

Instructions for the Military Ribbon Inlay Kit (Iraq)



There are a total of 11 colored strips of wood and 1 curly maple background barrel in this kit. We'll start by sliding the brass tube from the pen kit inside the curly maple barrel. Do not glue. Using the colored drawing on this sheet as a guide, start from one end matching the pattern. Double wrap the supplied elastic bands to secure the pieces as you go. You might notice a slightly better fit if you flip the strip 180 degrees so try them both ways. Once the final piece is in place, carefully remove the brass tube and apply thin CA to all of the pieces. Don't worry about the elastic bands as they will easily turn away once the piece is 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.

