

5 THINGS...

That will make for a better turning project

Follow these little gems to become
a better pen turner



william wood-write
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1ST THING

Avoid heat and be productive

When drilling your first blank, make sure you allow the drill to move in and out several times to avoid heat build-up on the drill. Allow the drill time to cool off by scuffing your tubes and using baseplate wax to plug the ends before repeating these steps with the second barrel.



2ND THING

Move that micro mesh

While using abrasives like micro mesh sheets try folding the sheet lengthwise and creating very slight tension on the turning barrel by pulling on either end back and forth down the length of the barrel. This avoids dull patches that may arise because of inconsistent finger pressure. This technique works especially well on dark woods to get a high shine.



3RD THING

Non-stick bushings are your best friend

If you're turning a light coloured wood like Holly or Sycamore trade out steel bushings for non-stick bushings right after sanding. Using micro mesh and steel bushings can cause dirt and grime transfer that shows on fair woods. Non-stick bushings will keep your blank brighter- just be aware of of how much material you're taking off, since you no longer have a bushing guide.



4TH THING

Don't get into a sticky situation

CA glue can seize your tube midway into your blank in the blink of an eye. If you know you need the extra few seconds, glue 1 tube at a time using two thin lines of glue rather than one larger puddle. Make sure you twist your tube on the way in for the most coverage possible.



5TH THING

No more pen mill problems

Pen mills can be tricky. Avoid crushing or sheering your tube by clearing it of glue and wax with a transfer punch before milling. Line up your pen mill and test the alignment to your tube before turning on your drill press. Hold firmly on your center vise, then start your drill press with the pen mill inside your tube.

