Sierra Letter Opener

Needed:

Mandrel A; bushing 20A; drill 27/64

Preparing the blank

1. Cut the blank ¼" longer than the brass tubes so you can square it off once the tube has been glued in.

2. Drill the blank lengthwise through the center with a 27/64 drill bit.

3. Scuff up the tube with sandpaper to clean off the oxidation and give the glue a better adhesion surface.

4. Plug the tube ends with a material of your choice – we recommend baseplate wax – to keep the glue from getting into the tube. Just push the ends of the tubes into a thin section of the material to form a plug.

5. Roll the tube in the glue and insert it into the blank with a twisting motion until it is equidistant between both ends of the blank.

6. Set aside until the glue has had time to reach its maximum strength.

7. When the glue has cured, use a hobby knife to remove the plugs from the ends.

8. Using a disk sander and jig, square off the ends of the blank until you can see bright brass tube. STOP at this point.

Turning the blank

20A bushings
(both 51.6 mm)

61.5 mm

1. Assemble the blank on the mandrel using the 20A bushings and following the diagram above.

2. Turn the blank to the desired shape using the bushings as a sizing guide.

3. Measure 3/16" from the end that you intend to become the cap end of the letter opener.

4. Using a sharp parting tool, cut a tenon 3/16" long all the way to the brass tube. This must press into the cap, so you don't want to remove any of the brass tube.

5. After turning, sand the surface in progressive steps until you get to 400 or 600 grit. For a high gloss finish, continue sanding using Micro Mesh

through 12,000 grit.

6. Apply the finish of your choice and polish. Remove the blank from the mandrel.

Assembling the kit

1. Press the 3-piece finial together.

1. Press the finial onto the end where you cut the tenon.

2. Now place the decorative ring on the threaded insert.

3. Press this assembly into the other end of the blank.

4. Carefully but securely screw the letter opener blade into the treaded insert.

3-piece finial   Decorative ring   Threaded insert

Brass tube

Wavy blade