

# Whiskey Barrel Pen



On a visit to Cumbria's only distillery the staff kindly gave me some pieces of broken barrel that might otherwise have gone into the skip. Barrels brought in to store the whiskey have previously been used for other purposes. Although they are arguably better suited to be used again, for some daft reason Americans have a policy to use their barrels only once. The primary material here is American White Oak that had been previously used to store bourbon whiskey.

The barrels are burnt on the inside because the oak charcoal is said to absorb impurities during the years of storage. A cross section cut through the stave reveals the beauty of the wood grain beneath and briefly a pleasant odour from the years of contact with the whiskey spirit.



Another barrel type employed in the distillery has been previously used to store sherry. These are made from European Oak. Using these barrels imparts a distinctive flavour to the whiskey that some prefer.



A pen makes a great gift and my gift is that all my pens are made by hand with loving care using only the best quality materials and mechanisms that I can find.

*Andrew Simmons*

**Artist Woodturner - Pens By Andrew**