What you need to make a pen-

1. A pen making kit ($3 - $40) and appropriate bushings (these usually come with instructions for assembly)

2. A pen turning mandrel - $40 (it is possible to improvise, but ...)

3. Appropriate drill for pen tubes ($5.95 - $10.)

4. Suitable wood or material for the barrel ($1 - $10)

5. Thick CA or epoxy adhesive - tube insertion tool (or wood pencil)

6. Barrel trimmer , disk sander or another way to square ends of the pen blanks

7. Tools for turning the pen

8. Sand paper - 240, 320, 400, 600 grit (higher grits if you are finishing acrylic blanks)

9. Some sort of pen finish - CA glue works well

10. A pen assembly press (can improvise using a drill press or even the lathe)

Steps -

1. Cut blanks so they are slightly longer than pen tubes

2. Drill appropriate holes for tubes

3. Glue tubes into blanks

4. Trim and square the ends of the blanks

5. Turn blanks on the mandrel with appropriate bushings to make pen barrels

6. Sand and finish on the mandrel

7. Remove barrels and assemble pen

8. start your next pen (because everyone will want one).

Woodturning skills learned while turning a pen:

Turning safety gear (eyes and lungs protection)

Basic lathe set-up steps:

Power and speed control,

Tool rest adjustment, tail stock adjustment, live center adjustment,

Use of pen mandrel,

ABC's of tool control (Anchor, Bevel, Cut)

Use of cutting tools - roughing gouge, EZwood tools, skew

Wood finishing on the lathe