

Activity Information and Reminders

The Virginia Symposium will occur again this year and will be held the first weekend in November, at the Greenfield Education and Training Center in Daleville, VA. More information can be found at www.virginiawoodturners.org.

Newbie Finishes Last by Ed Karch

Yep finish is the last thing that goes on the wood. But first before you slosh on your favorite oily brew sand, then sand some more, then sand some more. If you can see any tool marks, torn grain, or course sanding marks you aren't done. I often have to backup a grit or two when it finally gets smooth enough for the rough stuff to start glaring at me. If you are going for gloss you need to sand until it reflects. Satin can stop a grit or two earlier. Just remember that the finish goes on before the finish goes on.

The type of finish depends on the object to be finished. On small stuff I use friction polish. There are usually swirl marks no matter how carefully you apply. A session on the buffer wheels will cure the swirl.

I do mostly bowls and hollows. The vast majority of bowl/hollow turners use Watco Danish oil. I used it back when Watco owned Watco. It is now very difficult to find out what the contents are and who brewed the stuff. I don't like the drying time of Watco. I prefer Minwax Tung Oil Finish if I am trying to bring out the grain pattern. It has more solids and will dry in a day or two max. However, it isn't even a close relative to Tung oil which is why the word finish is in the name. The oil is soy bean and is not a drying oil so chemical dryers have to be added to polymerize it. Two or three coats of this brew followed by a buffing session will do just fine as a finish. Some folks use mineral oil but that is not a drying oil and can seep out later. You might as well use 30 weight it is a cheaper mineral oil. Do you want to eat your salad oiled with a laxative?

I have recently tried using deft sanding sealer as a wipe on. It will work but all sanding sealers contain opaque materials which can dull the wood surface as it seals small scratches and pores. If you want a wipe on lacquer use gloss and dilute with lacquer thinner. Don't forget to wear your respirator (not mask) as this stuff is not good for air breathers.

For more finish information go to <http://woodcentral.com> and click on Russ's corner. These are Russ Fairfield's articles on finishing. He is the turner's finishing guru and all around good fellow.

Things to Ponder

- ⇒ Don't take life too seriously; No one gets out alive.
- ⇒ Beauty is in the eye of the beer holder.
- ⇒ Consciousness: That annoying time between naps.
- ⇒ Being "over the hill" is much better than being under it!
- ⇒ Wrinkled Was Not One of the Things I Wanted to Be When I grew up.
- ⇒ Procrastinate Now!

Thanks to Jim Marstall for these, more to follow in the future.