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Hands-On Finishing with Mitch Kohanek
March 30-April 3, 2020
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It will be my pleasure to return to the MASW and have the opportunity to share with you the art and science of wood finishing. This is a "hands-on" wood finishing class with ample time set aside for lectures to help you understand *why* you decided on a finishing system that best fits your needs. It is important to me that you develop your own system of finishing based on: what options you have for finishing supplies and where you are going to do your finishing. The goal is to discover your finishing system and perfect it - *BEFORE* you build your next project. There are two basic fundamentals for all wood working projects: Function and Design. Same can be said for the wood finishing process.

Our format for Monday and Tuesday will be using a variety of dyes, stains and chemicals to help you understand how to color wood. On Tuesday you will begin to apply sealers and topcoats to your work. By midday on Wednesday you will have gained enough information to understand your choices of coloring agents and coatings. On Wednesday afternoon and all day Thursday, it will be totally shop time. You can use this time to zero in on what finishing system makes sense to you and have time to work on it. On Friday morning I will lecture to further assist you on getting a deeper understanding of what products you have to choose from. It will be our goal to eliminate what you do not need and focus in on what your finishing system will be. I will also be demonstrating how to rub out finishes to the desired sheen.

The plywood panels that will be supplied will fit in a 2 inch x12 inch x 12 inch box. You may want to consider having one in the event you want to mail it back home.

Syllabus

1. Introductions
2. Safety
3. Need for learning
4. Wood finishing terminology
5. Wood identification
6. Abrasives for wood
7. Surface preparation
8. Coloring agents
9. Penetrating finishes
10. Transparent coatings
11. Tools for applying finishes
12. Opaque coatings
13. Abrasives for coatings
14. Sheen control
15. Rubbing out a finish
16. Finishing the finish

Tool List

Items you need to bring with you.

1. Blue or green tape
2. Can opener
3. Gloves: A box of Nitrile
3. Shop apron
4. Respiratory protection, if desired
5. If you have spraying equipment please bring it with you.
6. Brushes: Brush sizes and shapes are dependent on the size and shape of the object. Sizes can range from ¼ inch to a four inch brush. While shellac and Waterbase finishes allow a wider range of shapes and sizes. Brushing lacquers and varnishes are more limiting in size and shape.
7. Bringing brushes is **Optional**: If you know you like shellac, here are some suggestions for excellent brushes.
 - a. *Small objects – flat surfaces*: Robert Simmons (name brand) Sapphire Series ¾ Flat Wash Brush. Sold at Michaels Art Store and at Dick Blick
 - b. *Small objects – curved surfaces*: Robert Simmons (name brand) Sapphire Series ¾ inch Oval Wash Brush. Sold at Michaels Art Store and at Dick Blick
 - c. Wider brushes: Dick Blick Mega Brushes
 1. Flat Wash or Filbert #30 (1 ½ inch wide) Brown Nylon
 - d. Larger objects such as table tops: Grammercy (name brand) has a thicker brush which holds more material. Works well for larger flat surfaces. The dark Ox Hair brushes are for shellac. They have a one inch, two inch and a three inch brush. Purchase them at "Tools for Working Wood."
 - i. <https://www.toolsforworkingwood.com/>
 - ii. Search: Grammercy Brushes
8. Bring wood that you normally work with to practice wood finishing on. Sizes do not matter, bring what you can.
9. Optional: Bring small to medium size objects that you would like to start finishing. **Send me a picture of what you intend to bring so that I can critique it with you.**
 - a. small end table, jewelry box, chair
10. **Sanding blocks**: Bring what you have. If don't have one, consider the following. They are sanding blocks I like to use.
11. M902-1000 Felt Block 4x2x1 for dry wood sanding or for oil/pumice sanding for the rubbing out of the finish. I have two of them. One for sanding wood and one for the pumice and oil rubout.
12. M902-2000 Cork Block 4x2x2 for dry wood sanding
13. M902-3000 Rubber Block 3/4x2x1 for wet sanding with water,
14. Where to purchase them: Mohawk Finishing Products
 - a. <https://www.mohawk-finishing.com/products/tools-accessories/sanding-blocks/>

See you soon,

Mitch