How Do I Finish My Polymer Clay Pen Blanks?

Read all these instructions before starting

Your polymer clay pen blanks will arrive to you pretty much already to size and can be assembled to your kit and used as is. However, since polymer clay easily collects dust, dirt and oils from your hands you should seal it preferably with CA Glue.

SLOW THE LATHE DOWN TO LESS THAN 500 RPM

(Speed can cause overheating and soften the clay to the point of it crumbling especially if you are dry sanding your polymer clay pen blanks)

If you feel that it is necessary, you can turn your polymer clay blank using a very sharp skew chisel and you can remove all the uneven areas that you feel very quickly.

Apply three to five coats of thin CA followed by three to five coats of medium/thick CA. You will need to smooth the blank out by wet sanding with Abranet and Micromesh. Start with a sheet of 400 Abranet and sand the blank until all the shiny spots on the surface are gone. Next move to the 1500 micromesh and smooth out the blank so there are no uncomfortable ridges on the blank. Work your way through the set all the way to the 12000 grit sheet/pad. You will be able to feel the ridges, dips and swirls in the blank. Removing them completely is not really very realistic. The clay dries at different rates for different colors. The differences are very slight but can be felt even if you can't see them.

Do not apply all coats of CA glue to the blank without separating the bushings from the blank between each coat and cleaning off the overflow. If you apply all coats and then try to separate the bushings from the blank, you will likely break the clay off on the ends away from the brass tube leaving a chipped appearance. A remedy to this is to use non-stick bushings specifically made for applying CA finishes. The item number on our website is A880.

These instructions are written for what works for Tracey and I. I'm sure you can find other folks who will give you other methods for finishing but this is what works for us. Give it a try and see if it works for you.

HAPPY TURNING