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## **Shellac and Lacquer Systems** **August 5-9, 2019**

Greetings,

It will be my pleasure meeting you at the Marc Adams School of Woodworking for a class on Shellac and Lacquer Systems.

Shellac is much more durable than it is given credit for. Applied correctly on the correct object it is more durable than you think, plus it is a very attractive finish. Lacquer is the staple of the wood finishing industry. You can perform some fast finishing procedures if you adapt to a lacquer finishing system of dyes, stains, glazes and toners.

It is important that you understand that the solvents used in these two systems are flammable, especially lacquer. Solvent based lacquer is "cellulose nitrate" and is used to make bombs. Lacquer solvents make them even more concerning because they need proper ventilation. Something as simple as a spark driven motor in your turbine sprayer and the amount of solvents in the air can be dangerous.

*We will not be using water base lacquer or oil base varnishes.*

### **Tools and Materials**

1. Blue or Green roll of tape
2. Can opener
3. Sanding blocks: Cork or Felt for dry sanding. Rubber block for wet sanding which is an option for you. It is used on lacquer when using the higher grits for higher sheens. I have a second felt block that I use with pumice and oil on shellac.
  - a. <https://www.mohawk-finishing.com/products/tools-accessories/sanding-blocks/>
4. Apron

Having your own brushes for this class is necessary. There are several suggested brushes listed below. Brush selection is based on the size and shape of the project. You will have to determine what brushes fit your type of projects. For shellac there is a variety while with lacquer you are limited. Aerosol cans of shellac don't work as well as aerosol cans of lacquer. I have used aerosol cans of lacquer on some rather large projects.

You don't need all of the brushes below, unless of course you have large and small projects to finish.

Brushes for shellac have numerous shapes and sizes while lacquer brushes are not.

*For shellac, at the minimum, you should have a #30 or #40 Dick Blick Mega Brush whether it be the Oval Wash or the Flat Wash. These will work well with the small panels you will be working on.*

Here are some suggestions for selection of brushes.

Shellac

1. Small objects like jewelry boxes, ball and claw feet, routed 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 routed edge. Flat works well with flat surfaces.

- b. Dick Blick Mega Golden Taklon Brush #30 1 ½ inch
2. Chairs, small book cases, end tables etc
  - a. Dick Blick Mega Golden Taklon 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.

#### Vendors for Shellac Brushes

1. Dick Blick for Mega Golden Taklon Brushes
  - 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>

#### Lacquer Brushes

1. Lacquer brushes do not come in a variety of shapes and sizes.
2. Grammercy Ox Hair brushes: a one inch for small projects, a two inch for bigger flat surfaces. [https://www.toolsforworkingwood.com/store/item/GT-SHEBRU.XX/Gramercy Tools Finishing Brushes for Shellac and Lacquer](https://www.toolsforworkingwood.com/store/item/GT-SHEBRU.XX/Gramercy%20Tools%20Finishing%20Brushes%20for%20Shellac%20and%20Lacquer)
3. Corona, Purdy, Wooster are also good names in brushes. You want a natural bristle not a synthetic brush. Your choices are Blond China Bristle, Ox-flo (combination of Blond China Bristle and Ox Hair) or pure Ox Hair.

#### Spray guns

1. Spray guns are not required but if possible bring yours along so you can use it. Here are some recommended fluid nozzles and fluid needles to bring. If you have any literature on your spray gun please bring that along.
  - a. Shellac: 1.0
  - b. Lacquer: 1.0 and either a 1.2 or 1.3 or 1.0

**Schedule:** Just enough classroom to understand how and why these two systems work, and as much hands on learning that we can get accomplished.

#### Projects:

1. **If you have a project or two in mind, you will need to contact me for approval.**
  - a. Send me some photos of the projects you would like to finish so we can discuss what you intend to do.
2. You will be finishing several plywood pieces of various species creating story boards, 10 inch by 12 inch in size. You may want to consider a 2 inch (depth) to transport them home or mail them.
  - a. You are encouraged to bring some of the wood that you like to work with. Veneer and solid wood color differently, keep that in mind.
  - b. These panels will be used to apply dyes, stains, glazes, paint and toners. You will learn how to sand in-between coats as well as rubbing them out to the final sheen.

Practice does not make perfect. Perfect practice makes perfect.