

How Ron Fox makes silicon molds for polyester resin pen blanks.

Supplies needed:

1 1 ½ tubes of Silicon caulking available at Home Depot or any big box store.

2 Petroleum Jelly.

3 Any wood can be used. This project uses maple for the pen blank insert and ½ inch oak for the sides and plywood for the base. The following dimensions should be used to cut out the project.

2 sides 4 ½ inch long by 1 ¼ inch tall by ½ inch thick.

2 sides 7 ½ inch long by 1 ¼ inch tall by ½ inch thick.

1 base from plywood 7 ½ inch wide by 5 ½ long by ½ inch thick.

3 pen blank inserts 5 inches long by ¾ inches thick by 1 inch tall. The pen blank inserts are rounded on the top using a round-over bit in the router to help the silicone release easier.

These molds can be made any size that is needed to make a pen blank.

This project makes a three receptacle mold for pen blanks. It can be adjusted to create as many receptacles as needed.



Procedure:

1 Cut out all the parts and pre-drill them to make assembly easier.



2 Cover your pieces in petroleum jelly on all sides. This helps to keep the silicon from sticking to the mold.



3 Assemble your mold using the #6x 1 inch screws.



4 Squeeze in the silicon sealant making sure to get it into all the nooks and crannies so you won't have any voids when you remove the silicon mold.



5 Fill the mold above the pen blank inserts.



6 Use a trowel to press the silicon down and level it off.



7 Wait a week for the mold to dry. The interior of the mold will dry much slower than the surface of the mold.

Once the mold is cured it is quite easy to twist it and extract your poured pen blanks. When pouring resin into your molds, fill them to within 1/8 inch of the top. That way you can move the mold around without spilling the polyester resin.

I hope that this information is helpful for club members interested in polyester resin pen turning. This is the way I do it. Happy turning!