

Considerations For Celtic Knots

Steve Busey for IAP Southeast Meeting March 6, 2010

Square Blanks – to preserve the center axis. (An alternate is to use round blanks, which give you the flexibility to do different numbers of bands, but clamping becomes more critical, gluing insert flush is more problematic.) Mark the sides 1-4. If you have long stock, work both ends at the same time.

Jig – need a way to secure the blank, some kind of clamp. Doesn't have to be fancy.

Angle – 45-50 degrees off perpendicular make a nice look. Consider diameter of the pen kit – slimlines give tight knots, majestics give wide knots from the same blank

Kerf - the width of the cut of a saw blade. Table saw, band saw, miter saw. Mine $5/64$ ", regular $1/8$ ". Don't cut all the way through! Why?

Inserts – must match kerf – wood, pickguard, PR, metal, combo (brass .1mm). For wood: with grain, or same angle cut? They should fit flush inside the cut, to preserve squareness & center axis integrity. Hint – if blank is $3/4$ " sq, cut inserts from blank that is $5/8$ " sq. If $3/4$ " round blank, cut inserts from $5/8$ " round blank

Glue – Thick CA gives some working time to get the insert in place, but you might want to flood with thin CA afterward. Finger sticking is optional but probable.

Problems – Center axis. Center axis. Center axis. Chipping of the insert.

Resources: about half a dozen articles in the IAP Library