

Alternative Materials

By

Don Ward

A.K.A “[its_virgil](#)”

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The International Association of Penturners



CAUTION



PENTURNING ZONE



Red River Pens . . .

handmade ~ one at a time

Welcome to a world of finely handcrafted writing instruments made from exotic woods, acrylics, plastics, antler, and rattlesnake skin. Enjoy the ease of shopping on our secure site. Know that your purchase is one-of-a-kind, made personally for you.

Don Ward Wichita Falls, Tx

ALTERNATIVE MATERIALS

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What are alternative materials for pen making?

- **Most pen turners make pens from hardwoods, both domestic and exotic.**
- **Other materials have been introduced to pen turners and are now being used.**
- **Some, other than wood, are naturally occurring.**
- **Others are man made.**
- **Still others are homemade.**

Who in this demo room have made pens from materials other than wood?

List of materials from which I've seen pens made:

Antler

Metals

Acrylics and plastics

Alumilite and polyester resin

Acrylic Polyester HOMEMADE

Solid surface material

Antler:

deer

elk

moose

caribou

reindeer

and the list goes on.

I suppose any kind of antler can be used.

Some antler is better suited to pen turning than others. *Some of the ones I like are:*

axis

red stag

sambar stag

white tail

mule deer



--Pens by Chuck Ellis.

***Pen by Darrell
Eisner.***



Pen by Lenny Howard

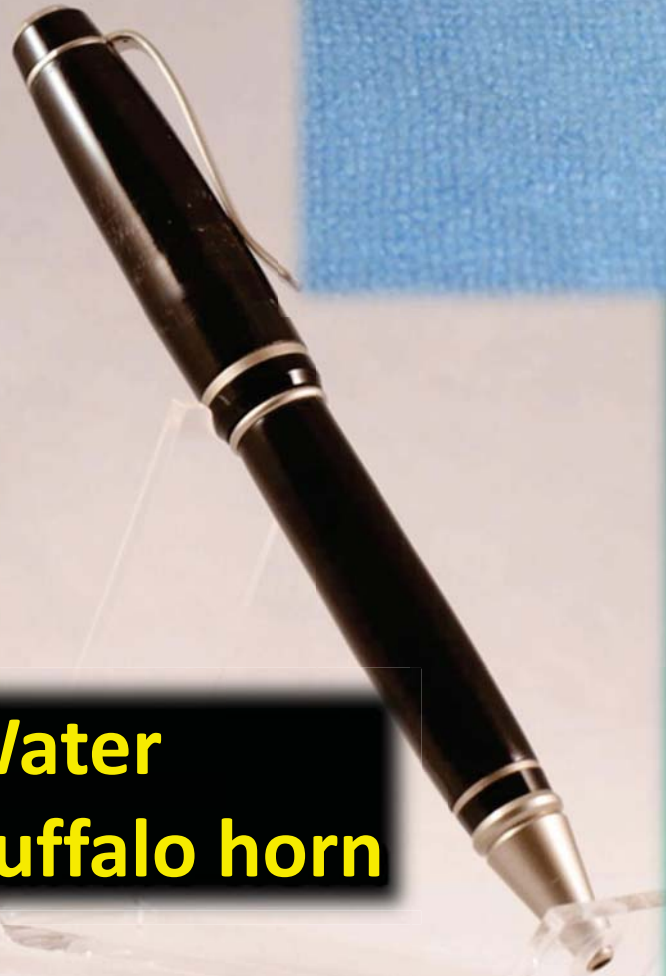


Reindeer antler

--Pen by Craig Chatterton

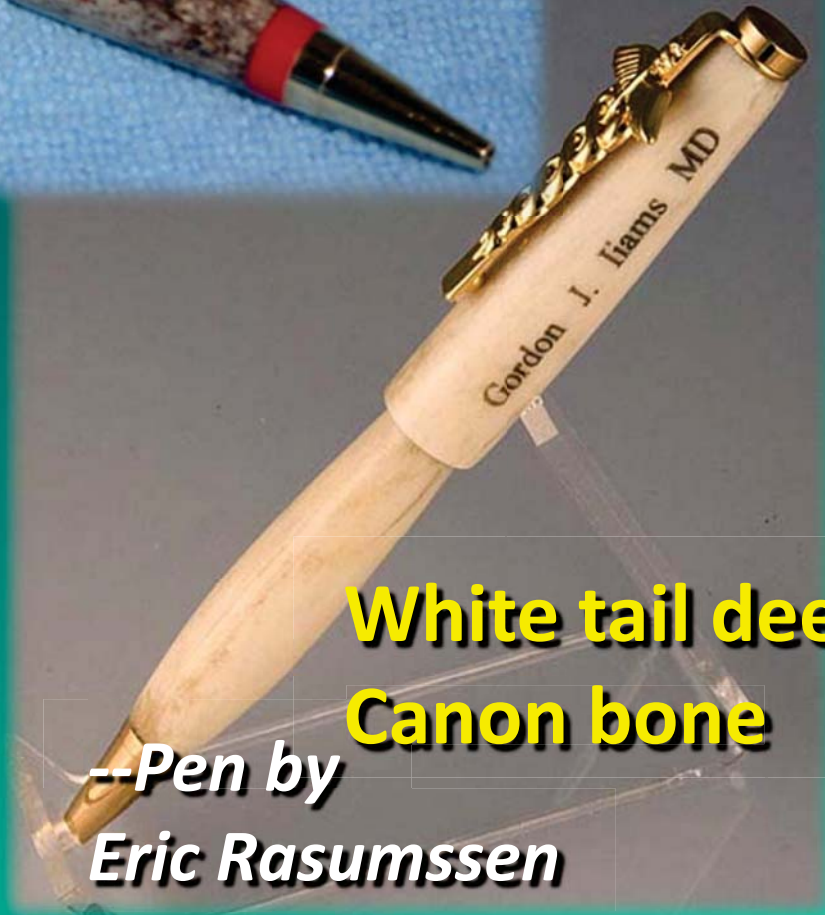


**Water
buffalo horn**



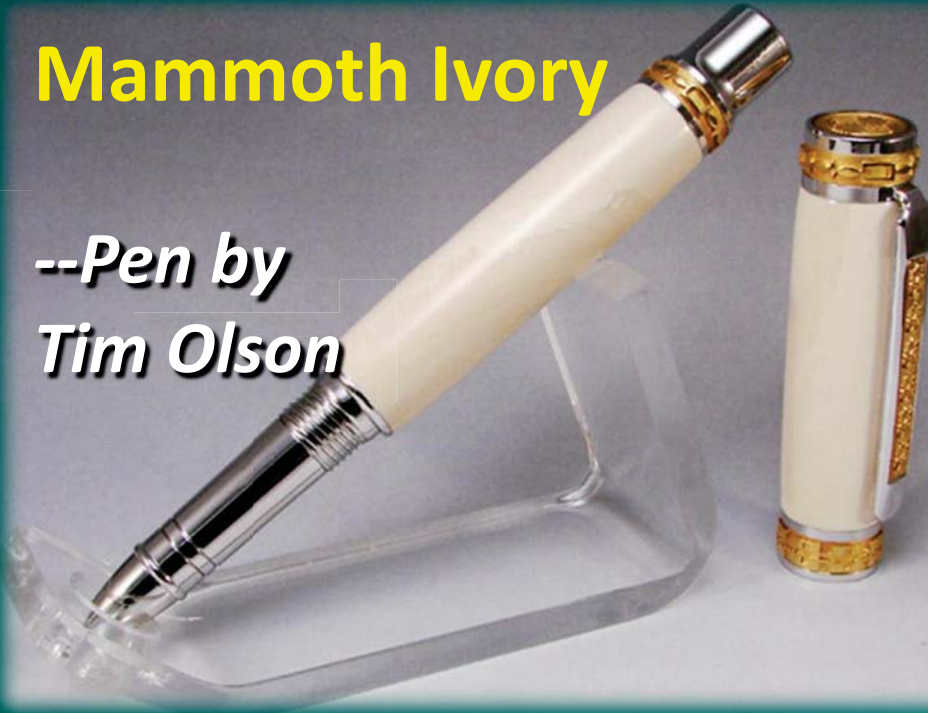
**White tail deer
Canon bone**

***--Pen by
Eric Rasumssen***



Mammoth Ivory

*--Pen by
Tim Olson*



Mammoth Ivory & acrylic

*-Pen by
Mickey
Turnbow*



EMPEROR GATOR JAW BONE FILLED WITH
GOLD DUST AND BLACK POWDER COAT POWDER



Alligator jaw bone *--Pen by Roy Robaldo.*

GIRAFFE BONE



GIRAFFE BONE WITH MARROW
JR. STATESMAN

Giraffe bone

--Pens by Roy Robaldo.



Gator jaw bone

Tooth sockets filled with gold

--Pen by Roy Robaldo.

Metals:

Aluminum

Brass

Stainless Steel

Titanium

Damascus steel

Mokume Gane

Copper

Solder

Aluminum Kitless pens by Luther Bryant.





Aluminum pen
-Charles Hutchins



Aluminum pen
-Charles Hutchins



Aluminum pen *-Luther Bryant.*

Made from stainless steel hydraulic pump parts

---by Mike Maxwell






Pen made from rebar.

*--Pen made by
Landon Smith.*



Actual 50 cal machine gun shell

--Pen made by Marc Phillips



**Copper wire wrapped around
and soldered to the brass tube
then turned and finished**

*-- by Ken
Osborne*



**Damascus
steel pen**

-- Sean Crouch



Solder free flowed onto the pen tube

-- by Ken Osborne

**Titanium, laser,
anodizing**



**Anodized
titanium pen**



-- Bruce Boone

Aluminum pen
-- Michael Roux



Acrylics and plastics

Most of us classify all plastic blanks of any kind as acrylic. Some are not acrylic at all.

PolyResin is actually **polyester resin** and is a polyester.

Alumilite is a polyurathane resin.

Many of the “**acrylics and plastics**” we purchase from suppliers are **acrylic acetate**.

Acrylics and plastics

Mica Pearl

Polygem

Inlace acrylester

Truestone

Acrylic Acetate

Acryligem

Ceboplast

Bakelite

Lucite

Imported Italian resins

Nairoc

Polyresin

Alumilite

and others.

Truestone:
composite gemstone:
charoite

Black polyester
resin blank cast



Homemade polyester Resin Blank (S41)

--Blank cast, Pen made by Ken Ferrell

Scarlet mesh---Woodcraft



Holstein Moo --- Woodcraft



French blue candystripe---Exotic Blanks



--Pens by Chuck Ellis

Pen by Chuck Ellis
Watermelon--Woodcraft



Assorted Acrylics --various suppliers

--Pens made by Lenny Howard



Stained glass

Snow white/Black knight

Pens made by Tim Self
Blanks -- Exotic Blanks



Alternate Briar



Alumilite and polyester resin:

These two resins are used to make homemade pen blanks. Blanks can be made with one color, several colors swirled together with pearl or luster powder.

Clear cast blanks with materials embedded are also quite popular. Almost any material can be embedded in clear resin or into colored resin.

Alumilite and polyester resin:

popular materials include:

snake skin

computer labels

coffee beans

dried flowers

cereals

grape nut flakes

fruit loops

pasta

cactus skeleton

wood pieces

metal shavings

colored rice

feathers

mother of pearl

coconut shells

computer circuit boards

denim

***and this list goes
on and on.***

**Acrylic type:
polyester resin**

--**homemade blanks** by Dawn Kizer
available from Exotic Blanks
www.exoticblanks.com



Acrylic type: polyester resin
Colorant: Mica Powders

Made by Jonathon Brooks

www.Pourmepenworks.com

(Hopefully up and running June 2010)

IAP user name: Brooks803

Email:

Jonathon@pourmepenworks.com



Acrylic type: Polyester resin with feathers embedded

The Fantastic Feather© blanks --made by John Underhill

Sold exclusively by Exotic Blanks:

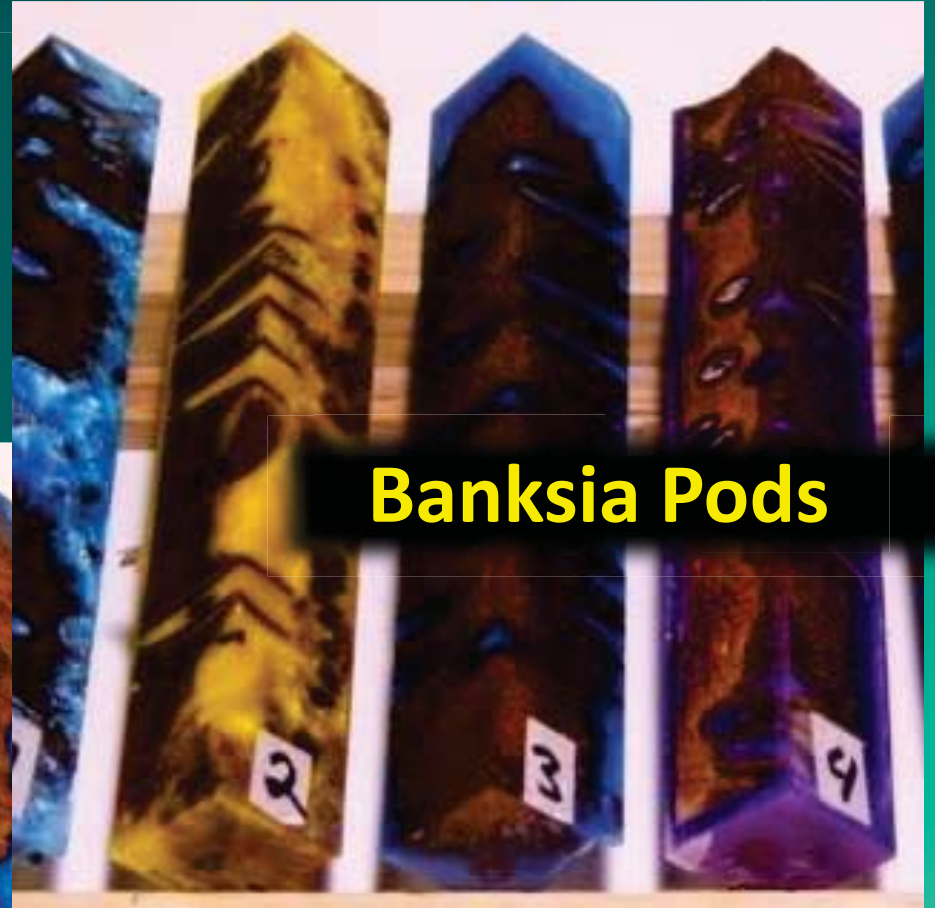
www.exoticblanks.com

-- blanks *by Eugene Soto* cast in **alumilite**

Acorns



Banksia Pods



Burl Caps





--Don Ward

Snake Skins





--Don Ward

Computer labels



--Bruce Robbins



Real or Memorex?

Two are real skins and one is a computer label.

The resin used is alumilite. Cast materials include coffee beans, pasta, burl caps, banksia Pods, acorns, and other materials.

Amalgum Mutt blanks
made by Eugene Soto

**Colored resin
chips & slices
cast in colored resin**

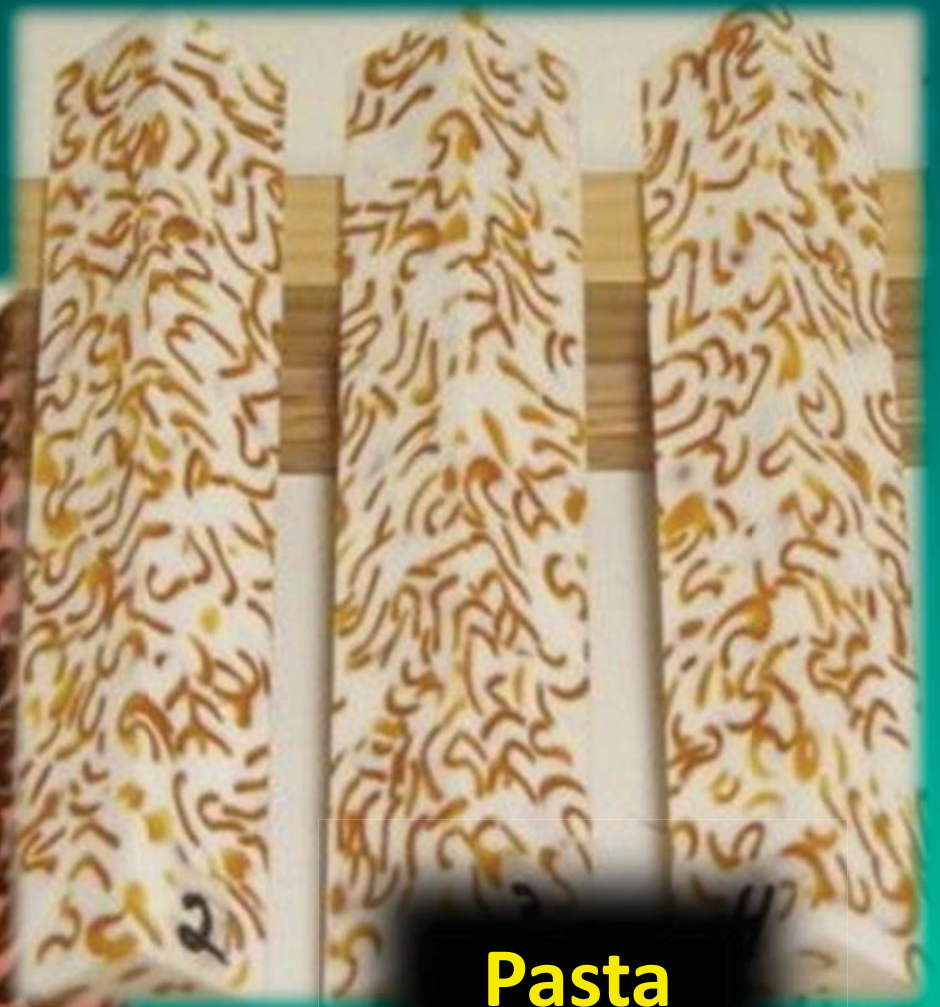
sold in the
classifieds on IAP:
www.Penturners.org



Coffee beans



Pasta



--Blanks by Eugene Soto



Acrylic type: Alumilite
Cactus skeleton & wood pieces

Blanks and pens made by Curtis Seebeck
Available from Exotic Blanks: www.turntex.com





www.bgartforms.com

Acrylic Type: Polyester Resin

Eco Friendly© blanks (©2008 BG Artforms)

Beer caps, cigar labels, watch parts

Blanks and Pens by Barry Gross



Bowling balls cut up and cast in resin.
Blanks and pens by Bruce Egholf.

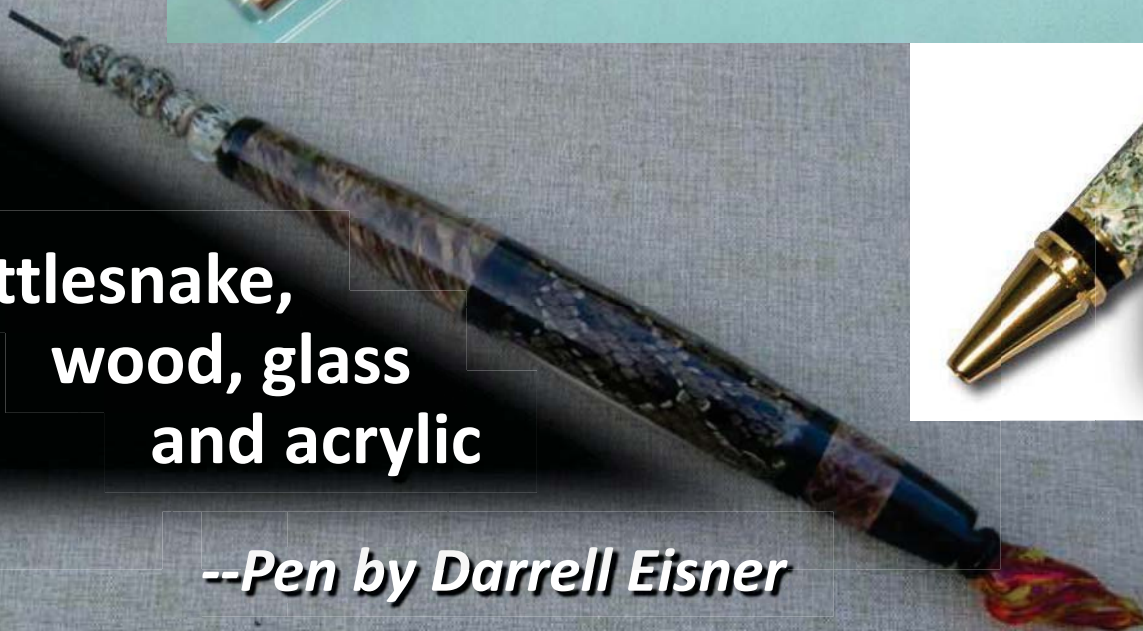
**Sound blaster
circuit board**

*--Blank & pen
by Bruce Egholf*



**Rattlesnake,
wood, glass
and acrylic**

--Pen by Darrell Eisner



Money burl

*--Blank & pen by
Eric Rasmussen*



Shredded Money

*--Blank & pen
by Bruce Egholf*

Stabilized corncob

--Pens by Darrell Eisner


Split Peas cast in resin

--Pen by Chuck Ellis





White resin and laser engraving
--Pen by Darrell Eisner



Mother of pearl
cast in clear resin

Blank by Berea Hardwoods
--Pen by Darrell Eisner

Solid surface material:

Solid surface material is counter top material which is made from an acrylic.

® **Corian**

® **Top Stone**

® **Staron**

® **Wilson Art
solid surface**

® **Avonite**

® **Formica solid surface**

® **Mysteria**

® **Visioneer
and others**

Corian pen --by Lenny Howard



Solid surface pens

--Pens made by Alice Call



Polymer Clay



--Blanks and pens made by Cathy Sue Hawkins

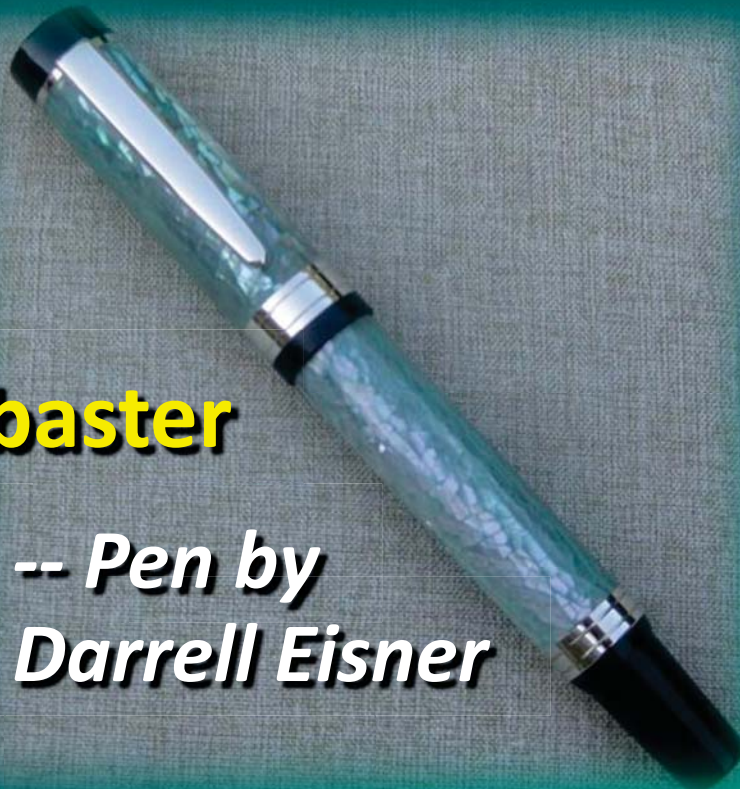


Pens by
Polymer Clay Artist
-- *Toni Ransfield*

Miscellaneous Materials



Abalone -- *Pen by Bruce Robbins*



Alabaster

-- *Pen by
Darrell Eisner*



Coconut Shell

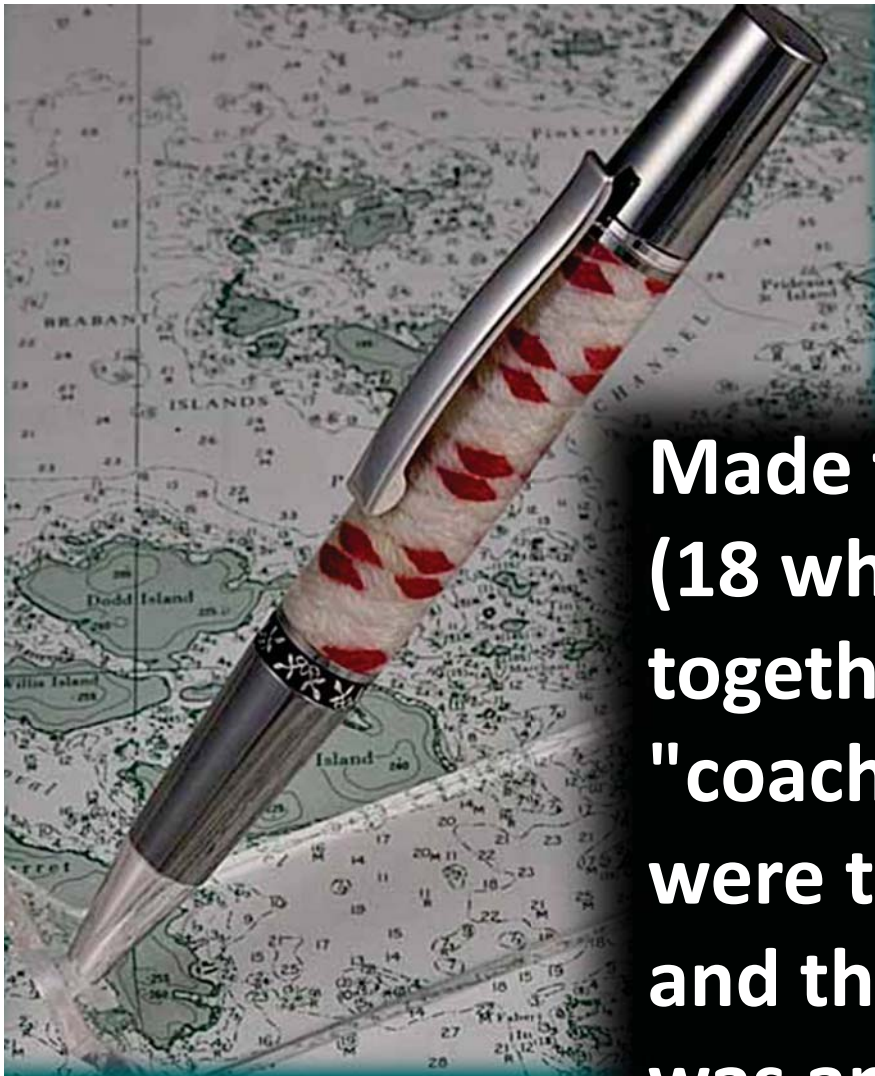
-- *Pen by
Darrell Eisner*

Bakelite

-- Pens by
Roy Robaldo



Same bakelite rod but the tubes were back
painted with different colors
i.e. paint inside the hole



Made from 24 strands of thread (18 white and 6 red) woven together in a style called "coachwhipping". The threads were tied around the kit tube and then a deep CA glue finish was applied on top of the threads.

-- Blank and pen made by Eric Rasmussen

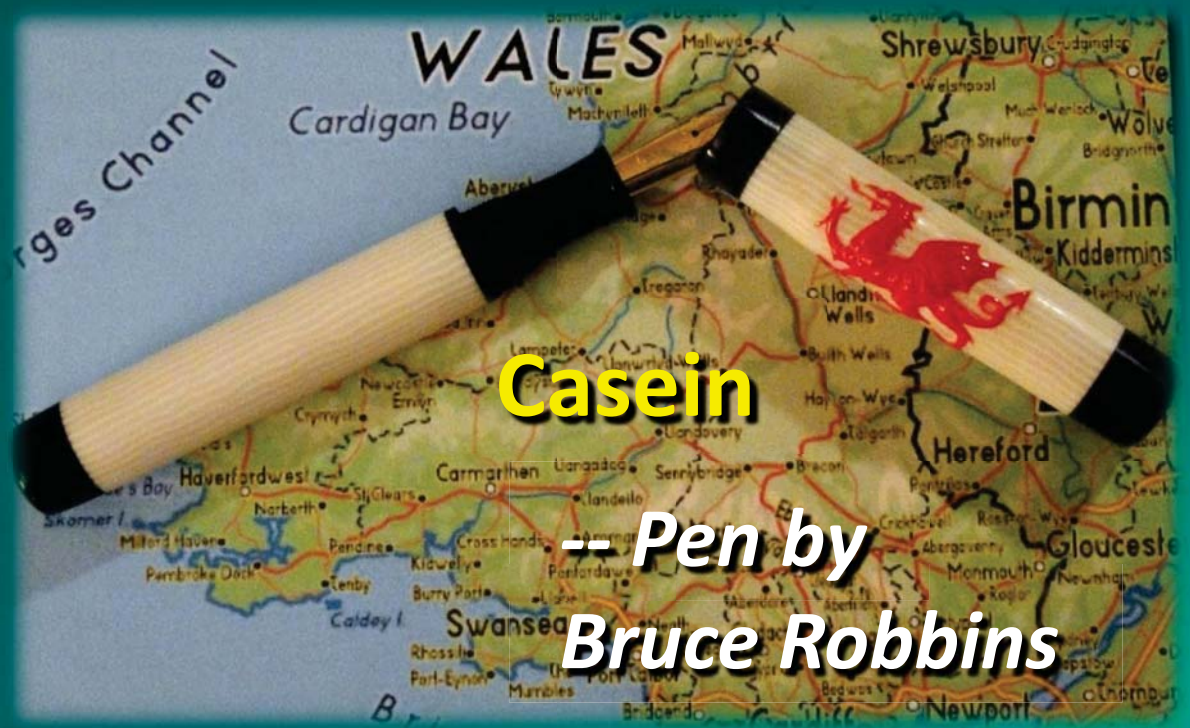
Casein

**-- Pen by
Roy Robaldo**



Casein

**-- Pen by
Bruce Robbins**



Pen by Bruce Egolf

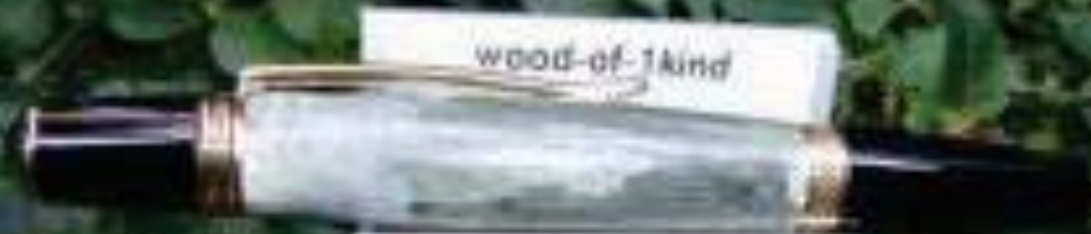
Pinecone





Feathers in Resin

-- Pens by Darrell Eisner



Soapstone

-- Pen by Peter Cribari



*-- Blank and pen
by Mike Maxwell*

PVC and Pick guard

**Cat tail
from the lake**

***-- Pen by
Bruce Egolf***



***-- Pen by
Craig Chatterton***





**Carbon Fiber cast
in polyester resin**

***-- Pen by Darrell Eisner
Blank made by ???***



Parallam

-- Pens by Jim Mahan



Corncob

**-- Pen by
Jon Greene**

