

Finishing by Dave Bloom

What is your sanding medium of choice?

1. **Carborundum premium dry lube Aluminum oxide resin paper, open coat.**
2. **3M Tri-m-ite free wt A weight, open coat.**
3. **Abralon pads**
4. **Micro mesh**

What grit do you normally sand to?

Sand through the grits using paper starting at 120, 150, 180, 220, 320, 400, from this point on I use Abralon pads starting at the 500, 1000, 2000 and 4000. I power sand using a homemade pad sander mounted in a drill. Pad sander can be made from 3M Roloc type quick change disc sander. I use a permanent mount spray adhesive to attach a sponge to the disc then attach leather to the sponge. I can then use PSA paper sticking it to the leather.

Do you wet sand?

I wet sand with oil. Some examples are Behlens oil varnish, Waterlox urethane oil, Watco, etc. I sand with paper 400 or 600 while the piece is on the lathe. I sand by hand to eliminate trouble spots that I can't take care of with normal sanding.

APPLYING A SEALER

Do you apply a sanding sealer?

As stated above I use oil as a seal coat. Usually applying only one coat. I shape, sand and oil the outside of the bowl before turning to hollow the inside. An oil seal coat will help hold the piece when using a vacuum chuck. An oil coat also helps to identify any scratches that might have been missed.

Do you thin?

I do not thin the oil.

Method of application.

I apply with brush or paper towel.

Do you sand back to bare wood?

No, my work is sanded to 400 before I apply the oil. This is considered the sealer coat. After the oil dries and before applying the top coat I scuff sand with 3M sanding pad.

APPLYING A TOP COAT

Do you use sanding sealer as a first step?

The oil I have previously applied acts as the seal coat.

What is your finish of choice?

I prefer M.L. Campbell's Magnalac pre catalyzed lacquer.

Do you use petroleum or water base?

Petroleum based.

How do you apply?

I spray using an HVLP system. Do not apply lots of thick coats. The danger is that is a thick finish that could/will crack.

Is material thinned?

I thin only with M.L. Campbell retarder. The reason is to achieve better flow out when spraying.

How many coats of material do you apply?

I apply a minimum of 3 coats, full strength to both the outside and inside of bowl.

Do you sand between coats?

Yes with 3M super fine sanding pad.

Do you rub out the finish?

If the finish feels rough then I will rub out.

How long do you let the finish cure before rubbing out?

One week minimum. The longer the finish cures the better. Lacquer should cure for 30 days to be food safe.

What material is used to rub out?

“Meguiar’s Professional Fine Cut Cleaner” auto finish rubbing compound. I use this product straight from the can. If the finish is smooth I skip this step. I apply this with an applicator made by gluing lambs wool pad to a 3M type Roloc disc sander that is chucked in a drill. I buff the Meguiar’s with a larger wood pad made the same way as described above.

Is wax applied?

Yes, after rubbing out. I use Renaissance wax applied with a soft rag.

Do you use swirl remover?

No.

Can you offer any tips concerning any of the above processes you have discussed?

Work hard in the sanding process to remove any scratches before finishing. If scratches remain after 1st coat of finish remove before 2nd coat is applied. Finish sanding process before you turn off the bottom holding spigot or recess.

Do not hurry the process.

Material sources:

3M Roloc quick change sanding disc.

A&I supply 1-800-260-2647

ENCO 1-800-873-3626 use-enco.com

MCS msdirect.com

TRIVERS travers.com

ENCO also sells a PSA abrasive disc holder in sizes ½, ¾, 1, 1 ½, 2, 3, 5. These are have a soft flexible rubber.

M.L. Campbell’s Maganalax lacquer - Don Smith Paint in Towanda Plaza, Bloomington

Meguiar’s Professional Fine Cut Cleaner - Napa, Auto Zone, etc...