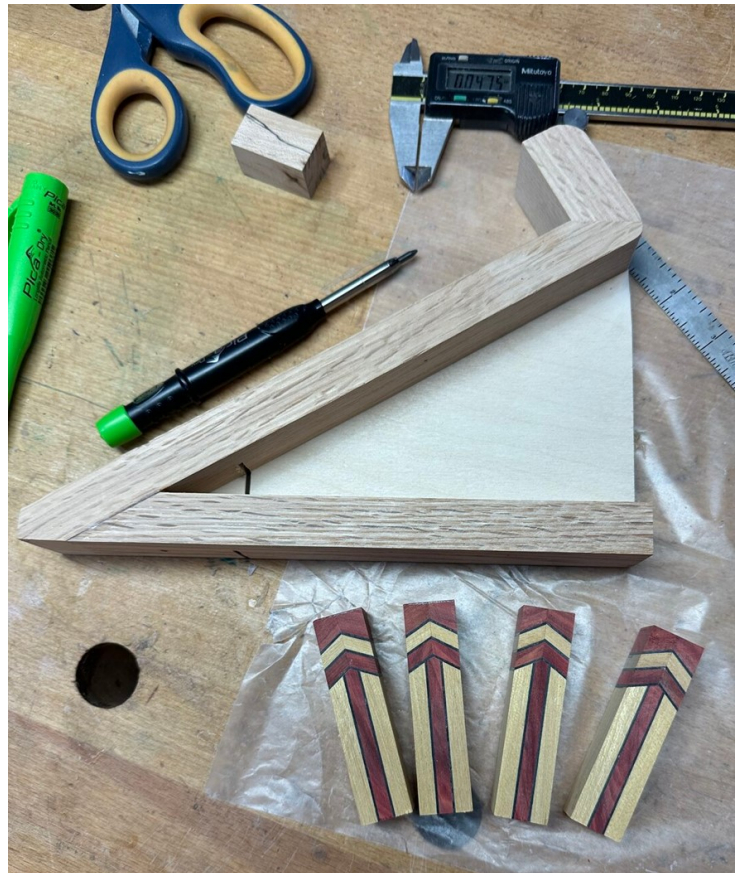
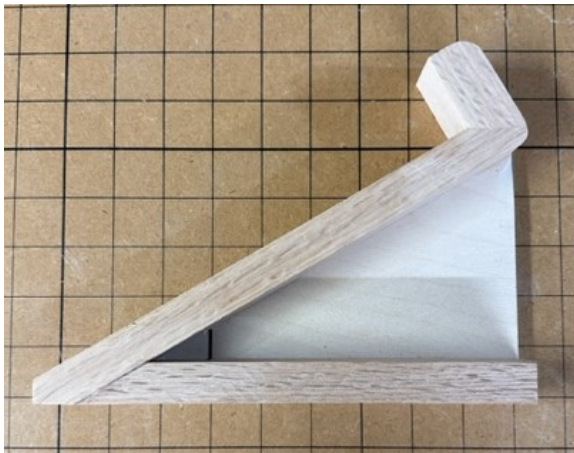
Jig To Help Make Gisi Style Pen Blanks

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This simple jig is basically a 30 degree triangle with a stop at 90 degrees. I make my pen blanks 6 inches long, so I just placed the stop where the pen blank, at full length just goes past the cut line.

I thought about making that stop adjustable, but decided simple is best. I'm using it on a Byrnes table saw with a sled. This concept will work on any table or band saw using a sled. Mine is about 5 x 9 inches overall.



Here's a top view of the jig, as you can see, it was after I used it. The blade on a table saw will cut through the front and bottom of the jig. Therefore, the total thickness of the jig including the .250 inch base should be a minimum of 1.50 inches.



Start by cutting your pieces to whatever size you want to make. I find the “chevrons” look good at about .187 inches thick, as well as the middle stripe. Make the outside pieces whatever they need to be to make the blank square. Being square is important. The top of the chevron needs to be wider, about .500 inches thick.



Next is just the glue up, whatever your method is fine.

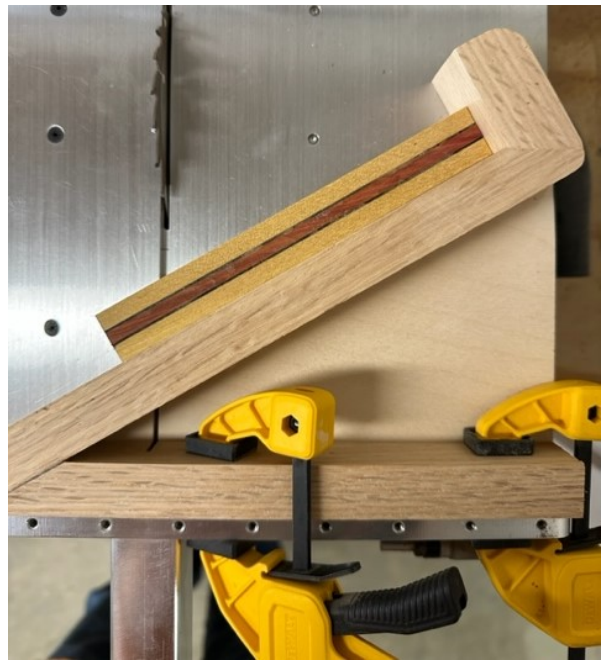


Unclamp and clean up the blank, making sure the blank is square!!



Notice the wider strip on the lower blank; it needs to be this wide when you cut the chevrons.

Set up the jig on your saw, flat side against the front of the sled, clamp it in place.



Hold your pen blank, which will be the main body, against the stop, making sure the blank is just past the blade and make that cut.



Rotate the blank 180 degrees and make the same cut. The point will automatically be centered on the blank.

If you desire, you can now put a spacer between the 90 degree stop and the pen blank and make the exact same cuts on the opposite end. This is where an adjustable stop would come into play; I opted to just use a spacer.



Put the other blank on the saw and cut it off, be very careful here, it's very easy to cut these backwards.



Lay it next to the main body blank, you can see where I put a pencil mark to cut it straight off.



Cut another piece off, opposite the first, once again, be careful, these are easily cut backwards; you want them to look just like this picture.



Cut a piece of tape and lay those two little pieces next to each other on the tape. That tape is now a hinge and will perfectly align the pieces. Put a little CA in there and close them together. Try to keep CA out of the center; you want a nice sharp point in there.

Now just glue those two pieces together.



If you're making two blanks, do all this on the other end as well. If you are going to have chevrons on both ends, don't glue them all together until you have the middle part the correct length.

The image shows how I cut the side off flush on my band saw. I'm sure there are alternative methods, but the band saw works well.



From here you just trim off the chevron end; you'll see here why that end piece was wider. Add end caps or whatever you can dream up.

