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

Casting Pen Blanks
Two popular brands of polyester resin used to cast penblanks. On the left is Silmar 41 and on the right is Castin’ Craft polyester resin.
Acrylic type: polyester resin
These blanks and several other homemade and imported resins are available from Exotic Blanks at http://www.exoticblanks.com
Acrylic  Type: Polyester Resin  
Eco Friendly© blanks (©2008 BG Artforms) 
Beer caps, cigar labels, watch parts 
Blanks and Pens by Barry Gross 
Used with permission 

http://www.bgartforms.com
More pens by Barry Gross

Eco Friendly© blanks (©2008 BG Artforms)
Beer caps, cigar labels, watch parts
Blanks and Pens by Barry Gross
Used with permission
Acrylic type: Alumilite
Cactus skeleton and wood pieces

Blanks and pens made by Curtis Seebeck
Used with permission
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
Pictures used with permission
Contact info given with permission
Acrylic type: Polyester resin with feathers embedded
The Fantastic Feather© blanks are make by John Underhill and are sold exclusively by Exotic Blanks via their website at http://www.exoticblanks.com
Amalgum Mutt blanks made by Eugene Soto and sold in the classifieds on IAP at [http://www.Penturners.org](http://www.Penturners.org)
The resin used is alumilite. Cast materials include coffee beans, pasta, burl caps, banksia Pods, acorns, and other materials.
More blanks by Eugene Soto cast in alumilite.

- acorns
- Burl caps
- Banksia Pods
Mona Lisa blank
By Bruce Robbins

Snake and stamp
Blanks by Don Ward
Real or Memorex? Two of the three pens above are real Skins and one is a computer label.
How are the colored blanks made?
The best article I’ve read outlining how to cast polyester resin for making pen blanks was written by Richard Greenwald and can be found on his website at http://richardlgreenwald.com/docs/CASTING%20POLYESTER%20RE SIN.pdf
Richard also sells his homemade blank and pen parts for making custom pens. Check it out at http://richardlgreenwald.com
Another excellent article can be found here:

Google “casting polyester resin” and enough material will be found to keep you busy reading for hours.

Colored, dyed, and swirled blanks

Dyes come in liquid and powder.
Opaque and transparent.
Plain, Pearl, Luster, Fluorescent, Phosphorescent
What is needed and how are the clear cast blanks using snake skins, computer labels and other material made?
Not so thick!

I now use paint stirring sticks
I now use small throw away brushes and paint raw PR onto the skins as I put them into the mold.

I also stuff the tubes with play dough leaving enough room for corks or plugs.

**Air is the enemy!**
And heat!!
Resin saver molds available from NewLondon88 on IAP...one mold per pen kit (kit specific)

slot type molds available from gadget on IAP...these molds make blanks like we purchase...the come in 5/8, ¾ and 7/8 inch widths.
The individual labels are built using a photo editor such as Photoshop by Adobe. Others are available and even a free Photoshop work alike is available called Gimp and available from http://www.gimp.org/

I first figure out the size of the label for the kit I’m using. I build the label placing each element on a separate layer so they can be manipulated for the best placement.
For labels I use white and allow the paint to dry for a day or two.

For snake skins I use deep forest green ultra flat and allow it to dry for a day or two.
Avery #18163 2” x 4” or Avery 5165 full sheet Labels.

Other brands may work but I know some who complain of labels lifting off the tubes. I hear of fewer failures with Avery labels. I’ve had no label failures using Avery labels.
Stamp images were copied from the internet. Real stamps can be used or scanned.
Tips for turning acrylics

Sharp tools

Light cuts

Remove corners
With band saw or
Disk sander

Use your favorite tool.
Gouges may be a bit aggressive.

Roughout gouge to round the blank
Skew to take it down
Round nose scraper to completion
Tips for turning acrylics

Sand 320 to 400
Wet sand with micromesh
Wet sand with Acrylic and Polishing kit

There are 6 different abrasive grits: 600; 800; 1,500; 2,400; 4,000; and 12,000.

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Buff with your favorite dry or liquid buffing compound

Tripoli and White Diamond

HUT UltrlraGloss Plastic Polish

Novus Plastic polishing kit

Flitz