

**June 15, 2019**

Welcome!

I look forward to our time together to explore *Using the Finish as an Element of Design* June 15, 2019.

Walk into any high end furniture store and you will see a variety of colors, everything from mocha browns to vibrant reds to white washed tones. The color of furniture is the first thing we see and the finish is the first thing we want to touch. Yet many woodworkers just clear coat their furniture and ignore the design element that first grabs your attention.

In this class we will explore the ways a finish can be used to amplify the color in the wood, to accentuate grain patterns and to make your work stand out from other furniture. You will create a series of designer finish samples and practice using dyes, glazes and colored finishes to create different effects. Once you understand the color and finish palette that is available, you can design furniture with finishes that attract attention.

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

### **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. It is OK to bring designer finish samples you want to duplicate as well. We will fit in as much of this "custom" work as time allows.

### **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

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

## SYLLABUS

When you look at furniture the finish is the first you see and the first thing you want to touch. It is very important to get this right! As a woodworker you spend a lot of time determining what you want the piece to look like...the construction and form. But as you design and build, do you think about what the finish should look like? To build better looking furniture, follow the First Kohanek Rule of Finishing:

*Before you start finishing, first decide what you want the piece to look like.*

Too often woodworkers are afraid of “ruining” their furniture so they apply a clear coat of finish so as to enjoy “the natural beauty of the wood”. The problem is that often that beautifully vibrant color fades until you are left with furniture that is amber, pink and purplish grey.

When designing a piece of furniture you have to design the finish and the color of the piece as well. Here is an outline on how to experiment with color and finishing

1. How to Experiment with Finishes and Color
  - a. Stop using your finished project as the sample board!!!!
  - b. Design the finish first before building the project.
    - i. Create sample boards 8” x 10” of same stock you will build furniture from
    - ii. If you can’t design finish before, design concurrently with building
  - c. Size of sample matters – index card sized vs. 2’ x 2’
  - d. Create a sample quickly using hair dryer to speed drying of solvents.
  - e. Document your work so you can recreate it later. (provide a sheet)
  - f. Once you have a sample you like, recreate in “real time”.
  - g. Does it look like what you envisioned? If not, keep trying!
2. Elements of a finish
  - a. Film Thickness. A clear coat magnifies color in wood. Different film thicknesses of finish can give you a different color.
  - b. Optical quality of the finish. Shellac vs. poly. Old Varnish vs. waterbase.
  - c. Depth – created by layers of color
  - d. Sheen and texture
    - i. Dull oil finish
    - ii. Rubbed satin vs. sprayed satin.
    - iii. Off the gun/brush vs. polished piano gloss
  - e. Orange peel and crud in finish
  - f. How does the finish feel? Waxed and Wool Lube gives a silky feel to the wood.
3. Finishes built up of multiple layers of color can have depth and eye catching appeal.
  - a. Learn to glaze and your furniture will stand out. “Secret” weapon of furniture factories.
  - b. Roofing tar is your best friend – we’ll show you why.
4. Experiment with Designer Finishes
  - a. Everything old is new again.
    - i. Whitewash
    - ii. Grey
    - iii. Espresso
5. Hands On – Student finish samples:
  - a. Making a Quick Sample – learn how to quickly build a color/finish sample
  - b. Factory Finish – make a multi-step finish sample using layers of color
  - c. Dyes v. Stains v. Glazes – make a board that helps you decide which coloring method to use
  - d. Enhancing the Natural Beauty of the Wood – using dyes and glazes to make a finish that enhances the natural beauty of the wood without making the wood look “Stained”.
  - e. Beauty v. Durability sample – can a beautiful finish be durable? You’ll find out!