



Turning Flower Girl Blanks

Tube and Blank Prep

1. Cut blank 1/8" longer than the brass tube.
2. Drill the blank with the appropriate sized bit for you pen kit.
3. Clean the inside of the drilled hole with some Denatured Alcohol and a cotton swab.
4. Saturate a cotton swab with Thin CA glue and lightly coat the inside of the drilled hole. This will increase clarity of the blank and give a better base layer for the paint to adhere to.
5. Once the CA has cured, coat the inside of the drilled hole with a brush on paint or spray paint. We recommend using white paint, however you can dress up the blank with different colors for more or less contrast between the flowers and the paint colors.
6. Color the tube with the same paint as the blank. Set your blank and tube aside and let the paint fully cure.

Gluing in the tube

1. Now that the tube and blank are painted and prepped it's time for gluing in the tube.
2. You can use CA or a 2-part epoxy to glue in the tube. We recommend using some mica powders and tinting your epoxy to match the color that you painted the blank with. For example if you painted the blank white, use a white mica powder mixed with the epoxy for best results.
3. Mix the epoxy and tint together and apply a thin layer of epoxy to the brass tube. Insert the brass tube into the blank rotating it as you go to ensure an even coating of epoxy.
4. Set the blank aside to fully cure.
5. Your blank is now ready to barrel trim.

Turning the Blank

1. These blanks are fairly delicate and require a light touch. Use a negative rake scraper for turning and take your time. If you get too aggressive with the tool, these blanks will likely chip out.
2. As you are turning the blank down, I've found it useful to coat the exterior of the blank with a light coat of Thin CA glue every so often to help stabilize the blank during the turning process. The Thin CA will wick down into the fibers of the flowers and help keep everything secure.
3. Once you have the blank mostly turned, I recommend using sandpaper for the last 1/8" of material removal so you don't risk chipping the blank out.
4. Now that the blank is turned to the bushings, sand through 400 grit paper. Give the blank a quick wipe down with some Denatured Alcohol to remove any sanding dust.
5. Seal the blank with a light coat of Thin CA glue. You can do this with the lathe running at 100-200 rpm. Simply put a few drops of CA on a paper towel and wipe it across the surface. This will ensure the blank is now fully sealed and ready to polish.

Polishing the Blank

1. With the blank being sealed and ready to polish you can build up a CA finish or go straight to polishing. I recommend doing a 5 or so coats of Thin CA before polishing.
2. If your CA is fairly even and level, start sanding with 600 grit and working you way up through the micro mesh grits, or you can use Micro Magic, or Magic Juice.
3. Once polished your blank is ready to assemble.