

Pen Turners Club

02/19/2015

Harry Farmer- called the meeting to order. A few “stories” were told about things not concerning woodturning. There were 18 in attendance tonight.

Next meeting will again be the 19th March will be doing a segmented “castle” pens.

Gordon DeKrey was the first speaker of the night. His demo tonight is doing aluminum pens. Gordon advised to drill the 7mm pen with a 7mm bit NOT using a 6.3mm. (The inside diameter of a 7mm pen is 6.3mm). He advised to do it like any other pen. Glue the tube inside. He advises that a skew works real well in turning aluminum. With metal, you need to turn as fast as wood. If it is too slow, the tool will follow any defects in the grain. He then sands at about 600 rpm (much slower), and starts with 150 grit sandpaper. If you start at a coarser grit, you will get scratches. The final sanding will be about 600 grit. This will give more of a matte finish. The finer you sand, the brighter the finish will be, it will also show more finger prints etc. on the finished product.

The next demonstration was by Rich Larghe and he was demonstrating a CA glue finish. The demonstration was on an acrylic handle for an EZ tool for better visibility. He started with wet sanding the acrylic with 320 grit paper. When applying the CA, he starts with thin CA glue and applies 2 layers. Then he goes to thick CA. Then he goes back to the 320 grit paper to smooth out the glue. The final layer will be “Stick Fast” CA friction polish. Start slowly so the finish doesn’t fly all over, then turn the speed up to get it heated up. The friction polish comes in a satin and a high gloss finish. These he thinks are available from Rockler’s.

The next demonstration was by Harry Farmer on how to use “pen-turners finish”. His first demonstration in on a pen that has been sanded to 600 grit. SLOW does it when applying. 125RPM or so. The original bottle of the pen turner’s finish will eventually plug up, so he puts the finish in a different bottle. Be sure to shake the bottle up before use, because it will settle out. He uses shop paper towels instead of regular paper towels. (The so-called “Box of Rags”). The first coat applies real slowly. Apply one coat one way, then back the other way. Wait 5 minutes. Make sure it is very dry, if not it will gum up the sandpaper. This is a water base/oil hybrid. It will raise the grain. After it dries, sand with 1500 grit paper He applies a total of 6 coats. Final sanding is 12,000 grit.

Marty Christiansen is doing a CA finish on antler and wood. The pen turners website has a chart that shows the inside diameters of bushings. He has made his own jig to square off the ends of the pen. First finish is PP Hut high friction “ingot” and Sham Wow cloth to finish it. The first layer is Qualasole padding finish, and the Hut finish is over that. This is a friction finish; heat it up with a dry paper towel. Over this he puts the PP hut. Marty suggests that you give a “how to care for your pen” paper when you sell or give a pen to someone.

CA finishes: His applicator is a little baggie that your pen parts came in. David Reece Smith has some things on the internet about doing CA finishes. He demo is on a center part of an antler that has been turned down. He starts about 500 RPM with thin glue, accelerate, another thin layer, accelerate, give it a bit of time to tack up. Then sand 150, 250, 320 and 400 grit. Then re-apply the CA glue, this time using thick glue. He puts the glue on the bag,

not the pen blank and then coats the antler. Apply accelerator. He applies two coats of the thick glue. The final sanding is "dry" with micromesh and Minwax finishing wax at about 12-1300 rpm. Apply a small bit of Minwax to the micromesh. Be sure to wipe the slurry off before going to the next smaller grit. When you use friction, you are making the wax into a liquid, which then helps remove the dust. The final coat is renaissance wax.