

Making the Oriental Dragon

The “kit” contains all this:



Start by taking out the brass tubes. Use them to measure your pen blank, cutting the blanks about 3/8” longer than the brass tubes. You want the extra length, so that you do not have to “drill through” your blank. Mark the length of the brass tube on your drill bit, drill deep enough for the tube, then cut off the undrilled end to reveal the hole.

Drill the “cap” tube (shorter, larger diameter) with a 37/64” (.5781”) drill bit, the “body” tube should be drilled with a 29/64” (.4531”) bit. These are LARGE holes. You may want to drill with a smaller bit first, then enlarge. This is NOT a component set for experimenting, make sure your equipment can drill straight, clean holes of this size BEFORE starting the Oriental Dragon!!

After drilling, test fit your tubes. They should slide in and out without friction. If you are using a material that will require painting the tube or inside the hole, plan for that!! Do NOT rush, allow paint and glue to set fully before proceeding.

I prefer to turn one tube at a time, on an adjustable mandrel. It is obvious which two bushings are used for the body and which are used for the cap. Remember, if you have a “grain” to match, it should match when the pen is closed. So, pay attention to which end of each blank should become the middle of the pen. Both the cap and the body are a “straight cut” so the arrangement of the bushings is immaterial, if it fits in the tube snugly, it is fine.



When making pens of this caliber, you should know how to “square’ and turn your blanks. Use whatever method makes you most comfortable to arrive at finished size. (I recommend using a caliper to match your pen parts to the actual component sizes--precision is rewarded with a beautiful pen!!)

Assembly is straightforward: I start with the nib. Unscrew the nib from the centerband, being **CERTAIN TO WATCH THE TRIM RING!!** Do NOT lose it, we do NOT have extra parts for this pen!! Again, remember the nib “grain” should line up with the grain of the cap, at the centerband. Press the nib coupler in the end of the body tube.



With the nib in place, I screw the centerband onto the nib coupler and arrange the cap so the grain will match. Carefully unscrew and press the cap tube over the black threaded piece. Stop when the black is covered and check that there are no black “threads” sticking out. IF it is completely clean, seat the centerband on the cap.

Complete the assembly by adding the finial and the cap and clip (watch the position of the clip, so it shows the best part of the pen in the location you prefer--front, right of clip, left of clip--whatever is your preferred location.)

