

Awl Demonstration Handout

By Mike Peace www.MikePeaceWoodturning.com
My YouTube video on this project
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Sc717Uz6vY>



Introduction

This is a fast and fun project and makes a great gift for anyone with a toolbox!

Design

Pick a shape you think would be comfortable in your hand. See some examples above. Straight handle for an ice pick.

Supplies

- Dry hardwood blank: 1 1/2" to 2" square and 3 1/2" to 5" long based on your preference.
- Music wire by K&S Engineering, 36" X 5/32" diameter, available from hobby shops and hardware stores, eBay or from Amazon (K&S Music Wire 5/32" D X 36" L Pack of 7). Ferrule of copper pipe, or pipe coupler or brass plumbing fitting
- Supplies: Sandpaper from about 120 up to 320 grit, Epoxy glue or Medium CA. Finish of your choice – I usually use Antique Oil but a beeswax finish will be less shiny.

Tools

Four-jaw chuck is nice but not essential	parting tool
3/8" spindle gouge	Jacobs chuck with 11/64" bit
spindle roughing gouge or skew	Rotary Dremel type tool with cutoff wheel
Optional: texturing tool and burn wire	

Steps

Turn the Handle

1. Round the handle blank between centers using a spindle roughing gouge or skew. Turn a tenon on one end to fit your scroll chuck.
2. Chuck the blank and use a parting tool to mark the end of the handle and to turn a small tenon on the end to fit the ferrule. Use the ferrule to mark the length of the tenon and add perhaps an extra 1/16" so the tenon will just sit proud of the ferrule even after any sanding.

Add a Ferrule

3. Fit the ferrule to the handle tenon. “Sneak up” on sizing the tenon so you will have a snug fit. When you finally have a good fit, use a little glue - 5 minute epoxy or a few drops of medium CA to secure the ferrule. After the glue has set you can shape and finish the ferrule as necessary. Drill the hole for the steel shaft about 1 1/4” deep using a Jacobs chuck in the tail stock with 11/64” twist drill bit or 1/64” larger than shaft size.
4. Shape the handle as you see fit with a spindle gouge. Carefully shape the handle to the edge of ferrule so there will be a smooth transition. A bead here is an attractive feature. Finish sanding through the different grits up to about 320. Add any embellishments like a burned ring. Sand the ferrule to polish it up. Do not reuse the sandpaper or the black oxides from the metal can stain your wood!
5. Part off the handle or make the last cut with a saw with the lathe off. I was able to wrap a piece of tape around the ferrule and reverse chuck the handle with my small jaws. This allows me to easily sand off the butt of the handle and add an optional textured feature on the butt with a Wagner tool or Sorby Micro Spiraling tool.



Make the Steel Shaft

6. Cut Music wire cut 4.5 to 5” long for shaft with a Dremel rotary tool with cut off wheel. Glue in the shaft with epoxy (best) or medium CA and let the glue dry before sharpening. Make a long taper about 1” to a fine point on the end of the shaft using a belt sander or side of your grinder wheel. I prefer to use a “bird cage awl” grind with 4 sided taper. This is much better for cutting starter screw holes!

Finish

7. Finish of your choice. I typically use a couple of coats of Antique Oil applying off the lathe.