

CA Glue (cyanoacrylate) Finish on Wood Pen Barrels

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There are many variations of applying CA glue pen finishes.

CA glue and Boiled Linseed Oil

Thick CA glue

Medium CA glue

Thin CA Glue

And others to be found on the web. Search for Pen CA glue finish

I have settled on using Thin CA glue using the following process:

1. Prior to mounting the pen blank on pen mandrel coat each end with paste wax. This will keep the CA glue from sticking to the bushings.
2. Turn blank to desired shape.
3. Sand pen blank to 600 Grit. Wipe blank down with paper towel between each grit.
4. To apply CA glue use a piece of paper towel folded into a pad about 3/4" wide by 2" long.
5. Run the lathe on slow speed 600/1100 RPM.
6. Pour a few drops of thin CA glue on top of the spinning blank or on the pad while moving the pad back and forth along the bottom of the blank.
7. Repeat this process 2 to 3 times.
8. With the lathe running spray activator over the entire blank. Apply a very light coat of activator as a heavy coat will cause the CA glue to flash and bubble. If this happens go back to step 1. and sand to 600 grit and start over.
9. Repeat steps 5 and 6 about 3 times
10. Turn up the lathe speed to fast 2000/2600 RPM.
11. Wet (with water) sand CA glue finish using Micro- Mesh pads 1500 thru 12000.
12. Sand the blank smooth with the 1500 Micro-Mesh pad before advancing thru all the grits.
13. Check and be sure the finish is glass smooth. If not repeat all wet sanding steps. If you sand thru the finish-- go back to step 2.
14. Final sanding with plastic polish.(Hut Ultra-Gloss Plastic Polish) Apply several coats polishing with paper towel.
15. Apply several light coats of Renaissance wax polish. Polishing with paper towel.
16. Final result should be a high gloss Acrylic finish.
17. Remove finished pen blank from pen mandrel.

18. Tap end of bushing on lathe bed to break loose from pen blank.
19. Check for CA glue finish that may be protruding past end of blank.
20. Carefully remove excessive glue by sanding off. Place a piece of 220 grit sand paper on lathe bed and lightly move blank back and forth to remove excess. Do not attempt to cut off with knife or break off as it may fracture the finish on the blank.

End result is a beautiful high gloss durable Acrylic finish.

Good Luck and Happy and Safe Turning!!!!!!!!!!!!!! (1-24-2013)