

COLOR & FINISHING

Safety:

Work in well-ventilated area. Wear fume/vapor respirator and protective gloves.
Read labels!
Many finishes are flammable. Store in sealed containers. Dispose of rags safely.

Basics:

Preparation of wood:
Sanding scratches, roughness reads through color & texture.
Water products raise the grain. Prepare for their use.
Color of the wood & the finish affects color except for opaque paint.
Oxidation from light & sun will affect stained surfaces as well as natural wood.
Samples are a requirement but a curved surface never matches straight grain.

Wood Bleaching:

Bleaching is a process that removes color from wood. The two most common chemicals are sodium hydroxide (caustic soda, lye) and hydrogen peroxide.
Commercial wood bleach available, but read labels.
Oxalic acid works better than the soda-peroxide solutions on mineral streaks, iron stains, glue stains, fungi.
Preparation is important as bleaching is a water based product.
Neutralization is required of many bleaches:
Wash with cold water, follow with acid wash (1/2 oz. of oxalic or acetic acid in 32 oz. water.) Let stand for 15 minutes. Rinse & dry.

Ebonizing:

Several methods to achieve black – and still see wood grain.
Aniline stains: spirit or water.
Vinegar & Iron stain.
Formula: 1 oz iron filing to 32 oz. vinegar. (steel wool, nails can be used but must sit longer.) Let mixture sit for about a week. Strain. Apply several coats until dark gray color. Oil finish brings up to deep black. Most effective on wood with tannic acid.
Master Garry Bennett's No-Fuss, No-Muss black.
Apply two coats of black leather shoe dye. Finish with wax.
Char or burn finish.
Problems with warping or cracking.

Coloring Materials:

Color Pigments: Acrylics paints, Caseins, milk paints, artist's paints.
Dye Stains: aniline. Alcohol based/Waterbased. Powders/pre-mixed.
Fiber-reactive dyes. Designed for cellulose fibers. Water-based.
Oil Stains: Universal Tinting Colors, artist's oil colors, Japan colors, wiping stains, gels.
Varnish stains, tinted lacquers
And many more.

Finishing Materials:

Oils, lacquers, gels, water-borne finishes and more.