



International Association of Penturners

Pen Blank Cutting Jig (Rev. 1)

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The jig was designed to repeatedly and accurately cut pen blanks to the proper size every time without measuring. Once set up and configured to fit your band saw or table saw it is quick and easy to use.



The jig starts out as a basic sled with a 1 ½ - 2" backstop along one edge. A slight chamfer is cut along the backstop where it meets the top of the sled to prevent sawdust build up. This is not shown in the photo but can be seen in the video. Exact measurements are not critical and will need to be adjusted to fit your saw.



A runner made to fit your miter slot is attached to the bottom of the sled and positioned so that there is approximately 4" to the left of the blade.

This is a photo of the bottom of the sled.



Top view with approximately 3 ¾" to the left of the blade. Again, measurements are not critical.



A stop block is positioned approximately 6 – 6 ½” to the right of the blade. In this photo a micro adjustment stop (the blue spacer) was added but is not necessary.

At this point the basic sled part of the jig is finished.



A bridge is made to span from the right side of the stop block to the blade as shown. The cut out in the bridge must allow room to clear the stop block. Leave about 1” of extra material on the outside of both ends. Once the inside of the bridge is cut out the ends should extend past the blade. If you elected to include a micro adjustment stop, be sure it is fully tightened against the stop block before continuing. Slide the bridge against the stop as shown and cut the end to size. Flip the bridge over and repeat. If you did not include the micro

adjustment, place a nickel or something similar in place of the blue stop shown above and cut both ends your bridge to size. The nickel or whatever you use sets how much longer your blank will be than your tube. In other words, if you used a 1/8” spacer where the blue stop is in the photo. Your blank will end up 1/8” longer than your tube. If you included a micro adjuster, extend it out to the right 2 or 3 turns. This will set the finished length of your blank. You can now round over the outside corners of your bridge and finish as desired.



To use the jig, slide your pen tube tight against the right side of the stop block. Slide the bridge to the right side of the tube.



Slide your pen blank tight against the left side of the bridge. Make sure your fingers are in a safe position away from the blade and make your cut.



I drilled 2 shallow recesses in the upper right corner of my jig and glued 2 rare earth magnets in place. I drilled 2 matching holes in the bottom side of the bridge and did the same. This keeps the bridge attached to the sled when it is not in use. Just be sure you get the polarity of the magnets correct before gluing them in place.

A video on how to make and use the jig can be seen at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z99-ID5s6sA&t=16s>