

Instructions for the Chihuahua Pen Inlay Kit

The Chihuahua inlay kit has a total of 24 pieces. I've numbered the pieces in order of assembly so we'll start by sliding the brass tube from your pen kit into the curly maple background barrel. Insert the pieces and secure with the supplied elastic bands. When positioning Piece #2, put the left paw in place and gently stretch the right paw over until it can be pressed in place. No glue will be used until all of the pieces are in position.

Fig#1



shows the first 5 pieces being held in place with the elastic bands.

You'll probably end up using about 6 or 7 elastic bands to secure all of the pieces. When you get to the blackwood eyes, there's a good chance that the small hole for the white styrene rod will still have the waste piece attached. If that's the case, simply poke it out with a pin or a small number drill bit. Once the eyes are in position, insert the small styrene rod into the hole until you feel it bottom out against the brass tube. Cut it off as flush as possible with a pair of nail clippers or small side cutters.

Carefully slide out the brass tube and apply thin CA glue to all of the seams starting with the styrene in the eyes, the remainder of the face and head pieces working your way down until all of the seams are coated with thin CA. You can either scrape off the elastic bands once the glue has set up or turn them away while on the lathe.

Now we'll glue the brass tube into the blank. Check the fit of the tube

as you might have to lightly sand the inside of the blank for a good fit. If you do, wrap a small dowel with 100G sandpaper and sand the inside of the barrel until the tube fits smoothly. Use 2-part epoxy to glue in the brass tube. Make sure the tube is perfectly centered so there's the same amount of space on either end.

Once the glue has cured, sand the ends flush with the brass tube using a belt or disc sander. Don't use a barrel trimmer. Now you can mount the blank on the lathe for final turning and finishing. Apply whatever finish you're comfortable with as they all work well with these inlay kits.

E-mail me at kallenshaan@cox.net with any thoughts or ideas regarding this or any of our other kits.

