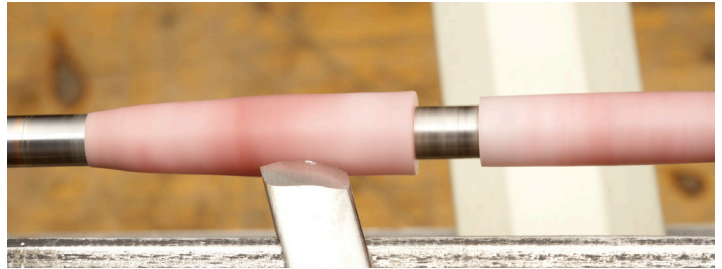


Tips for Turning Plastics

Turning Plastics

Plastic blanks can be very brittle and may fracture if aggressive cuts are made using traditional tool techniques. We recommend using a 3/8" Spindle Gouge laid on its side in a non-aggressive scraping position with the handle leading the cutting edge of the tool using a light touch. When turning barrels where the wall thickness is minimal, lay a 1/2" Skew Chisel flat on its side in the scraping position for making finishing cuts. This method of cutting is less aggressive and is less likely to cause a catch.



Sanding

Once turned, start sanding with the Abranet® sanding screens. While proceeding through every grit, sand lightly in order to prevent heat build up. Next, wet sand using the Micro Mesh abrasive pads. The water will act as a coolant while washing away sanding particles. Keep a small container for water on hand for dipping the sanding pads in. Be sure to cover your bed ways with a cloth or plastic to keep water off the bare metal.



Polishing

Using a Plastic Polish, apply a nickel-sized spot to a clean, dry cotton cloth. With the lathe running, apply the plastic polish to the blank moving the soft cotton cloth back and forth continuously for 20 to 50 seconds. Buff lightly with a clean, soft cloth.

