Pen Blank Corner Trimming Jig

Contributed by: Denver “Bozz”

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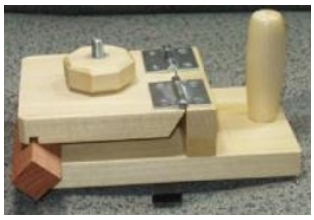


Here are the drawings and post I did years ago (2007) that has given me great service and protected my fingers at the same time. Easy and inexpensive to make. I use this to round off the corners quickly to reduce the amount of chip-out and tearing before chucking up a blank on my lathe.

I primarily use the jig on really hard woods, like, Lignum vitae. I also use it for blanks that are prone to tear outs. Trimming these types of blanks make it easier for me to turn. Works well for non-wooden blanks as well. Enough of a difference that the effort is worth the pay off. I like the idea of not exposing my hand [fingers] to the band saw blade as well. Turning a trimmed blank gets me off to a good start. Normally, I don't trim the corners off softer woods; my roughing gouge does that for me.

The archives provided a lot of creative and terrific ideas. I wanted something simple, that could be made with shop scraps, required no special tools and facilitated the cutting of the pen blank in the safest possible manner.

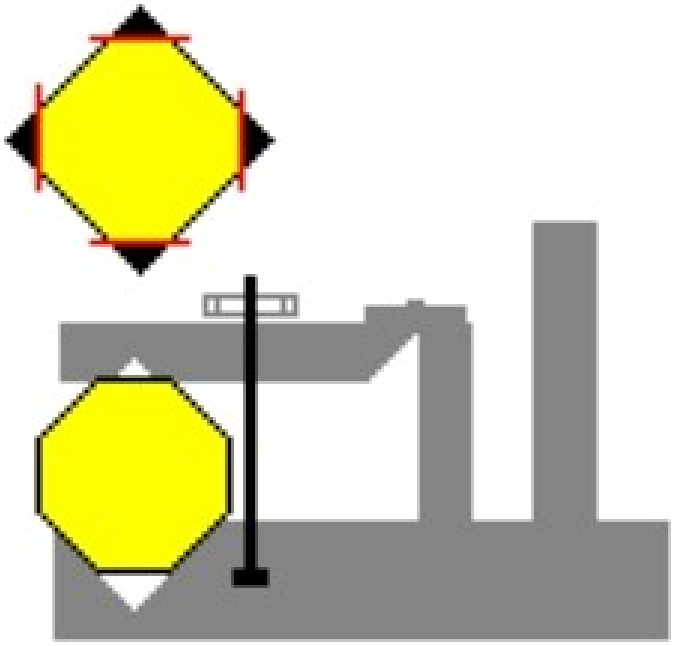
This blank reducing jig is made from poplar scraps, two wood screws, one bolt and nut with two washers, seven finishing nails and two coats of polyurethane. It will cut 1/2" to 1" blanks, safely.

The blank is inserted into the slotted "v-cradle" on the left side. The pen blank is secured in the "v-cradle" by tightening the knob on the top of the jig. The jig is pushed with the right-angle block on the right side. As you can see cuts are made with your hand [fingers] safely out of harm’s way.

It has a set horizontal cutting point; no lateral movement to the blade is possible.

It does have some movement in its' present configuration. The jig rests on a rail in the miter slot so, it can move along the miter. However, I recognize that in the present form, it is not adjustable.

Cut four is just as easy as cuts one through three. If you look at my diagram, you'll notice that the pen blank rests securely in the base plate as pressure is maintained by the top plate while the cut is made.



Below are the design drawings in 3D for those interested in making their own sled. My thanks to my good friend, Paul Torrigino, for making these fine drawings. Paul is the former Art Director for Disneyland. He has created projects for Disney all over the world.