

## Step-by-step three piece finial my way

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Inspired by a handout by Robin Costelle

Standard pen blanks (6 inches long by 7/8 or 3/4 square) work well. You can also use scraps pieces, cutoffs.

My recommendation for  
minumn blank size lengths.

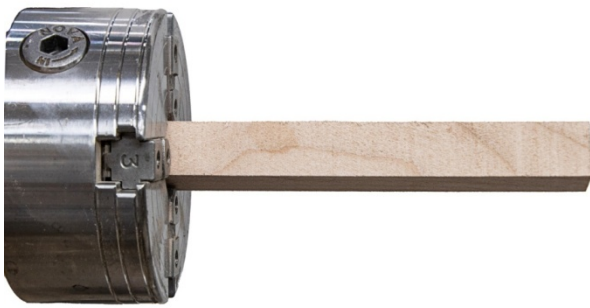
Single blank 6 inches

Two seprate banks - 3-3/4 & 3 inches

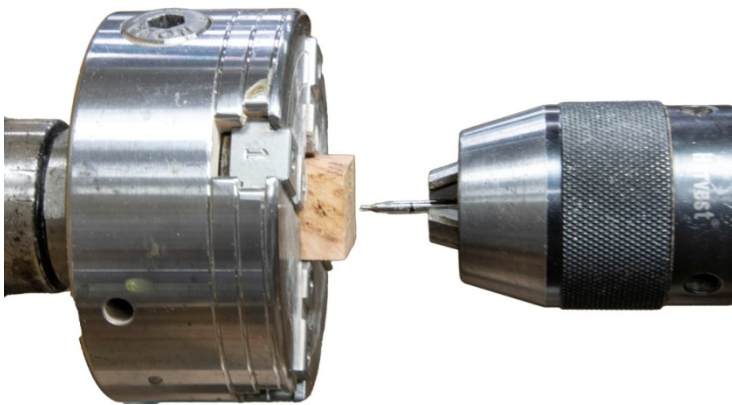
Accent blank 1 inch



Two ways to mount your blanks in a chuck. If you do not have pen jaws you can remove the jaws and use the slides to hold the piece. It is not as secure as pen jaws, but if you don't get



aggressive it works just fine. I prefer long jaws to hold better. I have long pen jaws so I normally use them. The finial for this hand out was turned using the “slide” method, and it worked fine with no issues.



To start, mount your accent piece in your chuck. I mark the center on one end. I drill a 1/8” hole about 3/8” deep. I use a machinist center drill because it is short, strong and doesn’t wander.

Remove the accent piece and set aside. Mount the blank (if using 2 blanks use the short one) in your chuck. Then cut a tenon slightly smaller than 1/8” and about 1/4”. Making the tenon shorter allows for some place for excess glue. You want the accent piece to slide on the tenon easily, but not real loose. I take it down to a 1/8” using calipers, then sand to final fit. Then glue the accent to the blank, I use Tightbond original. Use your tailstock live center (with the pin removed or use a small spacer so you don’t put a mark in the end of the accent piece) as a clamp and friction drive.



Turn the accent round. Drill the hole for the top piece of the finial.



Turn the lower portion and accent piece. Once you are happy sand through at least 400 hundred grit. Turn a tenon (I use 1/4"), undercut the base so it will sit flat. **DO NOT PART OFF.**

**Measure back from the base of the tenon about 3/8" and part off.**

The lower portion is finished; the 3/8" will be used to hold the lower portion in the chuck for gluing and aligning the two portions.



If you are using the 2 blank method mount it in your chuck. Mark the center on one end and align the bank. Turn the tip and sand to 400 grit. The tip is now done.



You need to support piece, especially when turning the 1/8" tenon. I made the support piece, using a 3/4 x 10 nut. Attached with

double sided tape. You can use a live center with the pin removed and a piece shop towel to prevent marring.



Finish turning the upper portion, including the 1/8" tenon. I try to make sure it is a "fat 1/8" since there is no way to test fit before cutting off. I would rather spend a few minutes making it fit than trying to add wood back. I do not

normally part it off. I use a narrow blade saw.



Remount the lower portion. Put the upper portion **WITHOUT GLUING**; align the lower portion with the tailstock. Remove the upper portion and glue to lower

portion, using tailstock as clamp. Again use a thin blade saw to cut off.