

# Random Segmented Pen Blanks

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## Random Segmented Pen Blanks

Blank Design and Process by Joseph Schneider (AKA IAP member wood128)

Tutorial and Process Photos by Kevin Kronewitter (AKA IAP member kronewi)

This tutorial will explain how to make Random Segmented Pen Blanks like these:



1. Choose the type of wood (4/4 thick) and veneer you want to use for your blanks. This can be all the same wood like the right 2 blanks in the photo or a random assortment of woods like the blank on the left. Whatever your choice, chose a veneer that contrasts the color of the wood you have selected. This will help in defining the individual segments within the blanks.
2. Rip the wood into random thin strips, 1/8" – 1/2" thick, by 6" in length (see Figure 1). Cut enough strips so that when set together, with the veneering in between each segment, the total width is approximately 6" (see Figure 2). Final size of assembly should be approximately 6"x6"x1".



Figure 1



Figure 2

3. Sand away any cut marks from the strips so that you have a smooth mating surface for glue-up.
4. Glue up assembly with 1 strip of veneer between each strip. Clamp and let dry (see Figures 3 & 4).



Figure 3



Figure 4

5. Once dry, sand faces of assembly flat (see Figure 5).



Figure 5

6. Draw a diagonal line connecting 2 opposite corners. Then draw lines parallel to the first that are half way between the first line and the other corners (see Figure 6).



Figure 6

7. Cut assembly along these lines resulting in 3 cuts and 4 individual pieces (see Figure 7).



Figure 7

8. Sand these new cuts smooth.
9. Flip the first and third piece resulting in perpendicular connections between the pieces.
10. Insert 1/4" thick strip of wood between each piece and place a piece of veneer on both sides of it.

11. Glue up assembly. Clamp and let dry.
12. Sand away any glue squeeze out and you should now have a completed block ready to be cut into individual pen blanks (see Figure 8).



Figure 8

13. If you do not already have one, create a pen blank template. This is a piece of thin hardboard or plywood that has a cut out in the center in the size of the blanks I desire. I use 1"x1"x5" as my standard.
14. Place the template on top of the block and turn it approximately 20-30 degrees or until you get a design that appealing to you (see Figure 9).



Figure 9

15. Trace the template onto the block. This should produce at least 5 pen blanks (see Figure 10).



Figure 10

16. Cut the blanks out of the block to produce your final pen blanks. You may sand the cut sides flat if you like or start turning right away! (see Figure 11)



Figure 11

17. There you have your finished blanks! Have fun trying this design out for yourself.

Here is a sample of a completed pen by IAP member turbowagon



Additional ideas:

1. Sanding and gluing the remaining scraps together with another 1/4" strip sandwiched in veneer, as in step 10, can gain you an additional blank for an even 6 blanks (see Figure 12).



Figure 12

2. Additional designs can be made by increasing the number of cuts from 3 diagonals to 5, or 7, etc... This would increase the total number of segments and decrease the overall segment size.
3. Or you can rotate the final glue up 90 degrees repeat the diagonal cuts and glue up the assembly again as in step 10. This would increase the number of parallel to perpendicular transitions.

The possibilities are endless!!