

MATCHING GRAIN ON TWO-BARREL PENS

Tips and Techniques

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This demo will use rollerballs as
an example, but any two-part pen
can use this technique.

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Places to Lose Grain Match

- Cutting The Blank In Two
- Barrel Trimming
- Assembly

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Cutting The Blank

Mark the blank at the cut

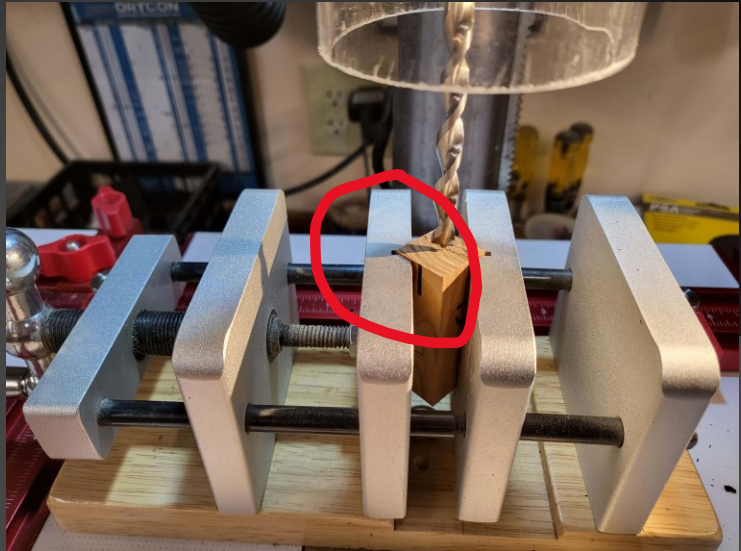


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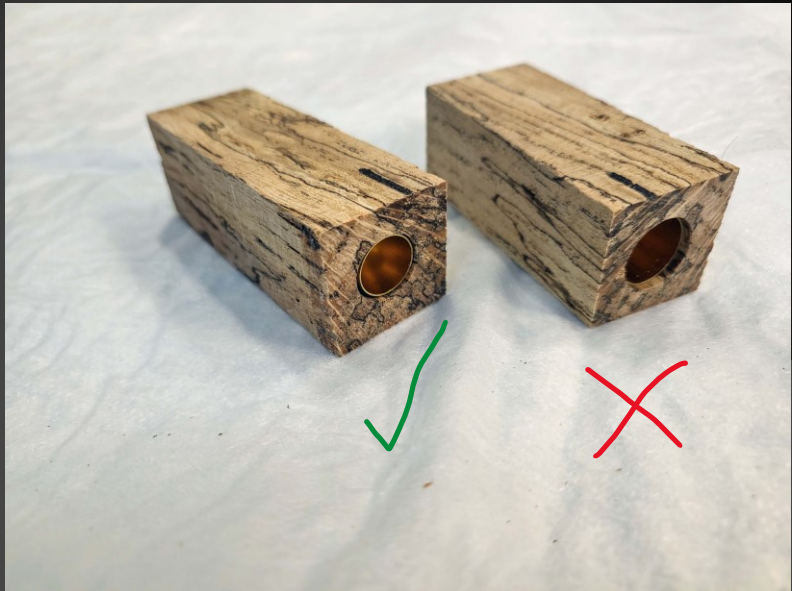
Drilling The Blank

Entry point is
at joint to
avoid losing
wood from an
exit chip out.



Gluing The Tube

Have minimum depth at the joint end to lose less during trimming



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Barrel Trimming

Trim joint end first. This allows error correcting on the other end.

Any trimming method is fine.



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Transfer The Witness Marks

Sharpie on the inside of the tubes, aligned with surface witness mark.



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Lathe The Blanks

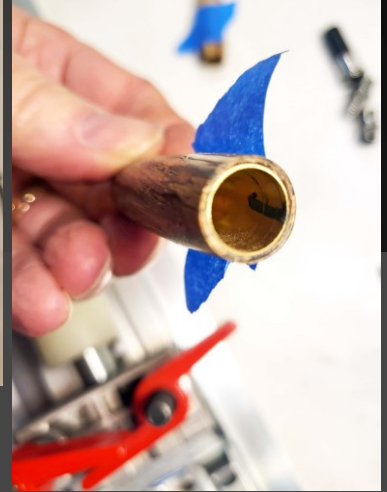
It is not necessary to orient the blanks, but I usually lathe with joints facing



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Transfer The Witness Marks Again

Blue painter's tape
is your friend.
Match witness
mark inside tube
to outside.



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Assembly

Assemble the body
half first. Cap half
will be aligned
next.



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Adjustment

Loosely assemble cap insert so it will still turn.

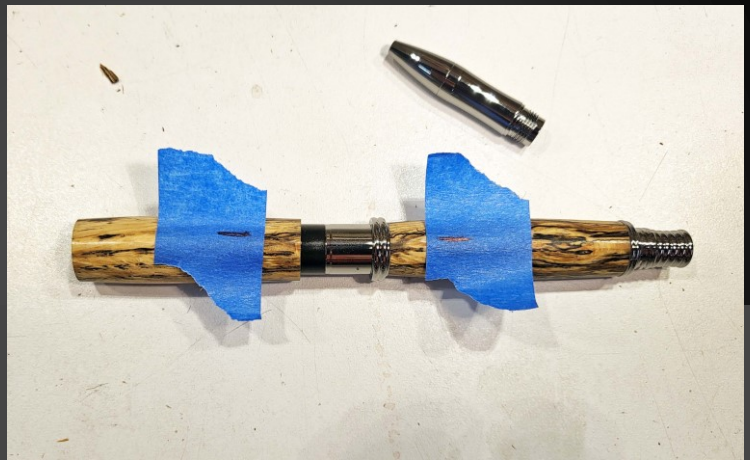
Turn the nib end into the cap.



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Adjustment

Rotate cap insert with cap end to align witness marks. Unscrew nib end carefully, then press cap end.



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Success!

When closed,
grain is
aligned.
(Triple starts
will have only
1 position
aligned.)



*Center Trim Will Mask The Slight Loss
Of Grain Continuity.*

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Finger Stainers

If doing fountain pens, use the
same loose fit technique to match
the nib to the grain as you desire,
then press the components in
place. Finish with matching the
cap as demonstrated.

*Jr. Abraham, Chrome & Gold
Desert Ironwood*



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Cigars and Other Ballpoints

For these, just make sure the cut ends face each other. When the top piece is pressed over the mechanism it can be rotated as desired since it is not permanently aligned.

Witness marks will help, of course.

Cigar
Antique Brass
Bethlehem Olivewood



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