



Cedar Valley Woodworkers

Cedar Valley Woodworkers Association

Volume 11, Issue 5

Woodcraft

Woodcraft By Craft

May 2010



Reed Craft
President

(Editors note) There are numerous links in this article to activate a link CTRL and mouse click will get you to the web site mentioned in that link

Finishing Lessons from a Small Shop Professional

by Chris Black

If you ask any woodworker what their weakest skill set is, they will probably say finishing. Perhaps it's because we've spent all our time mastering joinery and furniture design that we've neglected the art of finishing. As a result, we relegate ourselves to finishing with something someone recommended at a paint store that may or may not be applicable to what we're doing. Then when that doesn't work out, we fall back on slow-drying, slow-building wiping oil that at least gave us predictable results in the past. Start talking about coloring wood and we're completely lost. We'll try any old can of thin hardware store stain and pray for the best. How come we'll spend days on design and weeks on construction but give little consideration to the coloring process?

Coloring Wood

In my years as a small commercial shop owner, I've learned some valuable lessons about finishing, mostly through trial and error and well, disaster. When coloring a hard, close-pored wood like maple, try using dyes instead of pigment stains. We've all tried that can of off-the-shelf stain. We wipe it on. We wipe it off, and most of it comes off. What doesn't come

off, blotches and splotches. The problem with pigment stain is that the pigment particles are too large. Without large, open, oak-sized wood pores to get lodged in, the pigment has no place to go. It never builds color or worse, it covers unevenly. Dyes, on the other hand, use color that is completely dissolved in its carrier. Therefore, dyes color closed-pored hardwoods much more evenly and with much greater control than pigment stains.

Using Water-based Dyes

When coloring raw wood with [water-based dyes](#), sand the piece with up to 220 grit sandpaper. Next, take a damp sponge and go over the portion to be dyed in order to raise the wood's grain. After the water dries, sand off the fuzzy fibers with 220 grit sandpaper. Now, wet the piece again with the sponge and immediately apply the dye in any manner you like. I generally rag it on. The water from the sponge acts as a wood conditioner and guarantees a uniform appearance with little chance of splotching. Try it, you'll be amazed.

To short-cut the procedure, put the dye down with a grey [Scotch-Brite Hand Pad](#) (196202) going with the grain. The abrasive pad will cut down the grain as it rises from the moisture in the dye, and you won't have to sponge and sand.

How about knotty softwoods like pines, spruces and firs? You can employ the

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For Sale
-1994 Craftsman Bandsaw
Price \$ 100.00
Contact Roger Gast
319-215-4522 H or
641-425-1204C



For Sale
1961 Dewalt Radial Arm Saw
Contact Bill Fee
319-266-9365 or e-mail
bjfee@cfu.net



For sale
Woodworking table
\$100 or best offer
Phone # 231-1536

For Sale
6" jointer, \$225.00.
Contact: Tom Bussey
641-435-4354 or email:
tebussey@gmail.com



For sale
Craftsman oscillating drum sander. Asking 120.00.
Bill & Becky Neal 2451 Windfall Ave Nashua, IA 50658
641-435-4482 641-330-1424 cell

The Oak Bulletin Board

The regular CVWA Meeting Will be held at the Waterloo Center for the Arts 225 Commercial at 6:30 May11, 2010

The next Executive Board meeting will be Wednesday May 19, 2010, 7:00 PM at Hy-Vee Crossroads meeting room.

Scroll saw club meeting , May 27 , 6:00 PM at Art Mehman 's shop in Plainfield.

Corridor Wood turners meeting May13, 2010 at John Schwartzkopf's Shop in the Cherry Building 329 10th Ave SE in Cedar Rapids.

The Amana Colonies furniture factory is having a Wood Fest in October 2010 more details will be provided when they become available. Even if you don't buy any thing it should be an interesting experience.

10th Annual Shop Tours & Picnic

Don't forget to mark Sunday August 8th on your calendar. That's the date for this year's Shop Tours and Picnic. I will have four great shops for us to tour.

A few things to remember about the picnic are: bring a dish to share, your own table service with a drink, and a lawn chair if you like. The club will supply beef burgers, buns and condiments.

More details will be coming in the months ahead..Any questions email me at d.s.gilroy@cfu.net or call 277-3013.

Dennis Gilroy.

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same techniques listed before with good results, but for great results try this: First, seal the surface of the wood with a 1 lb. to 1-1/2 lb. cut of [blonde dewaxed shellac](#) (195863), paying particular attention to the areas around knots and end grain. Once the shellac is dry, usually within a couple of minutes, lightly sand with [600 grit sandpaper](#) (156314). Apply another coat of shellac. Now, add any color of [Transtint Concentrated Wood Dye](#) directly into the liquid shellac. After stirring the dye/shellac mixture, brush or pad it on to color the wood. Start with about 10 or 15 drops of dye per 8 oz. cup of liquid shellac and test to see if you're pleased with the results. Because the color is completely sealed from the wood, there's no chance of splotching. Since you control the amount of dye added to the shellac, you readily get the depth of color you want. At this point, you can topcoat with just about any finish since most finishes are compatible with dewaxed shellac.

Shellac

Speaking of shellac, it has become my go-to finish for everything I once finished with oil or nitrocellulose lacquer. For years the wood coating industry has maligned shellac as a weak, outdated and difficult to use finish. Some of this bad press may come from the fact that most shellac comes premixed in a can with relatively high wax content. Canned shellac usually ships as a 3 lb. cut which is too thick to apply easily. Zinsser now makes a premixed [2 lb. cut shellac](#) (195831) which is quite good. But the key to getting the best results from shellac is to buy it dry in [dewaxed flakes](#) (195863), and only mix what you're going to use within a week or two. By combining your flakes with denatured alcohol in a blender, you avoid the 24-hour waiting period before the flakes dissolve.

As for hand application, I've found two methods that work well with shellac. Again, this presumes you've thinned the shellac to a 1-1/2 lb. cut (1-1/2 lbs. of shellac flakes to 1 gallon of alcohol or any reduced proportion). The first method is to pad the shellac on. Those familiar with French polishing will recognize this technique. Just wad up any absorbent cloth the size of a computer mouse and wrap it in a tight woven material like an old dress shirt. Squirt some shellac onto the pad and wipe it on. If the pad starts to drag a bit, put a drop of [Camellia Oil](#) (456460) in the center of the pad and be sure to let each coat dry for 30 seconds or so before laying on another coat.

The second technique involves a small, natural bristle, artist's fan brush. You can find them at art supply stores. By dipping the fan brush in the shellac and quickly whisking it onto the wood, you can effectively spread shellac where a bulbous pad wouldn't fit.

Waterborne Polyurethane

Another much-abused finish I've come to rely on is waterborne polyurethane, such as [Gloss Ceramithane](#) (195234). It's tough, dries quickly and it colors easily with

[Transtint Wood Dyes](#) and [Universal Tinting Colors](#) (UTCs). Waterborne finishes are also easy to apply if you know how. When you brush or roll the stuff you get bubbles, craters and foaming, anything but a smooth finish. So why not rag it on? We apply everything else by wiping, so why not water-based topcoats? To really supercharge the event add just a little distilled water (no more than 5% by volume) to the sauce to thin it. Distilled water doesn't have minerals in it that can contaminate the finish and cause discoloration. By wiping on the finish you assure thin coats which dry quickly and keep dust nibs down. You can usually recoat in as little as 15-20 minutes.

Rubbing Out Dust Problems

What about those dust nibs? Most small shops don't have the luxury of a dust-free finishing room. In fact, most of us finish outside where bugs, pollen and other perils invade our films. Fast-drying finishes like shellac and waterborne polyurethane will help but you may have to consider finishing the finish. Yes, rubbing out. Look, it's not that complicated and besides, it is nearly impossible to get a perfect film straight from the can.

Step one is easy - let the finish fully cure before you start rubbing it out. Wait 24 hours for shellac and 2-5 days for water-based polyurethane, depending on the weather. Once the finish is cured, you will need to flatten it with [600 grit sandpaper](#) (156314) or [1200 grit sandpaper](#) (156317) to get a uniform sheen or scratch pattern. Make sure you lubricate the paper with soapy water or mineral spirits to avoid cutting through the finish. Always sand with the wood grain, and stop frequently to check your progress. If your goal is a flat or matte finish, just wax and buff. You're done. [Staples paste wax](#) (194151) will fill the tiny scratches left behind by the sandpaper and give you a low luster finish much like one or two coats of oil. To achieve a satin/semi-gloss finish, skip the wax and rub [Meguiar's Fine-Cut Cleaner](#) (195895) on the finish with a clean, [lint free cloth](#) (195833). Make sure you buff with the grain. If you want a glossy finish, use [Meguiar's Swirl Remover](#) (195896). Each time you switch rubbing compounds, it is important to use a clean rag so you don't cross-contaminate the different levels of abrasive. Working with the grain will help minimize the appearance of fine scratches. Also, these materials cut fast, so there's no need for buffing machines or circular motions.

Finally, if you're going for a super glossy, wet-look shine, then [Meguiar's Show Car Glaze](#) (195897) will polish out any blemishes left behind. Remember, you can stop and wax anywhere along the process if you're happy with the level of sheen. Also, don't skip a step - you'll only make a mess and wonder why you're not getting anywhere.

CVWA-April 13, 2010

The Cedar Valley Woodworkers meeting was brought to order by President Reed Craft at 6:30 P.M. on April 13, 2010 at the Waterloo Art Center. We had 63 members and 2 guests present. President Reed handed out belated award certificates from the Christmas program. These went to Dennis Gilroy-Furniture: Gordon Pint- Fretwork: Jerry Krug-Misc.: Pat Vollbrecht-Intarsia: Kevin Bierman-Turning: Sid Sidler- Carving: Bob Anderson- Toys:. People's Choice Award went to Gordon Pint with his fretwork stagecoach clock.

John Padget from the Northeast Iowa Food Bank was on hand to accept the bowls and other projects to be given for the Empty Bowl Fundraiser. This is the third year for the annual fundraiser. There were 18 bowls and projects donated. Those that participated were: Don Anderson, Reed Craft, Kevin Bierman, Pat Vollbrecht, Garylee Thurm, and Hank Morris. Thanks guys! John mentioned that every penny goes to the Food Bank. This event will be held April 20th at 5:00 p.m.

President Reed Craft brought up the Pattern Loaning Program. Patterns will be listed on the club's web site. Each member that has a pattern to share will deal directly with other club members. Reed has a clock pattern and a cradle pattern. Pat Vollbrecht has a collection of club owned patterns for checking out.

Gene Knief announced that he has business cards to promote the Cedar Valley Woodworkers Association. These cards have the basic info about the club- date/ place/ time and web site. Anyone needing a few to pass out to friends can call Gene..

Kevin Bierman wanted everyone to know about the Cedar Rapids ACME TOOLS sale this weekend. There will be tool representatives on site. Also, the Cedar Rapids Wood Club will be doing demos on Turning and Scrollsawing. Pat Vollbrecht spoke on gluing finger joints. He found that super glue worked very well and accepts stain nicely. Pat also had a special company he purchases this glue from. If interested, call Pat.

Tom Bussey has a 6" jointer for sale. This will be listed on the web site also.

Dave Turner talked about the member's Shop Tours. These are held the Saturday following the monthly meeting. There is a signup sheet available.

September 14th meeting will be our 2X4 contest. President Reed would like also to have more woodcraft entries for the National Cattle Congress. This year there will be more categories to choose from. Contact Reed for the 2X4 contest or the Cattle Congress entries.

We would like to thank Larry Knavel, Larry Spragle, Bob Anderson, and Don Collum for the special treats and Barb Gurney for making coffee.

Show-n-Tell:

Sid Sidler- Cherry & Maple wine stopper

Jerry Krug- pictures of a dresser and bookcases

Garylee Thurm- Eagle plaque w/ Prov. 3:5-6 fretwork

Art Mehman- framed picture of eagle- fretwork

Kevin Bierman- jig for finishing bottom of a turned bowl

Sid Sidler- hard maple walking stick / stabilizer jig for turning long spindles

The tool raffle winner went to Mike Varco. He chose the Gorilla Gripper. Barb Gurney was the winner of the lucky tape measurer. Congrats you two!!

Black & Decker will be giving the demo for our June 11th meeting. We need 4-5 members to open their shops for the Black & Decker guys to tour. Contact Reed Craft.

Scrollsaw monthly meeting will be April 22, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at Art Mehman's shop

Corridor Wood Turners Club meets every 2nd Thursday of the month.

Board Meeting will be April 21, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at Crossroad's HyVee meeting room.

Our program tonight was John Schwartzkopf. John has been in woodworking full time for 25 years.

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He started with commercial work and then went to custom / commissioned work. John brought some very unusual pieces for us to see, showing furniture as art. One bit of advice he gave was to do as much finishing ahead of time before putting the project together. His website is www.johnsawdust.com to see more. Thanks John!

Respectfully Submitted- **Wanda Bailey**
Secretary

Cedar Valley Woodworkers Executive Meeting- April 21, 2010:

Those present at the April 2010 meeting were: Reed Craft, Paul Bailey, Hank Morris, Dave Turner, Pat Vollbrecht, Bob Anderson, Gene Knief, Jim Wikle, and Wanda Bailey. The treasurer's report was given by Paul Bailey. Income for the month was \$188.18 and expenses were \$22.18 with an ending balance of \$ 2450.03. The report was accepted and filed. President Reed Craft gave each of the board members a budget worksheet which was discussed. Much discussion was on not being able to hear during the club meeting. A policy was adopted to make sure that all speakers are to use a mike. The club owns both a hand held mike and a hand free mike. Demonstrations for the next several months were talked about. May demo will be with Frank Smith. He will be making baskets on the scrollsaw. and June will be with Black & Decker University. Reed Craft will send a note of appreciation to the monthly demonstrators. A check of \$50.00 was given to John Schwartzkopf (out of town speaker) . Newsletter deadline will be April 26, 2010.

Respectfully Submitted-
Wanda Bailey Secretary

Cedar Valley Woodworkers
Treasurers Report April 21, 2010

Beginning Balance **2284.03**

Income

Dues:	50.00
Raffle:	100.00
Salvation Army Rags	38.00
Div	<u>.18</u>
	188.18

Expenses:

#2391 Postmaster-Postage	7.93
Cash-Salvation Army-Rags	<u>14.25</u>
	22.18

Ending Balance **2450.03**

Office and Tool Funds

Office Fund	2163.03
Tool Fund	287.00

Ending Balance **2450.03**

Paul Bailey Treasurer Cedar Valley Woodworkers

10th Annual Shop Tours & Picnic

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A few things to remember about the picnic are: bring a dish to share, your own table service with a drink, and a lawn chair if you like. The club will supply beef burgers, buns and condiments.

More details will be coming in the months ahead..Any questions email me at d.s.gilroy@cfu.net or call 277-3013.

Dennis Gilroy.



Upper Left: Cherry and Maple Wine Stopper **Center** Stabilizer jig **Upper Right:** Jig for finishing the bottom of bowls by Kevin Bierman

Lower Left: Eagle Plaque with Bible verse **Lower Right** Framed Eagle fretwork by Art Mehman



Below: Presentation by John Schwartzkopf woodworking pieces viewed as art. Not able to be pictured below is the finish on the three pieces and how it was applied to achieve the look you see in the pictures



List of Mentors for Club Members. I believe the mentor's time is free, but the person being mentored is expected to cover any material costs.

Canoe/Kayak construction, Chip Schmidt, 277-8504, cschmidt@cfu.net

Detailed Toys, Bob Anderson, 232-9813, wtoys@yahoo.com

Jack of all trades (enjoys a Challenge), Hank Morris, 235-0692, hankannam@aol.com

Has the Ability to figure MOST problems out—Dick Buchanan, 277-2477, rbuchanan@cfu.net

Intarsia, Pat Vollbrecht, 232-1923, patV35@mchsi.com

Fretwork, Garylee Thurm, 279-3219, flytying4u@hotmail.com

Cabinet making, Tom Bussey, 641-435-4354, tebussey@gmail.com

Wood carving, Sid Sidler, 233-1396, sidsstudio@aol.com

Furniture and cabinet building, Jerry Krug, 475-2391, jkrug@netins.net

Equipment Maintenance and repair Bob Colby

Classes and Services for Pay by Fellow Club Members

Sharpening services by Glenn Johnson, 641-435-2511

Sharpening Services by Carl Leavell, 319-233-4491

Sharpening Stone Sales Gary Lee Thurm 319-231-4577

NEW PATTERN TEMPLATE LIBRARY

Your executive board has developed a new loaner program that might be of interest to each of you. Though the contribution of several different individuals the following full size templates are available for check-out by club members:

Nativity set:

Rocking horse:

Two different doll cradles

Should any of you have a pattern template set that your willing to share, call a board member!

Please remember to patronize our Sponsors!

** Member ID required for discounts



Woodsmith Store**

10320 Hickman Road

Clive, IA 50235

515-254-9494 or

1-800-835-5084

Pittsburgh Paints

528 West 5th St.

Waterloo, IA 50701



****501 West 1st Avenue
Durant, Iowa 52747-9729
800-344-6657**

**Glenn's Sharpening
32446 Floyd Line St,
Nashua
641-435-2511**

**Acme Tools **
1943 Blairs Ferry Rd.
Cedar Rapids**



**10% Club Discount
www.hartvilletool.com
Contact Rick Ruport for
details**

**Sherwin Willams
5212 University Ave,
Cedar Falls
Offers club members a
Scheduled discount**

Officers and Committee Members

Elected Committee Members

President Reed Craft

1st Vice President Gene Knief

2nd Vice President Rick Rupert

Secretary Wanda Bailey

Treasurer Paul Bailey

Appointed Committee Members

Committee Member Dave Turner

Committee Member Hank Morris

Committee Member Robert Hewlitt

Committee Member Dennis Gilroy

Club photographer John Mason/Bob Glawe

Refreshment Chairman Bob Anderson

Newsletter Jim Wikle

Appointed Committee Members

Committee Member Pat Vollbrecht

Committee Member Jeanine Begalske