

Pens made from Arrow Shafts



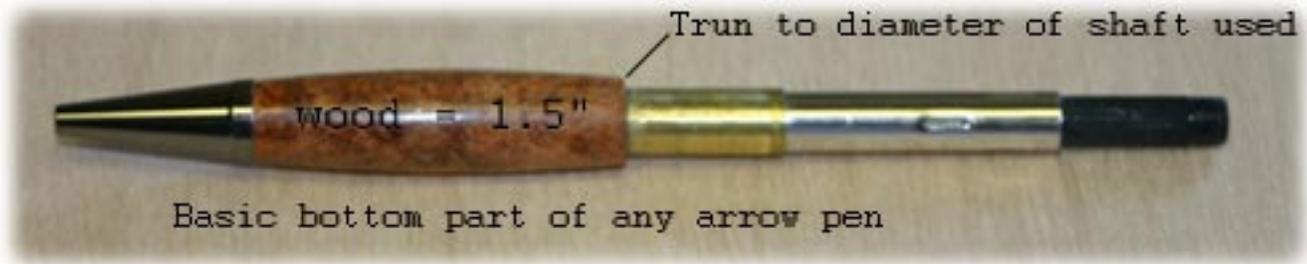
by Don Ward

Thanks to Rich Kleinhenz for showing me how to do my first one.

Once the basic technique for making a pen from an arrow shaft is learned, then adapting different size shafts will be much easier. Some shafts are just the right size to insert and glue in a 7mm pen tube. Other sizes require another brass tube to be glued in and then the 7mm tube installed. Even larger shafts (which I like) need a wooden shim with brass tube inserted to make the shaft useable. These instructions are for use with **slim line kits**.

One arrow I've used was an aluminum arrow, Easton Superflite, XX75, camo hunter, #2213. I don't know what all the numbers mean but maybe you do. I used a slimline kit. The #2117 fits the slimline tubes very, very closely, but I liked the size of the #2213 better, it is a little larger. I suppose carbon/composite arrows could be used if you use sizes that match the aluminum sizes. Here goes.

(1) The lower barrel uses one of the brass tubes, with a piece of wood or antler glued on and turned as usual except the wood/antler is shorter.. 1.5". I used a scrap that I had handy that was too short for a pen. Center bands can be added (although I don't think one is needed). Use the one from the kit, but the hole must be reamed out to 7mm so it will slip over the brass tube and rest against the lower wood section. Make on from a section of wood, antler, or plastic. The beaded center band looks nicest, IMHO. The nib and twist mechanism are pressed in as usual.



(2) The upper barrel. The size of arrow you choose will determine how the upper barrel must be fashioned. If the 2117 arrow is used, or one of a similar size, then the kit's brass tube will glue in nicely. I use larger diameter arrows and shims are needed prior to inserting the 7mm kit tube. The 2213 arrow took a 5/16 inch tube glued in first and the kit's tube inserted inside it. Had a little slack, so I glued it in using polyurethane glue and as the glue expanded all around the kit tube it centered itself inside the 5/16 hobby shop tube(I hope all this tube talk isn't confusing). This part was the most difficult for me but we have a hobby store in town that carries various sized of brass tubes. Once the basic idea of using shim tubes (for larger arrows) is worked out, the process is not difficult at all.

The larger arrows, 2315 and 2514, are my favorite because of the size. One problem, the diameter is larger than the finial and did not look good at all. I solved this by turning a wooden shim with a "knob" on the pocket clip end. The kit tube is glued inside prior to turning, and the finished shim is glued inside the arrow shaft.



Size: 2315
2514

goes inside the arrow

glues inside the shim

finial and clip
pressed in
as usual

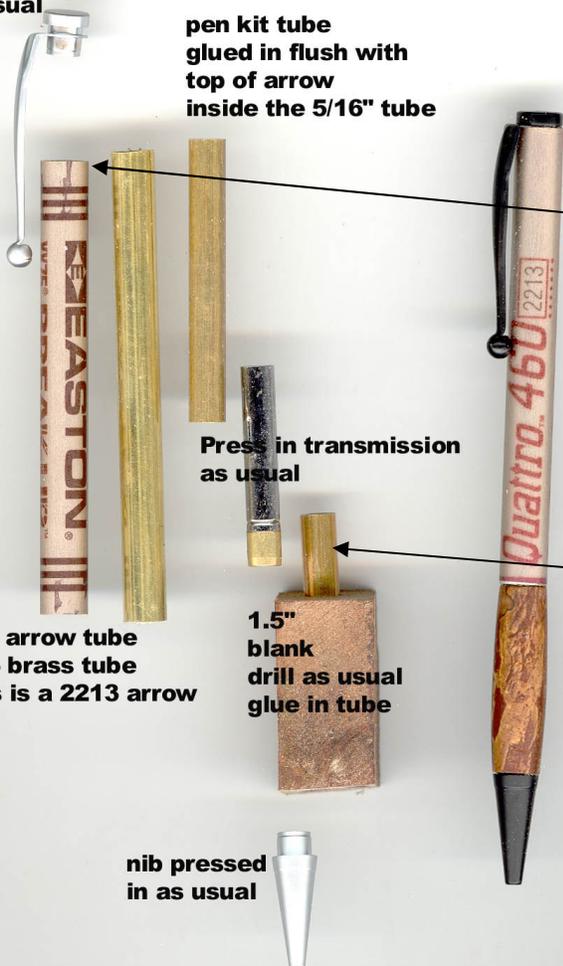
pen kit tube
glued in flush with
top of arrow
inside the 5/16" tube

Arrow tube length: 3.5": good for all
arrow pens.

Kit tube glued in flush with the pocket
clip end of the shaft.

The upper kit tube will not need to
slide over the entire transmission, but
only needs to slide over the "grippers"
on the top of the transmission.

Longer tubes could be used for the
whole 3.5" (minus the exposed part of
the lower tube) but is not necessary.



3.5" arrow tube
5/16 brass tube
This is a 2213 arrow

Press in transmission
as usual

1.5"
blank
drill as usual
glue in tube

nib pressed
in as usual

The arrow shaft will be as long as the upper kit tube plus the exposed part of the lower kit tube. The pen is sort of a fake longwood. The hobby shop brass tube needs to be the same length as the arrow. Glue it in. Then glue in the pen kit tube so it is flush with the finial end of the pen. When the top is pushed onto the pen, the inner tube will slide over the twist mechanism and work like it always does. The arrow should extend to the end of the antler/CB. The length can be adjusted there if it is too long. Be sure to not cut it too short to begin with.

NOTES:

For the 2213 arrow, I bought a 36" long, 5/16th inch dia. tube at the hobby shop and glued the whole thing into the arrow shaft. I cut off pieces to make pens as I need them. I then glue in the pen kit brass tube.

You can also make a pen by cutting two pieces of arrow equal to the length of the kit tubes. Glue in the kit tubes and the pen will look like a regular slimline with upper and lower barrels equal. For this to work best, the arrow diameter needs to match the kit nib and clip ring as closely as possible. I've not done this, but I've seen it done.

There is another size that I now like better but requires a wooden shim to be turned and inserted inside the arrow shaft. Two sizes I use are 2315 and 2514.



Finished pen from 2315 arrow using similar parts in the above picture



How the parts fit showing the tube placements. Notice the tubes do not meet.

Here is the bottom portion of the pen on the mandrel. Shape the wood section and part off to 1.45".



Finished pens using the smaller arrows.



Special thanks to Richard Kleinhenz, moderator of the Yahoo! Penturner's group (<http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/penturners>) , for sharing with me how these pens are made. Examples of Rich's excellent pen making can be seen at <http://www.penmakersguild.com> .