

FACTS ON FINISHING - a Phil Krym Tutorial 3/3/04

TO GET A FLAWLESS FINISH, YOU NEED TO START WITH A FLAWLESS SURFACE!

Surface Preparation:

Do as much as possible while your piece is still on the lathe.

Keep cutting tools sharp. This reduces tear-out, leaves fewer tool marks to sand out, and cuts the wood without bruising.

When sanding, use quality abrasives, and sand in a well lighted area with good dust collection equipment.

Avoid high speed sanding, as this quickly dulls the abrasive surface and burnishes the wood.

Fill voids which will not be a credit to the work with wood putty, epoxy filler (i.e.. Inlace), or cyanoacrylate (CA) glue mixed with coordinating or complimentary wood dust or metal fillings.

Sanding sealers can be used to first coat the fibers to bind them to the surface, but should be avoided if your final finish will be oil-based or shellac. Sealer is not a good grain filler.

Grain fillers are useful to fill porous areas of end grain. They do not fill voids well, and may discolor the surrounding wood.

A GUIDE TO CHOOSING YOUR FINISH

* Oil finishes

- Easiest to apply
- Most natural look & feel
- Penetrate & protect
- Don't "layer" well
- Don't fill grain well

* Lacquers

- Fairly durable, but soft
- Dry quickly
- Resist most household chemicals
- Hot finish - each coat chemically bonds to previous coat
- Should be sprayed for best results
- Can fill end grain, but won't fill voids
- Prone to "orange peel" and "fish eyes"

* Varnishes, Urethanes, and Polyurethanes

Very hard & abrasion resistance surface

Very chemical resistant

Cold finish - each coat is a separate layer

Fills end grain and small voids well

Prone to "orange peel" and "fish eyes"

* Shellac

Easy to apply with brush, spray, or rag

Hot finish - each coat chemically bonds to previous coat

Makes a good sealant

Is not alcohol resistant

* Wax

Best protection against moisture when properly applied

Cannot be refinished with traditional finishes

A mixture of peanut oil & beeswax makes a good, but matte, salad bowl finish