



International Association of Penturners

# An Illusion Pen Tutorial

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JTtheclockman challenged those of us who make chevrons to tackle an illusion blank. This my answer to that challenge.

I started by gluing three thin strips of contrasting woods (Maple, wenge, and padauk) together, with the middle strip cut at one end at 45 degrees and that spot filled with the a piece of maple.



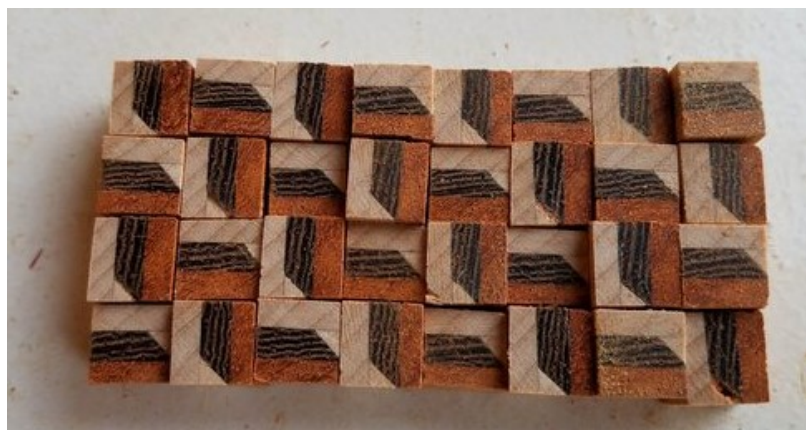
I then trimmed the piece square.



After that I cut pieces into approximately a cube shape (unfortunately since I was using a spacer and not the fence, I forgot to lock down the fence and the pieces ended up different sizes, which made the process more difficult in future steps.)



I arranged the pieces to show the illusion - I flipped and twisted the pieces, as necessary.



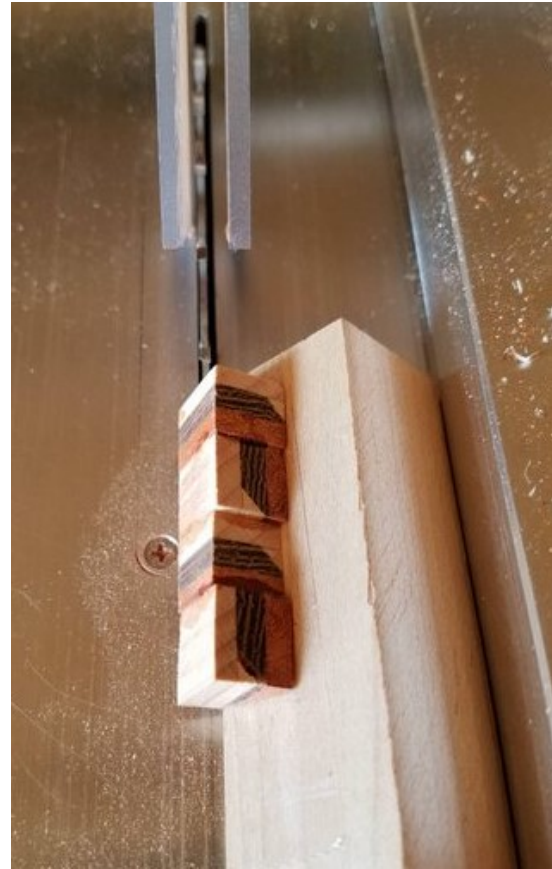
I then stacked the pieces and glued them together.



That resulted in 8 stacks which I turned into staves.



I first cut the staves at 22.5 degrees.



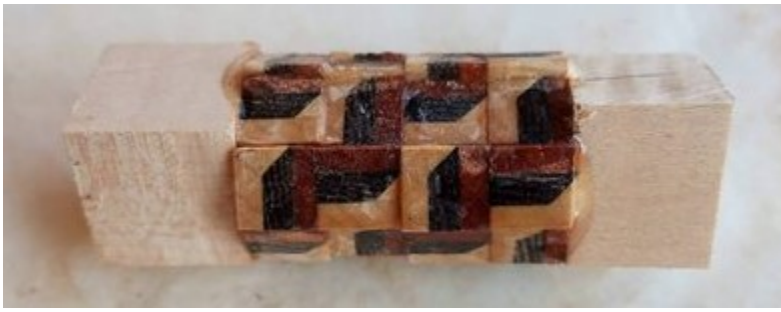
I then cut the other side using a 45 degree jig.

That produced 8 staves which I somehow forgot to take a picture of. Those staves formed this:



The hole is for a skewer to fit in to be able to center sacrificial end pieces for turning the blank round.





I turned it round to fit in the beall collet chuck for drilling the hole.



I then parted off the sacrificial maple and replaced it with padauk for the final pen.



The process went pretty well and the next one should be even better, but I may look for a different illusion!