

Cellulose Lacquer Sanding Sealer Finishing Technique - Gary Miller

Mohawk has specialized in providing professional finishing products to commercial finishers and after-market French Polishers etc. for many years and are head-quartered in New York. Their “Tone Finish” series are pressurized products of the highest quality.

Where I lived in Vancouver they had a Mohawk Store but not so here in Ontario. Richelieu Hardware is now their official distributor and I was unable to get product from their Quebec Distribution Centre so I bought from Richelieu in Flint Michigan (I brought back a year's supply). I'm told that their outlet in Kitchener Ontario will sell directly but so far I haven't had to try. This is the product I buy:

1. Tone Finish Clear Lacquer Sanding Sealer - M102-0423

They also sell gloss lacquer if you want it:

2. Tone Finish Clear Lacquer Gloss/75-80 Sheen - M102-0420

The nice thing about cellulose lacquer is it chemically bonds to itself. It is not necessary to sand between coats. After finish sanding the wood I apply anywhere from 3 to 5 coats of the SEALER (until the wood no longer absorbs in the “dry” spots). I generally do it right on the lathe.

Shake the can vigorously for about a minute before using each time. Protect your lathe bed etc. with cloths. I set my spindle speed way down (to maybe 50 - 100 rpm) and spray light coats, while the piece is turning, from about 10”-12” away. Keep the spray can moving, so you don't allow any heavy wet spots to form (you don't want runs). Spray just until the surface begins to look slightly wet all over (just a few seconds). Some spots will begin to look dry almost immediately as some areas will absorb more quickly than others (mainly end grain) but that's alright. Let it dry for 10 minutes.

Repeat the process as many times as it takes until there are no more spots that absorb the sealer quickly. If there are only a few spots that continue to absorb, apply lightly just to those areas as it's not necessary to re-apply to the whole surface (again, it's not a problem because it's a chemical bond). Typically, 3 to 5 coats in total should do it. Sand it back to a smooth, consistently dull surface with 320 sand paper (it will clog up some so change it often), then rub it back with 0000 steel wool. This will

provide a beautiful, low sheen finish. If you want a higher gloss, use Shellawax Ultrashine which has a polishing agent in it (Tripili). You can then use Shellawax liquid if you want an even higher shine.

Finally, use a very light coat of Renaissance wax.

For those who prefer a Tung Oil finish, you can use a polymerized Tung oil, like Waterlox, directly over the lacquer sealed basecoat.

Note: Make sure you use lacquer in a well-ventilated area away from any source of flame. It's very volatile.

Note: if you're working on small pieces you can spray the lacquer generously onto a small folded piece of cloth or paper towel and apply it by hand. You use less and there's less likelihood of overspray problems.

ONWARD (Mohawk Distribution Center)

Address	Phone	Toll Free	Fax
800, Wilson Ave. Unit 2	519-578-3770	1-800-387-6392	519-742-5683
Kitchener, ON			1-800-560-1306
N2C0A2			