

How To Make Homemade Bushings

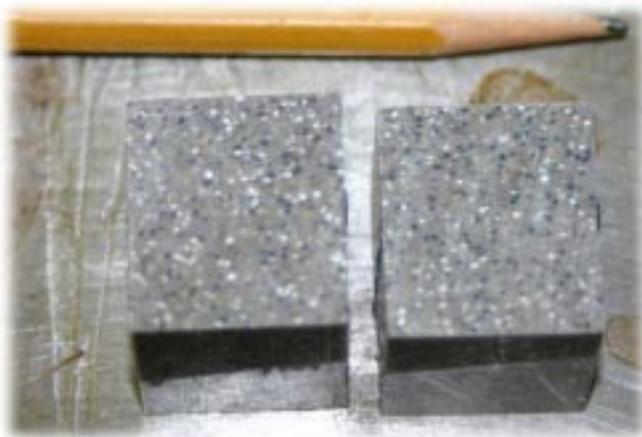
One man's opinion by Don Ward



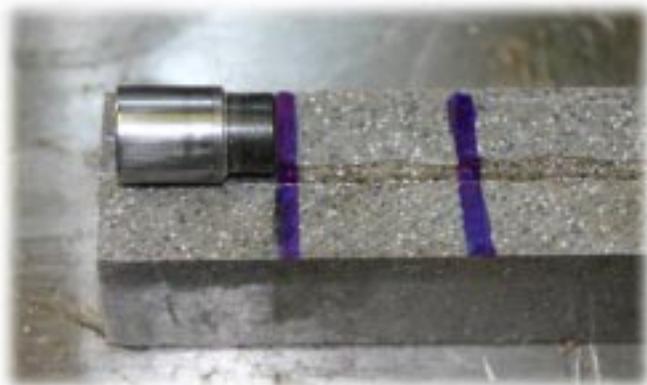
I choose to use corian for this tutorial. Aluminum could be used, but not hardware store stock. I use 6061 aluminum rod. This piece of corian is 1" x .5" and when glued together will be 1" square. I glued with CA.



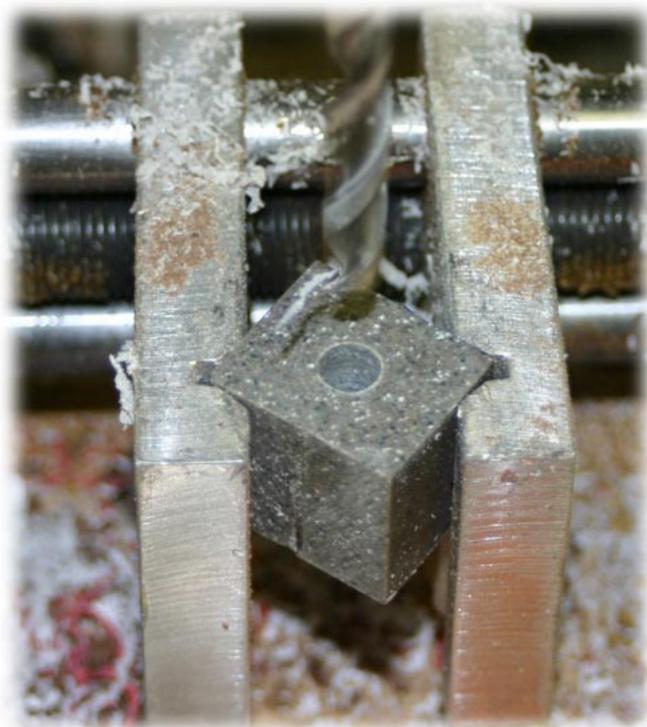
Clamp the corian pieces and let the CA set.



Look Ma, no visible seams. If corian is glued together correctly, the seams will be invisible. I sand the mating surfaces lightly.



Mark the bushings lengths using real bushings if available. If not, then choose a length for the bushing.



Drill the bushing pieces with 1/4 inch to fit the mandrel or drill with 7mm and glue in a brass tube. I choose to drill 7mm and use a tube. It isn't necessary, but I do use a tube.



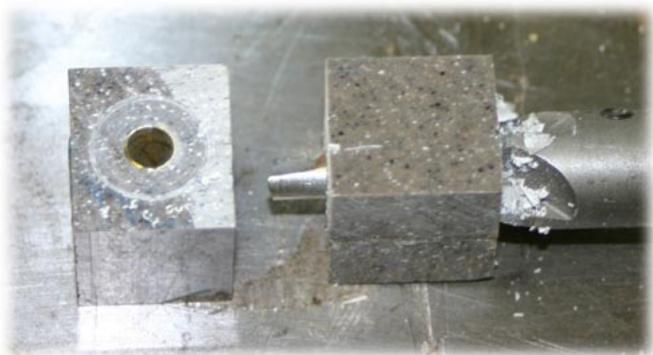
Measure the real bushing for future reference. This is the end that will go inside the brass tube from the pen kit. I've chosen to make sierra bushings for this tutorial.



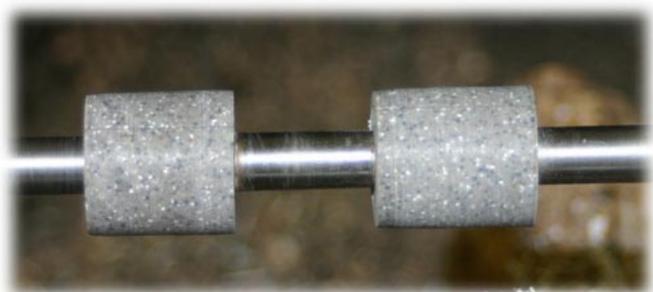
Measure the other end of the bushing. This end is the pen diameter end.



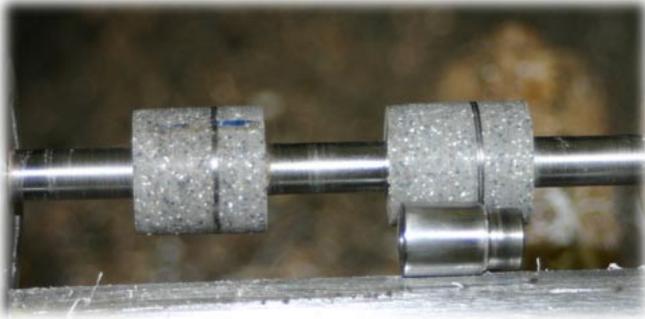
If real bushings are not available, then measure the actual pen kit parts that will mate against the wood.



Square the ends of the bushing blanks.



Turn to round as the first step in the turning phase.



I have the two blanks mounted with slimline bushings to separate them. I've marked the blanks to indicate the two diameters. The right side will go inside the tubes and the left side will be the diameter of the finished blank, or at least the guide for the finished pen.



I used a parting tool to get the right end of the bushings close to final dimension. I turned a small section to almost finished size.



I then removed one of the partially made bushings and placed the sierra tube over the slimline bushings. I used sandpaper to get the final size of the bushing to insert inside the tube. The tube is used to find the correct size.



The tube fits over the shoulder. I now turn the other portion to its final diameter. I get close with the parting tool and bring it home with sandpaper.



One sierra bushing finished. Repeat these steps for the other bushing(s).