

Working with Inlace Acrylester™

Drilling

Drilling Inlace Acrylester blanks is easily accomplished if a few easy steps are followed. Start by cutting the blank allowing little extra length on each piece. Then drill each piece to, but not through, the bottom. Often when drilling plastic the drill bit can catch, cracking the blank as it exits. Avoid this by drilling to the proper length, then cutting off the excess at the end. (Don't drill through the bottom)

Gluing

Use your glue of choice to glue your tubes inside the cut and drilled pen barrels. CA glue, polyurethane, and Epoxy are the most popular choices. In regards to plastics in general some blanks are more opaque than others so you may want to paint your tubes to keep the brass tubes from showing through and giving a golden glow on parts of your project that are turned closer to the tube.

Turning

Aggressive cuts and Inlace don't mix. The best way to turn Inlace Acrylester is to use a fingernail bowl gouge or a skew in proper form to give you a "shear" cut. Using a shear cut you will slice the material from the blank instead of scraping it off. Cutting will cause less impact to the blank and require less sanding. If you don't have proper form with a skew or don't have a fingernail gouge a standard spindle gouge will work, but be certain to keep your tools sharp and use light cuts. Pitting may occur. As you reach final dimension you will want to slow up a little and start gently working out any remaining pits. If you have pitting that is too deep you may use a drop of thick CA glue to seamlessly fill pits. You will then want to turn the CA glue back flush.

Polishing

Sand to 400/600 using the PKSPSET5 and then switch to Micro Mesh (or the Plastic Pen Finishing Kit) and polish through all the grades. You may wish to stop the lathe once in a while and use your sand paper or Micro Mesh (depending at what step you are at) to sand the length of the blank to remove rotational scratches in the blank. If you get scratches that don't come out drop down a grade or two in the process and start there. Depending on your results you may wish to use a plastic polish or buff with White Diamond to further shine the barrels. No friction polishes or finishes are needed. The results you get from a finished Inlace Acrylester blank far exceed any effort it requires to turn it.