



Here is a quick tutorial on how I created the Black Titanium Baron pen above.

Upon looking at it you may think to yourself that this had to be extremely difficult to make. After you read this you will be able to make one yourself and you will be surprised at how easy it can be to make if you follow these steps.

First off here is a list of the limited supply of tools that I have to work with, compound miter saw, drill press, belt sander, grinder, and lathe. That's it. No jig saw, table saw, laser, or any of those fun toys.

In this example I will be using Blood wood and curly maple only because these are the wood types that I chose.

For the bottom of the pen take your piece of blood wood and cut the end off at a 45° angle about 1" down from the top and put it to the side. Then cut yourself 8 1/16" thick pieces off at the same 45° angle. I have a piece of chair rail that I clamp on the end of my miter saw that I push the wood up against so that my pieces are all exactly the same size.

Then repeat the process with your piece of curly maple for the top of the pen.

Now you should have 8 1/16" thick pieces of both blood wood and curly maple as well as blood wood and curly maple blanks cut at a 45° on one end.

Take 2 of the blood wood slivers and 1 of the curly maple slivers and make a sandwich consisting of blood wood / curly maple / blood wood and put this to the side. Now do the same with 2 curly maple and 1 blood wood. Repeat this process so that you have two of each.

Glue a piece of curly maple to the 45° cut end of the blood wood blank. Then a piece of blood wood and then curly maple. At this point I make sure that they are tight and straight on the blank and I spray with accelerant. My glue of choice is a flexible CA type.

Take the piece of blood wood that you originally cut off the top of the blank and glue it on top of the sandwich. You should now have a fairly straight blank again with 3 pieces of wood in it at a 45° angle.

Repeat the process with your curly maple blank only use the 2 blood wood and curly maple sandwich that you put to the side earlier.

Now you need to find the exact center of the blanks. Use a tape measure, T square, whatever you prefer and draw a line up the blank so that you have the center of the 45° sandwich marked.

It now gets a little tricky so bare with me. Lets work with the blood wood blank again. Take your t-square and set at a 45° angle so that it crosses the center point of the existing sandwich going in an opposite direction. Draw a line. Basically you now have a letter X staring at you. You do not want to cut at this line. If you do your final X will not be even. Take another curly maple / blood wood / curly maple sandwich and lay it standing up on the blank so that the center of the blood wood piece is directly on the pencil mark. Now draw a line along the bottom of the curly maple that should be below the blood wood that you are trying to hold up. This is where you will be cutting the blank again. Go ahead and put the blank on your miter saw and without turning it on lower the blade onto the blank and do a visual check on your X. Are the two side equal? Does it look centered? If so cut it.

Now repeat the above process with your curly maple blank.

You should still have a blood wood / curly maple / blood wood sandwich as well as a curly maple / blood wood / curly maple on your workbench. Glue these onto the appropriate blanks like you did earlier and glue the cut off ends back on. Make sure that your original X pieces line up so that when the pen is complete it will look right.

OK.....If all was done per the totally confusing instructions above you are now looking at a blood wood blank with an X in it and a curly maple blank with an X in it. You have probably noticed that it just doesn't look right.

Take your blood wood blank and cut it again straight across (90°) the top of the middle piece of your X. Now glue one of the two remaining pieces of curly maple to it and then glue either the piece of blood wood that you just cut off or a new piece to the top. Repeat the process for the other side of this blank. I chose to get my Baron tubes and cut new pieces of blood wood that were the exact length that I needed to put my X in the middle of the finished blank.

Time for a break. Sit back for a while and admire how ugly the blank is and try to imagine that it may be turned into a wonderful pen that your spouse is sure to try to claim. While your thinking go ahead and pick a little of that CA off of your fingers.

Ok, break's over. Repeat this procedure with the curly maple blank. You now have two blanks ready to be turned! Almost. Time to drill. One of my X's was off center and I knew that if I turned the blank it would not look like an X when I was done so once again I took my T Square and marked a line up the center of the X and then continued the line along the top of the blank. I knew that my drill bit would need to be at least centered on this line.

Drill away making sure that the bit doesn't get too hot. Now apply your tubes as you normally would.

At this point I have gotten into the habit of applying a small layer of CA glue to the ends of the blanks to help them during the turning process. I also round all corners of the blanks on a belt sander to make sure that the pieces don't have any rough edges that may try to blow on me.

That's it. It's now up to you. I hope that you have found this helpful and it helps you to make a pen of this style.

Have a great time,
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