

1. Discussion – “Wood Finishing”, hosted by John Hemingway:

WOOD FINISHING

Bytown Woodturners – April 5, 2021



- John referenced Bob Flexner’s “Understanding Wood Finishing”.

WHY FINISH WOOD

- Sanitation
- Stabilization
- Decoration

PREPARING THE WOOD SURFACE

- Sanding – Generally to 300 grit sandpaper
- Repair dents and holes
- Adding Epoxies
- Make sure surface is clean
- Are there any other products that you recommend?

- Brian uses sanding sealer for punky wood.
- It can be purchased by the gallon. He has a commercial account with Royal City Paints.
- Brian uses a low angle of lighting to see scratch marks.
- Use new sandpaper, because sandpaper clogs.
- Paul likes abra net and cleans surface frequently with compressor
- He goes up to 600 grit, especially for selling pieces.
- Trevor: Uses salad bowl finish: Doesn't need to add a pre-finish.
- Brian likes Behlen's.
- He uses 5-6 coats for high gloss.
- Food safety: Tung oil or antique oil - Danish oil has driers that are chemical (bad for food), but are supposedly safe when dry.
- Temperature: Working with some finished in winter may be tougher, due to the cold.
- Working with finishes directly on lathe can gum up tools.
- Brian uses a sheet of metal to protect his lathe.
- Russ: sanding sealer.
- Will epoxy adhere to sanding sealer? Unknown.
- Using CA after applying sanding sealer has less chance to mark the wood.
- Paul uses foam brushes lightly to avoid brush marks.
- Sponge brushes can apply finishes more evenly than bristled brushes.
- Brian uses lacquer for urns.
- Michel uses slow turning wheel with a pressurized spray can, with a 50% mix of lacquer.
- He uses a rag on a teflon stick to put the last finish on.

STAINING WOOD

- **Against the Bytown Woodturners' Guild Code.**

FINISHES

- **Linseed Oil – Sand to at least 220 grit prior to first coat. Additional coats added with finer grit sandpaper**
 - **Varnish**
 - **Wax**
 - **Shellac**
 - **Lacquer**

 - **Remember to remove excess product 10 minutes after application**
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- If using linseed oil, Brian says to use double linseed oil, or else it takes forever to cure.
 - Boiling helps to polymerize the oil.

 - Michel: Uses brown paper. It's like sanding, not burnishing.

 - Lacquer:
 - Yves: 1st coat 25% lacquer thinner, let dry.
 - Doesn't colour the wood.

 - Yves: Likes tung oil for burls, prevents cracking.

 - Dave: Has previously used Shellawax with pens.
 - Applies 2 coats.
 - The finish does wear off quickly.
 - For a lost shine, he uses micro-fibre which brings back the shine temporarily.

 - Dave:
 - Uses CA on acrylic pens, at 600 grit.
 - Uses thin CA.

 - Trevor: on pens, starts with lemon oil, then shellac, then wax.

 - Brian: The oils in your hand will break down shellacs.

 - French polish – water will make it cloud.

 - Paul: “Brian do you know ingredients for Behlens?”

- Brian doesn't! know.
- Use stop-loss bags to avoid dried-up finishes.
- No Behlen's on pens!
- Paul: To not alter the natural look of your wood, use a water-based polyurethane spray, applying multiple coats.

Bob uses CA on pens.

He seals the insides of goblets with CA, then applies mineral oil and beeswax.

FILLING THE PORES

- **Paste Wood Filler**
- **Epoxy**
- **Leave pores and seal with finish**

- Possible wood fillers:
- Coffee grounds with CA or epoxy.
- Wes system.
- Brian: CA glue with baking soda. The baking soda also acts as an accelerator.
- Michel: Use dust from your turned piece.
- Turquoise and coral powders are available online.

TWO PART FINISHES

- **Epoxy resins**

- For cracks and inlays, you can use Alumilite (needs to be cured in a pressure pot), the Wes system, or other two-part epoxies.
- You can add brass shavings, alumilite coloured dusts, gold, brass, etc..., and mica powders.
- To remove bubbles, you can also pass a heat gun over the resin.
- Milliput is a two-part compound, which is composed of two compounds that you mix together like a modelling clay.
- It comes in different colours and turns very easily.
- Dave: What is the finish used on resin casts to make them look shiny?
- Nobody knows.

SAFETY

- **Wear a mask - Possibly a respirator – Research wood prior to use.**
- **Gloves depending upon product**
- Brian has a finishing shop.
- Michel: use a fan and filter with a simple box to filter dust particulate.