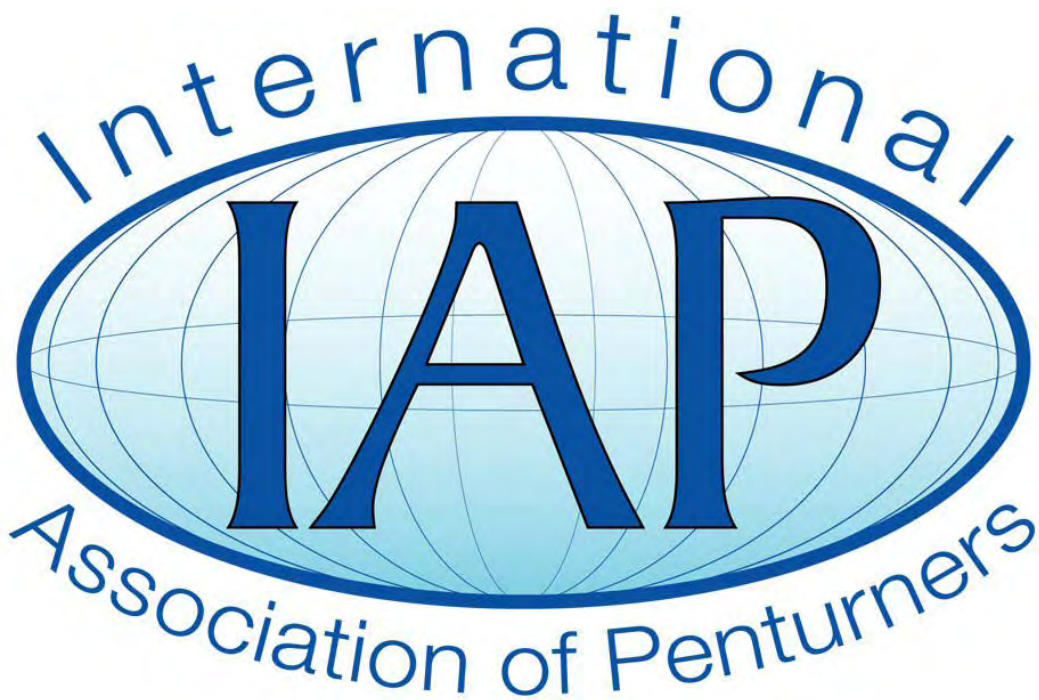


Steampunk Pen Blanks

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Steampunk

Tutorial

Steampunk refers to any of the artistic styles, fashions, or subcultures that have developed from the aesthetics of steampunk fiction, Victorian-era fiction, art nouveau design, and films from the mid-20th century.

A couple of months ago, I stumbled across a couple of these blanks. When I turned them, they looked great and each one was different. None were the same, just like our pens. I decided that I would learn how to make these blanks. Once I learned, I bought the casting kits and was ready to go. I enjoy making these blanks and have made them for numerous pen turners. Out of all my pens, when people see these blanks, they are immediately drawn in and want to know how it was made.

There are many pen turners that design their own style of steampunk blanks, and I think they are all nice. This is the way that I make the steampunk blanks and I hope that enjoy this tutorial.

Many of these items below can be found at Home Depot, Michaels, Hobby Lobby or other hardware store. The pattern tracing tool and copper tape, I ordered online.

Items Needed:

- ▶ Pen Kit
- ▶ Aluminum HVAC Tape
- ▶ Pattern Tracing Tool
- ▶ Utility Knife
- ▶ Scissors
- ▶ Paper Towels
- ▶ Copper Tape (different sizes)
- ▶ Rub n Buff - Ebony
- ▶ Ruler or Straight Edge
- ▶ Workspace.
- ▶ Rubber Gloves
- ▶ Toothbrush or small paint brush



Step 1:

Take out the tube you will be using. In this picture, I am making a bolt action rifle kit. I cut a piece of the HVAC tape and use the lines on my mat to cut a straight line.



X

Step 2:

Using your knife, I cut different lengths of the HVAC Aluminum tape in different sizes; small, medium, and large.



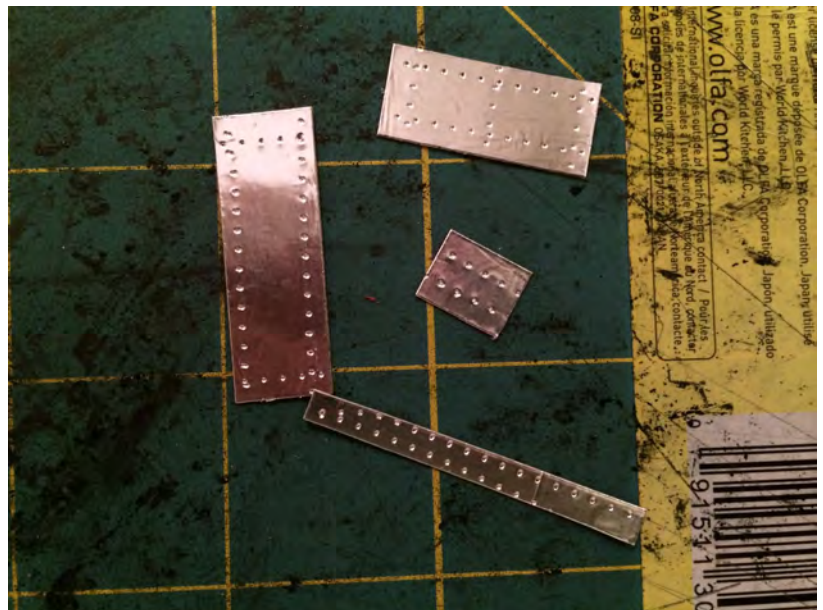
Step 3:

Once I cut the aluminum tape into small sections, example below, I line my tape up with the yellow line on the mat, or whatever you decide to use, and place my ruler down. I use this as a guide for the pattern tracing tool.



Step 4:

I use the pattern tracing tool to create rivets along the aluminum tape. Using others that I cut up, I do the same. Use your imagination to create whatever design that you like.



Step 5:

At this point, I have all of my pieces cut with rivets. It is now time to decide your layout of your design. At times, I start in the middle of the tube and other times, I start at the top. In this tutorial, I started in the middle and wrapped the tape around the tube. To determine the length around the tube, I will take a piece of the tape and wrap it around. I put a line where it will connect on the tube. I will usually tape this to my mat so that I will know the how big or small it needs to be.



Step 6:

At this point, take your pieces and wrap them around the tube. Create your own customer style blank using different sizes, designs, rivet patterns, and you can make them straight or at different angles. If you would like patchwork, you can create small little patches. At this point, you build it however you would like.



Step 7:

At this point, you can decide to leave the blank as is, or to add the copper tape. In this tutorial, I added the copper. Take your copper tape and do the same as your aluminum tape. You can create different sizes and use your pattern tracing tool to create your rivets, or in some cases, no rivets. I use two different sizes of the tape.



Step 8:

Like you did with your aluminum tape, take your copper tape and create your design. In this tutorial, I put a bigger piece at the top and a smaller piece at the bottom and placed one at an angle in the middle of the blank.



Step 9:

Now the messy part...At this point, I would suggest wearing the gloves. Take the rub n buff and put a little on the paper towel. Using a toothbrush, (please do not use your wives toothbrush as it will cause issues), or a paintbrush, coat the blank with the rub n buff. This part is up to you to design, you can put a little or cover the blank. The rub n buff will get caught in the lines and rivets. This is what makes the blank look older. I will cover the blank and then use my paper towel to take off some of the excess and use my gloves to make it darker or lighter.



Step 10:

At this point, you are finished. As you can tell, it is a little messy, so I would not suggest doing this project on your couch. In the picture below, I completed 4 of the bolt action kits. In one, I decided to use only copper tape.



Now that they are completed, you are ready to cast them. I use poly resin and place them in the mold for the kit that I am using or whatever mold you use. Once they harden, you are ready to turn.

A couple of points.....

- ▶ When putting on the tape, sometimes it will tear. It is almost easier to redo this because it creates a sticky film that gets on the blank.
- ▶ Use different pattern truing tools to create different rivets.
- ▶ When applying copper tape, don't wrap a lot around the blank, because when casting, this can come apart.
- ▶ If your blank appears dark with the rub n buff, remember when you are casting, it will become lighter.
- ▶ It is easier using a knife when cutting aluminum tape instead of scissors. You may prefer the other, but when I use the scissors, it does not give me the edge that I like. With the scissors, it sometimes removes the bottom of the taper before you are ready.
- ▶ Be careful with crinkles in the aluminum tape. I try to make sure that it is wrapped tightly. This can effect other pieces of the tape when putting them on the blank.

In summary, thank you for looking at this tutorial. As you see from many different designs, none are the same, and others may use different methods. Please contact me if you have any questions and I will be happy to answer them.

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Examples of Blanks I have made:

