

Computer Circuit Board Pen Blank Instructions

Always use eye protection and a dust mask while turning!

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These blanks are more difficult to turn when compared to wood or regular acrylic. Failure to follow these instructions will, more than likely, result in the failure of the blank. The acrylic material can easily be lifted off the surface of the circuit board. Light cuts and sharp tools are mandatory. Did I mention sharp tools?

We recommend that only experienced turners attempt these blanks. If you 'blow up' a blank we do not replace it. Keep in mind that we do NOT carry spare computer circuit board pen blanks. If you ruin the blank then you ruin the blank. We will not send you a replacement.

1. Carefully trim the lengthwise edges of the blanks using a belt or disc sander (sand the four corners off the entire length of the blanks). Insert a wooden dowel that fits snugly inside the pen tube and sand the blanks close to their required diameter while keeping the blanks as round as possible.
2. Using a disc sander (recommended) and being very careful, trim the ends of the blanks (for length) per the pen kit instructions. Chamfer the mouth of the brass tube in order to remove any burrs inside the mouth of the brass tube caused by the disc sander or pen mill (if used).
3. Mount the blanks with the correct bushings onto your pen mandrel and begin sanding the blanks. Some people will use a fine-tooth, flat bastard file to bring the acrylic down. **DO NOT SAND THE ACRYLIC MATERIAL ALL THE WAY TO THE BUSHINGS!** Leave a small amount of acrylic above the bushings for final sanding (about .05" to .07"). The circuit boards add about .07" to the diameter of the tubes. If you sand the acrylic down to the bushings you can easily ruin the blank by exposing the circuit board. If the finished acrylic material is larger than the nib, center band, finial, etc. round off the sharp edge of the acrylic with sandpaper so as to blend in with the metal parts.
4. Finish these blanks as you would any acrylic blank. If an air bubble is exposed while sanding use a tiny drop of CA glue to fill it **BEFORE** you begin the polishing process. We recommend sanding up to 600 grit sandpaper. Then use Micro-Mesh (2400 through 12000). Fill any 'pin holes' that may appear in the acrylic with CA glue. Finally, buff using White Diamond buffing compound or a liquid plastic polish. **Do not overheat the blank while sanding and/or polishing! Overheating will cause cracks.**
5. Ensure that the inside of the tubes are free of any debris and/or glue and chamfer the tube prior to assembly to avoid cracking the blanks.
6. Did I mention sharp tools?