Red River Pens . . .

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.
White tail deer
--Pen by Eric Rasumsssen

Reindeer antler
--Pen by Craig Chatterton

Water buffalo horn

Canon bone
--Pen by Canon bone
Mammoth Ivory
--Pen by Tim Olson

Mammoth Ivory & acrylic
--Pen by Mickey Turnbow

Alligator jaw bone
--Pen by Roy Robaldo.
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
Actual 50 cal machine gun shell
--Pen made by Marc Phillips

Pen made from rebar
--Pen made by Landon Smith.
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

-- Michael Roux

Aluminum pen

-- Bruce Boone

-- 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
- Truestone
- Acrylester
- Acrylic Acetate
- Acrylgeom
- 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
Pens made by Tim Self
Blanks -- Exotic Blanks
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 \textit{alumilite}
Snake Skins

--Don Ward
Computer labels

--Don Ward

--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.

Colored resin chips & slices cast in colored resin

Amalgum Mutt blanks made by Eugene Soto

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
Acrylic  Type: Polyester Resin
Eco Friendly© blanks (©2008 BG Artforms)
Beer caps, cigar labels, watch parts
Blanks and Pens by Barry Gross

www.bgartforms.com
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

Abolone -- 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
Feathers in Resin -- Pens by Darrell Eisner

Soapstone -- Pen by Peter Cribari
PVC and Pick guard

-- 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