

**Furniture Restoration, Repair & Refinishing With Mitch Kohanek
May 13-17, 2019**

Greetings,

I am looking forward to working with you on restoring or refinishing the wooden objects you have. Just like woodworking, refinishing/restoration can be fairly easy or incredibly complex, so it is important to keep in mind that *every wooden object is unique and so are its problems*.

It is important that:

1. **You email me pictures of what you would like to work on and an explanation of what you think needs to be accomplished.** We want to make sure that your expectations can be accomplished in the time that we have regarding:
 - a. Repairing
 - b. Regluing
 - c. Refinished/restored
 - d. Spot repair
 - e. New parts
2. **If the object needs refinishing, I will need to know what you expect the new finish is going to look like.** Example: The new finish has to be color matched to something else. Or, the new finish does not have to match any particular item.
3. Due to the chemical nature of coatings, there isn't any one stripper that dissolves every coating. So any materials that do not strip off will have to be sanded off.
4. **Opaque painted objects are highly discouraged** as they can be extremely time consuming to strip by hand.

Suggestions:

1. **Find a "garage" sale piece of furniture to refinish. Learn the procedure of refinishing on something without having the fear of that piece coming out perfect. Make the learning process more important than the outcome of the object.**
2. If you have something you made that is unfinished you can bring that to work on.

Outline for the week

1. Lecture: Restore or refinish?
 - a. How to determine what coating is already on the wood
 - b. Solvent testing and solvent cleaning
 - c. French polishing
2. Structural repairs
 - a. Regluing
 - b. Veneer patching
 - c. Spot repair
3. How to determine what coating is already on the wood
4. Chemistry of furniture strippers
 - a. How to use these varieties of strippers
5. Sanding procedures
6. Coloring the wood
7. Tools for applying finishes, rags, brushes, spraying equipment
8. Sealing the wood
9. Top coating the wood
10. Rubbing out the finish
11. Finishing the Finish

Safety, Health Supplies

1. Safety goggles, glasses or face mask used when you are stripping or pouring solvents.
2. Gloves used when stripping furniture. *Make sure they are chemically resistant to methylene chloride.* This is the main ingredient used in most paint strippers. Here is a web site to visit to assist you in choosing the glove of your choice. Prices do vary.
 - a. https://www.ansellpro.com/download/Ansell_7thEditionChemicalResistanceGuide.pdf
3. Gloves for when you are staining your project: Nitrile gloves work well.
4. Paper dust masks when sanding.
5. Respirator, if solvents bother you.
6. Apron

Tools and Supplies

The tools you will need are directly related to the needs of the projects you are bringing. This is a list of potential tools that could come in handy while you are here. Bring what you can if you need them.

Suggested Tools - if they are needed for your project

Hammers: Dead blow, veneer, claw

Hand plane: block, smoothing

Small hand saw

Drill and drill bits

Chisels: for repairing

Chisels for scraping old glue out of joints

Scrapers

Sharpening stones

Pliers

Files and rasps

Tape measure

Square

Razor blade or craft knife

Brushes

Size and shape of brushes are determined by the size and shape of the object. You will have to determine what brushes fit your project. One size does not fit all.

Here are some suggestions for selection of brushes.

Shellac

1. Small objects like jewelry boxes, ball and claw feet, routered edges,
 - a. Robert Simmons Sapphire brushes: ¼ inch, ½ inch, ¾ inch, 1 inch
 - i. Three shapes to choose from: Filbert, Oval or Flat. Filbert and Oval works well for curved surfaces such as a routered edge. Flat works well with flat surfaces.
 - b. Dick Blick Mega Brush #30 1 ½ inch
2. Chairs, small book cases, end tables etc
 - a. Dick Blick Mega Brush: (one of these) #30, #40, #50
 - b. And/or Grammercy Ox Hair; One and two inch (thicker brush holds more material.
 - c. The Robert Simmons brushes are also very useful for these types of objects.
3. Table tops
 - a. Grammercy Ox Hair Brush: Two or three inch
 - b. The Dick Blick Mega Golden Taklon Brush #40 or #50 Flat or Filbert works well for table tops.

Here are some suggested brushes for Oil Base Varnish and Lacquer and Waterbase. There are not as many choices of shapes and sizes for Oil Base Varnish and Lacquer.

1. Brand names commonly found at paint stores: Purdy, Wooster, Corona
2. Oil base varnish: Blond China bristle or an Ox-flo (a combination of china bristle and ox hair).
3. Brushing lacquer:
 - a. Blond China bristle or an Ox-flo (a combination of china bristle and ox hair).
 - b. Grammercy Brush – Ox Hair - Tools for Woodworkers: 1 inch, 2 inch, 3 inch
4. Waterbase: Taklon (type of bristle):
 - a. Robert Simmons (name brand) sold at Michaels Art Stores, Dick Blick.
 - b. Homestead finishing: www.homesteadfinishingproducts.com
 - c. Grammercy (name brand) found at Tools for Wood Working. They have a white bristle one inch, two inch and three inch. Make sure you get the White Bristle Brush for Waterbase.

Vendors for Brushes for Shellac

1. Dick Blick for Mega Brushes – Golden Taklon
 - a. : <https://www.dickblick.com/products/blick-mega-golden-taklon-brushes/>
2. Dick Blick for Robert Simmons Filbert, Oval Wash and Flat Wash
 - a. <https://www.dickblick.com/products/robert-simmons-sapphire-brushes-for-watercolors/>
3. Tools for Woodworkers: Ox Hair brushes: three sizes
 - a. <https://www.toolsforworkingwood.com/store/item/GT-SHEBRU.XX/Ox-hair?searchterm=brushes>
4. The Brush Guys for Robert Simmons Filbert, Oval Wash and Flat Wash:
 - a. <http://www.thebrushguys.com/cgi-bin/sc-v4/proddisp.pl?client=firesaleguys&catid=1&PRID=1784>

Sanding Blocks

Sanding blocks come in handy especially for flat surfaces. I like the cork block or the felt block for dry sanding. I have two felt blocks, one for dry sanding and one for rubbing out the finish with pumice and oil. The rubber block is useful for wet sanding with sandpaper which is use in the final step of the finishing process on lacquer. You won't need the rubber one for this class. I will demonstrate its use so you can decide on that one later. You can purchase these blocks at Mohawk Finishing Products: <https://www.mohawk-finishing.com/products/tools-accessories/sanding-blocks/>

Spraying Equipment

1. If you own spraying equipment, bring it with you.
2. We will have access to spraying equipment at MASW

Supplies

1. Blue or Green Tape
2. Can Opener
3. Zip Lock bags for small parts
4. Touch Up supplies if you have any
5. Apron

I look forward to seeing you at MASW

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