

I DO IT MY WAY; YOU CAN TOO

I was never taught the process of finishing my furniture projects. My father and I worked through the mysteries surrounding this subject using a trial-and-error approach. I think the outcome of those trials, pictured on selections taken from my books, shows I must be doing something right – and I hope you agree. Follow the recipes and you too can stand back and look proudly at the results.



Photo by Tim Grondin

Massachusetts High Chest

From "Glen Huey's Illustrated Guide to Building Period Furniture"
Mahogany hardwood

- 1 ■ Spray a coat of Moser's Dark Antique Sheraton aniline dye.
- 2 ■ Sand with #400-grit wet/dry sandpaper.
- 3 ■ Spray one coat of blonde shellac.
- 4 ■ Sand with a 3M fine sanding sponge.
- 5 ■ Apply a heavy-bodied glaze – Mohawk Van Dyke Brown.
- 6 ■ Spray three coats of blonde shellac.
- 7 ■ Rub out with #0000 steel wool and Behlen Wool-Lube.
- 8 ■ Apply a coat of paste wax.



Photo by Tim Grondin

Pennsylvania Tall Case Clock

From "Glen Huey's Illustrated Guide to Building Period Furniture"

Mahogany hardwood

- 1 ■ Spray a coat of Moser's Dark Wine Cherry aniline dye.
- 2 ■ Sand with #400-grit wet/dry sandpaper.
- 3 ■ Spray one coat of blonde shellac.
- 4 ■ Sand with a 3M fine sanding sponge.
- 5 ■ Spray three coats of Sherwin-Williams Dull-rubbed Effect Lacquer (T70F63).

FINISHING TIP

- Make it a practice, when spraying multiple coats of finish, to change the spray pattern of the nozzle with each coat – one with the fan horizontal, then one vertical. This method eliminates lapping lines.

Shaker Small Chest of Drawers

From "Building Fine Furniture"

Cherry hardwood

- 1 ■ Spray a coat of Moser's Dark Wine Cherry aniline dye.
- 2 ■ Sand with #400-grit wet/dry sandpaper.
- 3 ■ Spray one coat of Sherwin-Williams Lacquer Sanding Sealer (T60F64).
- 4 ■ Sand with a 3M fine sanding sponge.
- 5 ■ Spray three coats of Sherwin-Williams Dull-rubbed Effect Lacquer (T70F63).



Photo by Al Parrish

Chippendale Entertainment Center

From "Fine Furniture for a Lifetime"

Flame or curly birch hardwood

- 1 ■ Spray a coat of Moser's Golden Amber Maple aniline dye.
- 2 ■ Sand with #400-grit wet/dry sandpaper.
- 3 ■ Spray one coat of Sherwin-Williams Lacquer Sanding Sealer (T60F64).
- 4 ■ Sand with a 3M fine sanding sponge.
- 5 ■ Spray three coats of Sherwin-Williams Dull-rubbed Effect Lacquer (T70F63).



Photo by Al Parrish



Photo by Al Parrish

Slant-lid Desk on Frame

From "Building Fine Furniture"

Tiger maple hardwood

- 1 ■ Spray a coat of Moser's Golden Amber Maple aniline dye.
- 2 ■ Sand with #400-grit wet/dry sandpaper.
- 3 ■ Apply a soaking coat of boiled linseed oil.
- 4 ■ Rub with a maroon non-woven abrasive pad.
- 5 ■ Spray four coats of blonde shellac.
- 6 ■ Rub-out with #0000 steel wool and Behlen Wool-Lube.
- 7 ■ Apply a coat of paste wax.

Seymour Sideboard

From "Fine Furniture for a Lifetime"

Mahogany, tiger maple and walnut hardwoods

- 1 ■ Brush on four coats of oil/varnish mixture.
- 2 ■ Apply a coat of paste wax.

FINISHING TIPS

- Remove small sags or runs in your shellac using a single-edge razor blade. Use the blade as you would a small scraper.
- Finishing the drawer box (with the exception of the front) will cause problems with operation. Also, future generations will not be able to see any natural patina.
- Light or clear waxes will effectively remove dark waxes.



Photo by Al Parrish

Shaker Sewing Desk

From "Fine Furniture for a Lifetime"

Tiger maple hardwood

- 1 ■ Spray a coat of Moser's Golden Amber Maple aniline dye.
- 2 ■ Sand with #400-grit wet/dry sandpaper.
- 3 ■ Apply a soaking coat of boiled linseed oil.
- 4 ■ Rub with a maroon non-woven abrasive pad.
- 5 ■ Spray one coat of blonde shellac.
- 6 ■ Sand with a 3M fine sanding sponge.
- 7 ■ Spray three coats of Sherwin-Williams Dull-rubbed Effect Lacquer (T70F63).



Photo by Al Parrish

New York/Canadian Stepback Cupboard

From "Fine Furniture for a Lifetime"

Painted pine

- 1 ■ Stain with Moser's Golden Amber Maple aniline dye.
- 2 ■ Sand with #400-grit wet/dry sandpaper.
- 3 ■ Spray two coats of blonde shellac.
- 4 ■ Sand with a 3M fine sanding sponge.
- 5 ■ Apply a coat of acrylic latex paint with a little sawdust added. I used Olde Century Colors in Yankee Blue.
- 6 ■ Wipe paint to simulate wear.
- 7 ■ Add a coat of dark brown Briwax.

FINISHING TIPS

- Raw linseed oil will not dry properly. Make sure to use the boiled product.
- The cut in shellac is the amount of shellac flakes, in weight, that is dissolved into a gallon of denatured alcohol.
- If you elect to brush the shellac, use a good brush. The better the brush, the better the results.



Photo by Al Parrish



Photo by Al Parrish

18th-century Hanging Cupboard

From "Building Fine Furniture"

Walnut hardwood

- 1 ■ Spray four coats of garnet shellac, lightly sanded between each coat.
- 2 ■ Rub out with #0000 steel wool and Behlen Wool-Lube.
- 3 ■ Apply a coat of paste wax.

Massachusetts Blockfront Chest

From "Glen Huey's Illustrated Guide to Building Period Furniture"

Cherry hardwood

- 1 ■ Stain with Moser's Dark Wine Cherry aniline dye.
- 2 ■ Sand with #400-grit sandpaper.
- 3 ■ Spray one coat of blonde shellac.
- 4 ■ Sand with a 3M fine sanding sponge.
- 5 ■ Apply a heavy-bodied glaze – Mohawk's Van Dyke Brown.
- 6 ■ Spray two coats of blonde shellac.
- 7 ■ Sand with a 3M fine sanding sponge.
- 8 ■ Spray three coats of Sherwin-Williams Dull-rubbed Effect Lacquer (T70F63). PW



Photo by Tim Grondin