

CA / BLO Pen Finishing

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Steps to use Cyanoacrylate (CA) and Boiled Linseed Oil (BLO) to finish pens and other small turnings (tops, bottle stoppers, etc)

The Process:

- 1) Turn and sand your piece through 600 grit.
- 2) Apply a sanding sealer to the wood and sand back with 600 or 800 grit paper. (optional)
- 3) Fold a piece of paper towel into a 1 to 1.5 inch wide strip about 6 inches long and made up of several layers.
- 4) With the lathe speed on low, apply a dot of BLO to the paper and a dot of CA on top of the BLO. The BLO acts as a lubricant so that the paper towel does not stick to your work.
- 5) Apply the CA to the piece working quickly to get an even coat.
- 6) Fold over the paper towel and turn up the lathe speed to cure the CA. Keep moving back and forth fast!
- 7) Repeat.... Move down on the towel a bit, more BLO, more CA....
- 8) Repeat 5 – 12 times depending on the number of voids in the wood and the depth of the finish desired.
- 9) Use either micromesh pads (just the last few grits) or a plastic polishing compound (like HUT Ultra Gloss), or a Beal buff to shine up the finish.
- 10) Finally use a bit of Renaissance wax to make it really shine.

Tips:

- Use Medium CA.
- Put your BLO in a squeeze bottle to make things easier. You can get one from Woodcraft or use an old mustard bottle.
- Don't use cheap paper towels...they leave too much lint. Don't use cloth...if the glue catches it can pull your hand into the lathe.
- Wear safety glasses and a mask when working with CA. **Don't put your head over the lathe...the fumes that come off the CA are highly toxic!**
- Each coat only takes about 30 seconds.