

Tools and accessories to make your first pens

There are items that you need to have and then there are those that are nice to have but not essential.

You will need:

- **Lathe** (mini lathe will do the job). We've listed a few common brands here: <https://www.penblanks.ca/Beginner-starter-kit/>
- **Band saw or mitre saw** to cut the blanks to the correct length
- **Drill press** for drilling the holes lengthwise into the blanks. This is also used to trim the ends of the blanks with a pen mill.
- **Chisel(s)**. We recommend carbide. HSS (high speed steel) chisels are less expensive, but they need to be sharpened often and many people find that difficult to do correctly. Carbide chisels come with cutters that can be easily rotated on the end of the chisel to get a new sharp spot. This is the chisel we include in our starter kit: <https://www.penblanks.ca/pen-master-accu-cut-chisel-round-finisher/>.
- **Beginner starter kit** which includes five Budget Fancy Slimline pen kits, five wood blanks, set of bushings, adjustable pen mandrel A in Morse Taper 1 or 2 (depending on what you need for your lathe), 7 mm drill bit, thick CA (cyanoacrylate) to glue the tubes into the blank, 3/4" premium pen mill cutter head, premium 7 mm pilot shaft to square the ends of the blank, Shellawax finish, and one sheet of baseplate wax. The baseplate wax is used to plug the ends of your tubes while you're gluing them into the blanks – even a tiny bit of glue inside the tube is a major reason why pen kits don't work properly.
 - **How to select your mandrel:** Most lathes are MT2 (Morse Taper 2) but check the head stock taper on the lathe you own or buy – the Morse Taper size determines what kind of mandrel you will need to select with your starter kit. If the hole in the spindle of your lathe is approx. 3/4" across it is MT2; if the hole in the spindle is approx. 1/2" across it is an MT1. This info sheet will help you determine what you need: <http://www.penblanks.ca/instructions/english/MandrelMT1vsMT2infoSheet.pdf>

Nice to have:

- **Drilling center vise** to hold the pen blanks straight while you drill and trim the ends: <https://www.penblanks.ca/Drilling-center-vise-new/>
- **Pen assembly/disassembly press** for pressing the pen hardware into the blanks. If you need to take your pen apart, this will also aid in that process: <http://www.penblanks.ca/pen-assembly-disassembly-press/>
- **Abranet or Micro Mesh** for sanding. Abranet comes in grits 120 to 600 and helps with dust-free sanding. Micro Mesh comes in grits 1,500 to 12,000 and will help you get a very smooth finish.

Most people start out in their pen turning hobby making Budget Fancy pens. They are a good low-cost kit to hone your skills on. The Budget Fancy Slimline pen instructions give you a general idea of the

steps involved in making a pen. Our Beginner Starter Kit comes with these kits and the instructions:
<https://www.penblanks.ca/instructions/english/BudgetSlimline.pdf>