

Review

Cen-Tech Digital Mini Moisture Meter – Harbor Freight \$12.00



A neighbor cut some limbs from a Cherry tree and gave me some 8 inch diameter pieces. The tree was healthy so the wood is quite “wet”. This is my first attempt at trying to dry wood so here’s what I learned. If the wood is cut into “pen” sized pieces it will dry in about 2 weeks. (My cellar is about 80 degrees and 50 percent humidity.) Drying was first determined by smell and by a cold feeling of the wood. Since this is not very scientific I went looking for a test meter. Most of them are about 100 dollars and have mixed reviews. I thought I would take a chance on a Harbor Freight meter that sold for 12 dollars. It works very well compared to my previous technique. The new wood measured 25 percent moisture. After a week the pen stock was down to 15 percent. Finally, after 2 weeks it was down to 7 percent. Other pen blanks that I had lying around for a year measured zero. The “7 percent” wood turns and finishes as well as purchased pen blanks. By the way, you can dry the pen sticks quickly in a microwave oven but the wood cracks and then starts to burn.

Bruce