

Pens and Plating 101

Choosing the right pen....

Since 1987 when we first introduced pen kits to woodturners in the U.S.A., Craft Supplies USA has continued to supply the world's finest quality pen kits to woodturners everywhere. In addition to our premium Artisan® range of pens and accessories, we now offer Apprentice™ pen kits which are comparable to other pens in the market and are perfect for those where price is the primary concern. All pen kits are backed by our 100% satisfaction guarantee and come with our unsurpassed customer service at no extra charge!

Choosing the right plating....

With so many types of plating to choose from, choosing the one that's best for you can be confusing. For this reason, we have listed the various plating types with a description of each along with a wear rating. Be sure to review the plating information thoroughly so that the plating you choose will be right for you.

Pen Components...

Among our Artisan® line of pens, each pen style shares the same quality components regardless of the type of plating selected. Artisan® pens include premium quality components throughout which are superior to pen kits offered by other suppliers. Our Apprentice™ line of 24k gold plated pen kits are manufactured to the same standards as pen kits offered by other pen suppliers. Apprentice™ pen kits offer exceptional value at the lowest prices anywhere.

Wear Resistance Ratings: ★★★★★

Each type of plating has a wear resistance rating that indicates the durability and longevity of the plating. A 1 1/2 star rating represents the majority of 24k value priced twist pens in the marketplace today. 24k pens are "flash" plated, or in other words the plating is extremely thin and in most cases is protected by a thin layer of epoxy. 24k pen kits are ideal for beginners and those who require the lowest price possible. A Five star rating indicates the plating thickness and durability is such that it will not wear off at any time for any reason. This grade of plating is typically used on "high-end" pens that may sell for hundreds of dollars. For more information on pens and plating, call 1-800-551-8876.



Rhodium- Platinum Series

Wear Resistance: ★★★★★

Possibly nature's most brilliant and durable precious metal, Rhodium is used by the world's premier pen manufacturers to plate their very finest pens. A member of the Platinum precious metals family, Rhodium sells for as much as \$1,200.00 per troy ounce and is unmatched in brilliance and durability. We guarantee the Rhodium plating on our Platinum Series pens to last a lifetime or your money back.



Titanium- Gold & Black

Wear Resistance: ★★★★★

Titanium plating is very popular among seasoned pen turners as it offers superior wear resistance yet is less expensive than other precious metal platings. Available in gold and black, we guarantee our Titanium plating to last a lifetime or your money back.



Chrome

Wear Resistance: ★★★★★

Chrome is an extremely long wearing plating capable of resisting everyday wear and tear. Highly recommended for key rings, pens and other projects, chrome gives you a shiny, rich look at an economy price.



10k Gold

Wear Resistance: ★★★

This popular plating blends hard nickel and the beauty of gold together to form a brilliant plating that is durable and affordable.



Satin Series

Wear Resistance: ★★★

Satin Series pens undergo a special plating process that produces a matte finish that features a slight texture that looks and feels great. This popular plating offers a unique alternative to traditional plating.



Black Chrome

Wear Resistance: ★★

Black Chrome offers a unique alternative to traditional platings that works extremely well with lighter color woods. The soft sheen and depth of color make Black Chrome a favorite.



Tactile Series

Wear Resistance: ★★

Tactile Series pens are finished with a special non-slip coating that gives the pen a unique rubber-like feel that makes it easy to hold and warm to the touch. The matte black finish enhances the look of most woods and works especially well with lighter color materials.



Copper

Wear Resistance: ★★

Copper offers a unique beauty and warmth that begs to be held. Because copper is soft by nature, these pens feature a durable epoxy layer on top of the copper plating to increase wear resistance.



24k Gold

Wear Resistance: ★

Artisan® pen kits feature a thicker layer of 24k gold plating than other 24k pens, including our Apprentice™ range. This significantly increases the average "life" of an Artisan® 24k pen versus other 24k pens. As 24k gold is naturally soft and wears quickly, both our Artisan® and Apprentice™ range of pens feature a durable epoxy layer on top of the gold plating to increase wear resistance. Value priced, 24k pens are ideal for those on a budget or who want to explore pen making with minimal investment.