

Budget Letter Opener



Needed:

Mandrel A, 7mm drill, bushing 1A

Preparing the blank

1. Cut the blank $\frac{1}{4}$ " longer than the brass tube so you can square it off once the tube has been glued in.
2. Drill the blank through the center, lengthwise, with a 7mm bit.
3. Scuff up the tube with sandpaper to clean off the oxidation and give the glue a better adhesion surface.
4. Plug the tube ends with a material of your choice – we recommend baseplate wax – to keep the glue from getting into the tube. Just push the ends of the tubes into a thin section of the material to form a plug. *This is important: glue inside the tubes is a common cause of kit failure.*
5. Roll the tube in the glue and insert it into the blank with a twisting motion until it is equidistant between both ends of the blank.
6. Set aside until the glue has had time to reach its maximum strength.

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7. When the glue has cured, use a hobby knife to remove the plugs from the ends.
8. Using a barrel trimmer of the proper size or the proper jigs and a disk sander, square off the ends of the blank until you can see bright brass tube. *Not having the proper tube length is another common cause of pen failure.*

Turning the blank



1. Assemble the blank on the mandrel using the 1A bushings.
2. Turn the blank to the desired shape.
3. After turning, sand the surface in progressive steps until you get to 400 or 600 grit. For a high gloss finish, continue sanding using Micro Mesh through 12,000 grit.
4. Apply the finish of your choice and polish.
5. Remove the blank from the mandrel.

Assembling the kit

1. Press the finial into one end of the tube.
2. Press the threaded insert into the other end of the tube.
3. Screw the letter opener blade into the threaded insert.

