

Instructions for the Western Cross Inlay Kit



We're going to start assembly of this kit by inserting the cross into the bottom section of the mesquite barrel.

See Fig 1. We'll now fit the top section of the mesquite barrel. This is accomplished by aligning the right and left tips of the upper mesquite barrel and firmly pressing the top of the cross into the barrel. Once the cross is locked in place (Fig2.) press the top and bottom of the mesquite barrel together with your thumb and index finger and apply a small drop or two of thin CA glue to the seam at the back of the barrel. See Fig 3.

We're now going to fit the 4 pieces that make up the turquoise ring behind the cross (#4,5,6,7) and the matching 4 mesquite filler pieces (#8,9,10,11) that lock the ring pieces in place. Temporarily slide the brass tube from your pen kit (not included) into the mesquite barrel for support. The easiest way to know that you've got the correct turquoise piece when positioning these is to look carefully at the ends of the pieces and make sure they follow the same shape as the mating section of the cross. These will only fit properly one way. Same applies to the mesquite filler pieces. Match the grain and also note that the radius on one side is tighter than the other.



Fig1.



Fig2.



Fig3.

Once these are in place, secure with a couple of the supplied elastic bands. Now slide out the brass tube and carefully apply a small dot of the thin CA glue to these 4 sections to secure without getting any glue in the small holes that the sterling silver wire goes into. Put the diamond and four stars in place and carefully secure them with thin CA as well. Make sure that all 21 of the tiny holes are cleaned out by poking them with either a small pin or some of the supplied sterling silver wire. Now put the brass tube back into the barrel and fit the wire into the holes trimming them flush with a pair of nail clippers as you go. Once all 21 holes are filled, remove the brass tube and flood all surfaces with thin CA glue.

Now we'll glue the brass tube into the blank. Check the fit of the tube as you might have to lightly sand the inside of the blank for a good fit. If you do, wrap a small dowel with 100G sandpaper and sand the inside of the barrel until the tube fits smoothly. Use 2-part epoxy to glue in the brass tube. Make sure the tube is perfectly centered so there's the same amount of space on either end. Once the glue has cured, sand the ends flush with the brass tube using a belt or disc sander. Don't use a barrel trimmer.

Now you can mount the blank on your lathe for final turning and finishing.

