

SOME THOUGHTS ON WAXING AND POLISHING – talk by Chris Barrett at April 2012 meeting

PURPOSE

- To produce a decorative effect eg a shine - do we still have an obsession with shining
- Accentuate the grain
- Provide a depth to the grain.

This can be done either by polishing or waxing and polishing.

POLISHING.

- Sand to about 400 grit-this will to an extent achieve all three above.
- Finish with webrax
- Sanding sealer ?
- Burnish with shavings-reduce lathe speed and watch fingers, put shavings on a pad.

WAXING and POLISHING.

Not suitable for:

- items used with food.
- open grain wood
- if the item is going to be subject to wear
- if the item is likely to come in contact with moisture, heat or alcohol
- if the item has a lot of decoration where wax can get tapped.

OK for:

- Decorative items which are not going to be subject to wear
- Where a high shine is desirable- care, it will show up all the defects,
- Close grain woods- some woods will take a shine better than others
- Repolishing is possible if necessary

SOME DOES AND DON'T'S

- Apply sparingly and keep the number of coats to a minimum- one is usually enough
- Sand well and carefully.
- Apply a coat of sanding sealer (diluted 1 to 4 with thinners) and wipe off excess immediately. Allow plenty of time to dry thoroughly.
- Keep all polishing rags dry.
- Watch the ambient temperature.

WHAT TYPE OF WAX?

Ideally a wax containing equal quantities of CARNAUBA and BEESWAX.

A wax with a volatile solvent.

Or a wax stick - containing equal parts of Carnauba and Beeswax.

MY PREFERRED METHOD.

1. Sand to 400 grit and webrax- allow to cool
2. Apply sanding sealer as above- drying time will vary.
3. Apply BRIWAX sparingly with the lathe stationary until there is the hint of a shine(Briwax is available in different colours)
4. Leave to harden.
5. Burnish with a soft polishing cloth whilst the lathe is running on a slow speed- care with possible loose ends of cloth- watch heat generation.
6. Leave to cool and harden before removing from lathe..

AT THE END OF THE DAY THE PREFERRED METHOD IS WHAT YOU ARE MOST COMFORTABLE WITH.