

Touch-Up

Tynis Promet
11/18/2013

How can a customer maintain the finish?

- Microfiber dust cloths
 - The best maintenance is dusting
 - Adding waxes and polishes does not help as much as wiping it all off
- Water
 - A little water for fingermarks on glossy & satin finishes
 - Lacquer finishes can become gummy or soft when combined with chemicals
 - *Lemon Pledge*, other products do not combine with lacquer

What can tuners do for basic repairs?

- Minor scratches, nicks & dings can be touched up by a technician
 - Large & complex projects should be referred to a professional refinisher
- All tuners should carry several particular products
 - Quick wood fillers (like epoxy, sets in 15-40 minutes)
 - Available from wood craft stores, Home Depot
 - Mahogany, pine, other colors
 - Clean up the damaged area
 - Use a razor blade
 - Bevel the edges
 - Wear gloves
 - Cut the slice off the slice you need
 - Squeeze it together
 - Fill the prepared area
 - Level the dried filler with a sanding block
 - *Imperial Hand Glaze* for polyester finishes
 - A car product. Go to Westco Supply
 - Will hide small scratches
 - Will eliminate swirl marks
 - Wipe it on with a terry cloth
 - Work on small areas at a time, start from one end and work to the other
 - Use two cloths: one for wiping it on, the other dry for buffing
 - Metal touch-up
 - *Perfect-It Rubbing Compound* by 3M
 - Removes scratches from polyester
 - Cuts and polishes
 - A little coarser than hand glaze
 - Will remove tarnish
 - Use for satin lids
 - *Scotch Brite*
 - Spray-on *Lacquer for Brass* from Mohawk

- Flows well
 - Cures harder, anti-tarnish
- Don't use *Brasso*: it will scuff it up. It goes into the cracks and the hinging and leaves a residue.
- Simichrome Polish
 - A soft paste polish for chrome, silver, aluminum, brass, etc.
- Markers
 - *Mohawk & Behlen* are the best sources
- CA glue
 - To re-gluе unpeeled veneer, just CA glue alone will sink into the wood and will go down the cracks. Make it's wet enough then spray accelerator. Spray too much accelerator and you will get a white foam or powder. Practice this on your own first. CA glue stains. Don't spray accelerator straight on the glue.
 - CA glue becomes even harder than polyester. If it becomes a built-up bump, put something around it to level it off first before starting to polish.
 - CA glue works to fill in cracks and scratches in mahogany. It needs to be scraped, then sanded and then polished down through the series of compounds.
- French polish with a T-shirt
 - Color with a marker, feather it in, then rub with shellac polish
 - This can work for lacquer and varnish as well
 - If you mark some color and the color shows, take some French polish and go around the edge to blend it so it looks more like polyester
- *Cory's Super High Gloss Polish for Polyester* finishes
- *Restore-a-Finish* has oils and solvents. Put it on, wipe it off. It will dry up and will need to be touched up again later. Over time it makes refinishing more difficult because the oils attract dust.
- Round toothpicks and wood glue for filling holes.

Things to use only in a shop

- Sprays, lacquer, and any toxic chemicals should never be used in a customer's home
- For difficult finishes and touch-up repairs, call Tynis or a professional
- Waxes mixed with other products can turn white or ruin the finish, leading into complaints, insurance, legal issues, etc.

Types of Finishes

- Lacquer
- Acrylic lacquer
- Water-based lacquer (can spray heavy coats & won't react with the finish)
- Shellac
- Polyester
- Varnish
- Latex paint
- Oiled finish on bare wood

Other things to do for touch-up

- Shellac lacquer sticks (*WoodCraft*)
 - Melt with heat & fill into cracks
 - Don't over-fill or you'll do too much sanding, which will break the existing finish
 - Apply with a plug-in flat-bladed burning knife
 - High-tech gas-powered flat-blade knife. It works great, but it's scary. Make sure it's off before putting it away.
 - Propane torch to heat up a flat metal blade. This is fast.
- Steel wool: 0000
 - To avoid the lines from pads when opened up, buy in rolls with no seams
 - To get scratches out, use dry or wet
- *Blast-Away*
 - Aerosol can of compressed air for removing dust
- To remove water marks, rings from plants & glasses, etc.
 - French Polish can work
 - *Amalgamator*
 - Softens the finish, reactivates the top, revives dead finish
 - Do a test-spot first. Usually a couple strokes will work.
 - You might have to go over the whole piece and even steel wool later
 - Available from Mohawk

Hands-on demonstration

Wet-sanding and pumice to remove lacquer clumps from the sandpaper:

- Rub with dry steel wool
- Spray water and blend it in with the steel wool
- Wipe with a dry cloth in the same direction
- Sprinkle pumice, spray water, wipe with steel wool and then dry cloth: it softens the look
- 4F finest grade of pumice

To remove deeper scratches, use *3M Perfect-It Rubbing Compound* (more aggressive)

For buffing lacquer, use foam pads at slowest speed.