

Methods for Finishing Techniques

By Michael Ferreira, artist

I. PRIMERS & SEALERS—2 ways to achieve sealed wood.

A. Shellac

1. SHELLAC SEALER (every object is first sealed with shellac no matter the paint or final finish)
2. Shellac: Use 2 lb. ultra-blonde, DEWAXED (2 oz. shellac flakes added to 8 ounces, denatured alcohol)
3. Shellac application: rag on first coat. Repeat shellac application for second coat. I use a small squirt bottle filled with shellac to do this.
 1. Use 600 grit sand paper after first coat has dried (30 min. minimum dry time, longer is better). Second coat sanded same way. Maybe 3 coats too.
4. Wood is ready for paint application, i.e., auto-air, Japan color, or top-coat (lacquer or urethane).

B. B.I.N.

1. “Zinzer BIN” shellac based primer. Water base available (I don’t use the water base type)
2. Use BIN for surfaces that are to be painted.
 - a. Sand wood surface to 220 grit
 - b. Spray BIN to get full thick coverage without drips to obtain first attempt at wood grain filling and sealing.
 - c. Sand out imperfections, almost sanding off first coat.
 - d. Spray second coat to get full thick coat once again. 24hrs. dry.
 - e. Use 320 grit to sand out imperfections, basically re-leveling but keep from sanding through to wood.
 - f. Repeat until wood grain and coverage are achieved (3 to 6 times).

C. Vinyl Sealer—must first pre-seal w/ shellac for better results.

VINYL

1. Use Sherwin Williams brand Vinyl Sealer when using CAB acrylic Lacquer. Sealer must be sanded prior to top-coating with CAB lacquer. Use 220grit or 320 grit if desired. (Note: Vinyl sealer must be top-coated within 4 hrs. of sanding or must re-sand/scuff again.)

II. PAINTS: coloring the wood—2 methods

A. “AutoAir” brand water-born paint (automotive paint). Do not sand between coats. Solvent—water. (Note: AutoAir must be top-coated with urethane only, not lacquer.) You may try it, I haven’t yet.

B. “Japan Colors” brand (chemical bond). Solvent—paint thinner. Sanding allowed but not necessary

III. TOP-COAT—TWO METHODS

A. Catalyzed urethane (any brand). Solvent—lacquer thinner

1. If dry, must sand between coats--mechanical bond (600 to 1000 grit wet/dry)

2. Unless recoating after minimum ‘flash’ time (10 to 30 mins depending on temperature-70 degrees is ideal temp), must sand/scuff. Let dry at least 24 hrs. before sanding/scuffing. (Note: Colder weather requires longer flash times between coats)

B. Gloss CAB acrylic lacquer. Solvent--lacquer thinner

1. No sanding required between coats--chemical bond. Sand if desired (220 or 320 grit) for smoother surface prior to additional coats.

IV. GILDING PATINA (OPTIONAL)

Gilding and patinas are performed after sealing with shellac or any paint but BEFORE vinyl sealer and top-coat is performed.

Important: Only solvent based vinyl sealer and top-coats can be used over patinated gilding surfaces. Water borne top-coats are incompatible over patinated gilding. They will dissolve the patina color.

A. 'Cold' Patina: My chemical formulas

1. Potash
2. Ammonium Chloride
 - i. Patina formulas
 1. For Silver gilding: Pea sized (approx.) potash added to 8oz. warm water
 2. For Copper gilding: 1/8 tea spoon (approx.) and 4 to six level table spoons ammonium chloride. Mix into 8 oz. warm water.

B. Patina Application

1. Crumpled white tissue paper dampened with water placed on sealed object to be gilded.
2. Cotton balls to apply formula onto object
3. Continuously apply formula to object until desired results--coloring achieved—approx. 5 to 10 mins. application time

C. Spray Equipment

1. Top-coating with urethane or lacquer: Gravity Feed "Binks" (manufacture name) spray gun: 1.3 mm fluid tip
2. For "AutoAir" paint: Gravity Feed "Sata" (manufacture name) spray mini-gun: 0.8 mm fluid tip or other quality mini-spray gun (Iwata is now the best on the market).
3. Air compressor—any capacity with moisture/oil filter-trap
4. Air pressure
 - a: Urethane: 25 PSI—it's very watery
 - b: lacquer: 40 PSI—quite viscous
 - c: Japan Colors--(very thick stuff): 35 to 40 psi—I may thin up to 25%.

V. PRODUCT SOURCES

--"Zinzzler" BIN Shellac based primer. Don't thin. Any Home depot or Lowes.

--Silver and Copper gilding, "AutoAir" paint, "Japan Color" paint, plus 'gilding size': Pacific Coast Paint Supply, Portland Or. 800-752-0028

--Gloss CAB Acrylic Lacquer p/n T75-C-15 and Vinyl Sealer p/n T67-F-3: Sherwin Williams Industrial Coatings, Airport Way, Portland, Or. 503-249-0222. (Note: one gallon minimums per product)

--Catalyzed urethane top-coat: Any automotive paint supplier. Available in Qts. and Gals. (Note: must purchase both urethane AND hardener)

--De-waxed, Ultra-Blonde Shellac flakes: Order on-line from any website that has it—one pound min purchase.

--Denatured Alcohol: Any Home Depot or Lowes