

## The Basics of Wood Finishing with Tim Puro

August 17 - 18, 2019

Welcome!

Have you ever built a project and when it comes to finishing you wonder, "Now what do I do?" The class is for you! We will focus on learning the language of finishing and the skills that every finisher needs to know such as how to choose the appropriate finish for your project, using different methods of coloring wood, and learning how to design a finish. At the end of the class you will have finish sample boards that will give them a better understanding how finishing works. While this course won't make you a finishing guru, it hopefully will make finishing more fun and help you get more out of the finishing books and videos that are on market. So if you are ready to move beyond simple wipe on finishing, this course will help you take the next step in the finishing process.

Key Points:

- Proper surface prep – can I sand too much or too little?
- Matching the proper brush to a finish – (We'll give you one brush to take home to get you started.)
- Dyes or stains – which one should I use?
- Shellac, lacquer, oil varnish, poly, water base – how do I choose?
- Tim's rules for a perfect finish
- How much finish is enough?

In addition to working on class samples, I would be glad to look at the furniture you are working on right now, or completed furniture that needs an updated finish. Bring your projects along and bring samples of what you want your furniture to look like.

Should you have any questions about the class please feel free to contact me at 812-333-0779 or via email at [tpuro@comcast.net](mailto:tpuro@comcast.net). I look forward to seeing you there!

Regards,



Timothy Puro

**Questions? Call Tim Puro at 812-333-0779 or email at [tpuro@comcast.net](mailto:tpuro@comcast.net).**

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### Tool List

The stains, finishes and brushes you will use to make sample boards will be provided by the school. However, there are some items you should bring that will come in handy during class.

1. Shop apron if you wear one. It helps keep finish splatters off of your clothes.
2. Roll of blue or green painter's tape for labeling samples.
3. Sharpie marker for writing on the painter's tape
4. Paint can opener.
5. Roll of Scott's *Rags in a Box* white paper towels.
6. Box of blue or black nitrile gloves. You can buy them at Harbor Freight, Lowe's, Menards. Get a box of 50 or 100. While you won't use all of them in class, you will find the gloves are really handy to have around the shop if you aren't already using them.

Also, if you have projects you are working on, bring them along! Let's talk about the look you are trying to achieve and a finish schedule that will help you get there.

**Reading List** Here are some books to add to your finishing/refinishing library.

*Understanding Wood Finishing* – Bob Flexner ISBN 10: 0762101911

*Hand Applied Finishing* – Jeff Jewett ISBN 10: 1561581542

*Spray Finishing Made Simple* – Jeff Jewitt ISBN 10: 1600850928

*Great Wood Finishes* – Jeff Jewitt ISBN 10: 1561583901

## Outline -

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- I. Why Finish? – Protection, beauty, to create a specific “look”
- II. Coloring wood vs. Natural Beauty of Wood.
- III. Terminology of finishing
  - a. Coloring wood
    - i. *Stain*:
    - ii. *Dye*:
    - iii. *Chemical changes*:
  - b. Seal Coat: First coat of finish.
  - c. Top coat: Any clear finish after seal coat
  - d. Glazing: Adding a pigmented stain over a seal coat or top coat.
  - e. Toner: Any clear finish with dye or pigment added.
- IV. Often times, finishes are layers of color
  - a. Most factory-made furniture have layers of color.
  - b. Often times, furniture is dyed yellow or orange & then stain is applied on top of the cured yellow dye.
- V. Dyes, pigmented stains, and dye/pigmented stains.
  - a. Review: Pigment is rock. Dye colors wood at molecular level.
  - b. Hardware store stain colors (Minwax) are designed to work well on a certain type of wood.
  - c. Always remember, sanding affects stain absorption.
- VI. Surface Prep – *“Use sandpaper like someone else is paying for it!”*
  - a. Hand or machine sand?
  - b. Cabinet Scrapers
  - c. How smooth does the wood have to be before a finish? (Less than you think!)
  - d. Sanding between finishes.
- VII. The Top Coat.
  - a. First ask yourself, “How tough does this finish need to be?”
  - b. How much finish is enough?
- VIII. Lab/Sample Panels
  - a. Lab 1-Dyes v. Stains
  - b. Lab 2 – Glazing
  - c. Lab 3 – Brushing Shellac and Waterbased finishes
  - d. Lab 4 – Refinisher’s secret glaze for adding age
  - e. Lab 5 – French Polishing
- IX. Solvents. Which ones do I need and what do they do?
  - a. *Active Solvents*.
  - b. *Latent Solvents* help active solvents do their work.
  - c. *Diluents* do not dissolve any finish.
  - d. Common Solvents & Diluents
    - i. Mineral Spirits and Naphtha
    - ii. Denatured Alcohol
    - iii. Lacquer Thinner
    - iv. Water
- X. Rubbing Out – After a finish has cured for 5-10 days, you can rub out.