

One Woodturner's Approach to a CA Glue Finish

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I have been using this CA glue finish on my pens and other small turned projects for over 2 years. As you know, there are many variants to a good CA finish. I have tried numerous methods, including CA glue and BLO (boiled linseed oil), and finally narrowed it down to this simple method. It will give you a hardy, glossy, durable finish to pens and other small turned projects. Here is my recipe:

- 1) Sand to at least 600 grit. If you have time, sand to 12,000 grit. I use MicroMesh.
- 2) Fold a blue paper shop towel until you have it into small folded rectangles.
- 3) Set lathe to a fairly slow RPM.
- 4) Spray a small spritz (one or two sprays) of CA hardener on surface of towel.
- 5) Clean blank with this surface, using rapid horizontal movements.
- 6) Fold paper towel to next rectangle and apply 2-3 drops of THIN CA glue to surface.
- 7) Apply THIN CA glue to blank with rapid horizontal movements, using care not to allow paper towel to stick to surface.
- 8) Fold paper towel to next surface and apply one or two sprays of CA hardener.
- 9) Using rapid horizontal movements, apply CA hardener to blank.
- 10) Repeat steps 6-9 TWO additional times (total of 3 coats of thin CA glue).
- 11) Fold paper towel to next surface and apply 2 drops of MEDIUM CA glue to surface.
- 12) Apply MEDIUM CA glue to blank, using rapid horizontal movements.
- 13) Fold paper towel to next surface and apply one or two sprays of CA hardener.
- 14) Using rapid horizontal movements, apply CA hardener to blank.
- 15) Repeat steps 11-14 TWO additional times (total of 3 coats of Medium CA glue).
- 16) Speed up lathe. Sand blank lightly in a horizontal fashion using 600 grit sandpaper. Stop lathe. Sand again, insuring that vertical sanding lines are omitted.
- 17) Continue in this fashion, sanding through 12,000 grit.
- 18) For a stellar finish, apply one coat of plastic finish and buff it out.

Micromesh Grit sizes:

1500, 1800, 2400, 3200, 3600, 4000, 6000, 8000, 12000