



Cedar Valley Woodworkers

Cedar Valley Woodworkers Association

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Dovetail Express

Dovetail Express By Pat Vollbrecht



TIPS FROM
OUR SHOP

When I first started

woodworking, I hated the finishing process. The reason, I had finished the woodworking aspect and I was in a hurry to get the project finished. In reality, I just didn't have the patience to follow through and do a good job.

I personally have never sprayed on a finish other than an aerosol can. I personally cannot breathe well using a lacquer. Truthfully, I always was too lazy to clean the shop enough to have a dust free environment and I did not have a separate finish room like several of you have. I have tried many different ways including hand rubbed French polishing, buffing wheels with different grades of polishes, Watco, brushing on pure varnish and a combination of shellac and polyurethane. As time has passed, my patience and desire for a better finish has caused me to take more time and pride in the finished product.

The Cedar Valley Woodworker Association has allowed me to witness some of the BEST finishing I've ever seen. I'm absolutely positive that many of you have a finishing process that will and would rival the ones

that I'm going to mention in this article. But I just haven't had the opportunity to see and feel it like I have the one mentioned later in this article.

The first example was Mark Dutton's spice chest that he made a few years ago. (If you remember, it was voted best of show at our Christmas party, but Mark was President of CVWA at the time, declined to accept the award). I do not know what Marc's finish was. I had stopped at Keith Bock's shop after he had built his cabinets into the shop and was enthralled with the smoothness of the finish that he had put on shop cabinets. (He uses 400 wet and dry black sandpaper and then 600 wet and dry sandpaper with the final sanding with a worn out piece of 600 wet and dry paper). Kevin Bierman's bowls are not only turned to perfection, but his finishing equals his inspirations. Bob Colby's finished projects have inspired me with its smoothness and outright beauty.

Many of the magazines offer suggestions the fool proof finish. However, Bob Colby has been doing a finish that he learned way back in high school. (boy is that ever a long time ago). He told me that *Fine Woodworking* had basically his same process listed a few years ago. It was listed in February 2004 issue # 168. It's similar to Bob Colby's method. Check it out too.

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For Sale: Delta. Chop saw, Asking \$95 Pat Vollbrecht,
Email: PatV35@mchsi.com, 232-1923



The Oak Bulletin Board

The September Club Meeting will be the 9th at The Waterloo Center For The Arts, Ron Grell from Sherwin Williams will be demonstrating Titan Spray Equipment.

Scroll saw club meeting Thursday Sept. 25 6:30 pm at Art Mehman's shop. His shop is at 1205 Fairview Avenue, Plainfield, Iowa. Ph. (319) 276-3032.

The turning club will meet on Sept. 18 at the Fine Woodworker's Store 1810 Blairs Ferry RD in Cedar

Rapids

SWAP MEET September 27 8:00 AM to noon Sam's Club parking lot. (see page 3 for more details)

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Bob's process is as follows:

1. After building and sanding to the desired point. If you're using a wood like walnut or oak, you may want to consider filling the open pores with a wood filler first. (It will take fewer coats of finish). Incidentally it's wise to mix the stain you're using on the finished project in with the filler, so you stain at the same time. Bob uses a product from James B. Day Co., Dayco Paste wood filler. (that may not be available any longer, but there are other companies making a paste wood grain filler) You wipe it on the wood, let it set for 10 to 20 minutes, and wipe it with a burlap type rag going across the grain to fill the open pores of the wood. This should be allowed to dry for 24 hours before moving on to the next step. He uses a Minwax oil based stain to get the color he wants. Let it dry at least 24 hours.
2. Then he puts on **Zinsser's Bulls Eye Seal Coat Shellac, 100 % wax free.** (Menards) Usually 2 to 3 coats. (He says he has one 2" brush that he never cleans after he uses it. When doing the next

project he puts the hard brush in shellac and after an hour or so the shellac softens the brush so he can use it again). Between coats, he takes the shine off with # 1 or 1/0 steel wool. **Be sure and vacuum and clean between coats.**

3. The next step is to apply the gloss polyurethane. Although first he recommends that you dip you 2" (Minwax gold tone brush for oil type finishes) in paint thinner first. It's important to shake or dry as much of the thinner out of the brush as possible before putting it in the polyurethane. (This allows the brush to release the polyurethane from the bristles when cleaning). The next step is to pour the finish into a separate container to work out of. It prevents the original can from being contaminated. He **thins** the polyurethane 5 to 10% with mineral spirits before applying it to the wood. (The Minwax Company recommends that you do not thin their product, but that's for government environmental reasons). Dip the brush into the finish about 1/2" only. on the can say you can recoat after 3 to 4 hours, but Bob says that it's better to wait the 24 hours).

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3. Steel wool or sand with 220 (if you use 220 sandpaper, sand very lightly or use a worn out piece of sandpaper) sand paper between coats.

Be sure and vacuum and clean between coats.

4. The last coat, satin, semi gloss or gloss (your choice of sheen) is put on full strength. He uses 0000 (4/0) steel wool and Minwax wax (it's harder the Johnson's wax) and goes over the entire piece. Polish with a soft towel after this. The final step it to polish the surface with a high gloss auto polish (**not rubbing compound**) and then apply a Meguire's automobile polish. Bob likes Meguire's deep crystal polish.

I'm sure that many of you have a process that's as good as his, if so, continue to do you thing. But if you're looking for an excellent finishing process, try out Bob Colby's.

High gloss finish = High gloss varnish
Rub with 4/0 steel wool and wax
Rub with polishing compound
Wax with Auto polish

Low gloss finish = Semi gloss or satin finish
Rub with 4/0 steel wool and wax
Buff with a soft towel

Wisdom

Remember in woodworking you don't make mistakes, you have opportunities to reevaluate the design.

Carving classes

Waterloo Center For The Arts

Sid Sidler will again be teaching a carving class at the Arts Center. Classes will start on Wednesday November 5 from 6:30 to 9:30 for the next 6 weeks, November 12 and 19 December 3, 10 and 17.

The class is open to beginners and intermediate skill levels for anyone 18 and over. The Art Center has carving tools so beginners will only have to pay the class fee plus a very small amount for carving wood.

Any one interested in participating in the class should call the Waterloo Center For The Arts to enroll. 319-291-4490

SWAP MEET

The annual CVWA swap meet will be September 27 in the Sam's Club parking lot. Sam's is next Lowes at the corner of San Marnan Dr and IA 21.

The swap meet starts at 8:00 AM until 12:00 noon all CVWA members are welcome to participate, the only fee is for advertising which will be split between all club members having items for sale.

Editors Note

I have **FREE** 8x8x3 turning blanks of pine some have interesting grain pattern or they can be used to practice technique without any expense I can be contacted at 319-988-3064 or e-mail ljwikle@msn.com

Annual Picnic Pictures

A good time, food and beautiful weather were had by all that attended the 2008 CVWA annual picnic. Special thanks to Dennis Gilroy who once again did a GREAT JOB!



Members having a good time with good friends and good food



More Picnic Pictures



After the good food prepared by Dennis Gilroy the Shop Tour organizer and Bob Hewlitt more good times with friends.



Please remember to patronize our Sponsors!

** Member ID required for discounts



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



20% Club Discount
www.hartvilletool.com

Contact Rick Ruport for details

**Woodsmith
Store****

10320 Hickman
Road

Clive, IA 50235

515-254-9494 or

1-800-835-5084

The Fine Woodworker's
Store

1810 Blairs Ferry Rd.

Cedar Rapids IA 52411

(319) 393-4193

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

Acme Tools
1943 Blairs Ferry Rd. Cedar Rapids

Sherwin Williams
5212 University Ave, Cedar Falls

Officers and Committee Members

Elected Committee Members

President

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Club Meeting Minutes- August 10, 2008

The August meeting was held at the Prairie Lakes Shelter House in Cedar Falls, with (37) thirty seven attendees present. President Pat Vollbrecht thanked Dennis Gilroy for organizing the annual picnic and tour for 2008. He thanked Bob Glawe, Dave Malam and Bob Lee (Round Barn) for opening their shops for the tour. Thanks also to Dennis Gilroy and Bob Hewlitt for manning the grills for everyone. Bill Neal is in charge of the Tool Sale to be held September 27th in the Sam's Club Parking lot- Waterloo. More info will be available soon. Tom Bussey mentioned about the county fair in Nashua over the Labor Day Weekend. Tom was wondering if anyone would be interested in entering their wood project. There is a \$5.00 entry fee. Anyone interested, talk to Tom. Pat Vollbrecht has some hard maple donated by Rex Pershing for Christmas toys still available. Dave Turner spoke of the Shop Meet for September. It will be at Kevin Bierman's and October's Shop Meet will be at Chip Schmitt's. The tour at the American Tool and Engineering (Greene, IA) will be in October. More in the next newsletter. Wanda Bailey had wood for the Parkersburg Christmas ornaments available. Anyone wanting to help with this project, talk to Wanda. Tool raffle was won by Dick Buchanan and the lucky tape measure was won by Bob Anderson. Extra meat and buns were won by: Tom Bussey, Barb Jefferson, Linda Buchanan, Gene Knief and Dave Turner. Respectfully submitted- Wanda Bailey secretary