

Finishes for Turners

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- **Below is a list of finishes I use most often and some of the various products upon which I use these finishes.**

This is, by no means, the only way to use these various finishes, nor are these finishes the only ones that work for the products listed. These finishes and application techniques are what I use now, or have used in the past, that I have tested and they work for me. If you have finishes that work for you - I am not suggesting you change. If you are looking for a new or different finish or application technique - you might try one of these. I would suggest you try any new finish or technique on a project that is small and easy to make or re-make, just in case these methods do not work for you or your project. If you have any further questions, please call or email me and we can discuss them in further detail.

SEALCOAT (UNWAXED SHELLAC) BY ZINNSLER

Boxes

as a final finish before buffing and a wax finish (Buffing with the Beall System)

Application: Very wet coat applied with a brush while still on the lathe. Let sit for a bit and wiped off with paper towels. Let dry. Buff.

Finials - straight or off-center

as a final finish before buffing and a wax finish (Buffing with the Beall System). This is a glossier finish than the C.A.B. Lacquer Sanding Sealer finish which is applied the same way. The shellac finish is a much safer and environmentally friendly finish.

Application: Very wet coat applied with a brush while still on the lathe. Let sit for a bit and wiped off with paper towels. Let dry. Buff.

Ornaments

as a final finish before buffing and a wax finish (Buffing with the Beall System). This is a glossier finish than the C.A.B. Lacquer Sanding Sealer finish which is applied the same way. The shellac finish is a much safer and environmentally friendly finish.

Application: Very wet coat applied with a brush while still on the lathe. Let sit for a bit and wiped off with paper towels. Let dry. Buff.

Salt/Pepper mills

as a sanding sealer under Wipe on Poly(Minwax)

Application: Very wet coat applied with a brush while still on the lathe. Let sit for a bit and wiped off with paper towels. Let dry. Sand with 220 grit.

Hollow forms

as a sanding sealer under Wipe on Poly (Minwax) or Antique Oil Finish (Minwax).
as a sanding sealer under a lacquer finish.

Application: Very wet coat applied with a brush while still on the lathe. Let sit for a bit and wiped off with paper towels. Let dry. Sand with 220 grit.

Bowls (if they are not to be used for food)

as a sanding sealer under Wipe on Poly (Minwax) or Antique Oil Finish (Minwax).
as a sanding sealer under a lacquer finish.

Application: Very wet coat applied with a brush while still on the lathe. Let sit for a bit and wiped off with paper towels. Let dry. Sand with 220 grit.

I also use this as a first coat over dyed wood to stop the dye from bleeding through a lacquer finish. This first coat gets sprayed on and should be done outside or in a spray booth.

LIBERON SANDING SEALER (WAXED SHELLAC)

Fan Pulls

as the final finish - it can be buffed with carnauba wax if needed or a higher gloss sheen is wanted.

Application: With the lathe running, get a lint free cloth wet with finish and apply pressure to the piece to create much heat. Remove and set aside to dry and repeat if necessary - sanding between coats with fine non-woven pads.

WIPE ON POLY BY MINWAX

Bottle stoppers

as a final finish before buffing with red rouge and white diamond only

Salt/Pepper Mills

as a final finish before buffing with the Beall system

Hollow forms

as a final finish before buffing with the Beall system

Kitchen Cabinets

as the final finish

Pulls for Cabinets

as the final finish

Application: For **small items** - with the lathe running, get a lint free cloth wet with finish and apply pressure to the piece to create much heat. Remove and let dry and repeat as wanted or needed sanding between coats with fine non-woven pads. **Larger items** - follow the directions on the can.

ANTIQUÉ OIL FINISH (WIPE ON VARNISH)

Hollow forms

as a final finish before buffing with the Beall system or the application of Black Bison paste wax

Bowls (if they are not to be used for food)

as a final finish before buffing with the Beall system or the application of Black Bison paste wax

Good finish to put over Alcohol based dyes and stains.

Application: Brushed or wiped on with a lint free cloth, let sit for a bit and wiped off. To use as a sanding sealer first, thin approx. 30% and apply as above but do not wipe off. Apply the next coat, full strength, with 220 grit wet/dry paper and wipe off.

C.A.B. LACQUER SANDING SEALER - Use in a well ventilated area and a respirator should be used.

Boxes

as a final finish before buffing with the Beall system

Application: Thinned approx. 30% then brushed on and wiped off

Finials - straight or off-center

as a final finish before buffing with the Beall system

Application: Thinned approx. 30% then brushed on and wiped off

Ornaments

as a final finish before buffing with the Beall system

Application: Thinned approx. 30% then brushed on and wiped off

Hollow Forms

as a sanding sealer under lacquer (sprayed on if it is a larger piece)

as a sanding sealer under Wipe On Poly (Minwax)(sprayed on if it is a larger piece)

as a sanding sealer under Antique Oil Finish (Minwax) (sprayed on if it is a larger piece)

Application: brushed or sprayed on

Furniture - really needs to be sprayed on

as a sanding sealer under C.A.B. Lacquer or Nitrocellulose lacquer..**Needs to be sprayed**

ACRYLIC

Hollow forms

As the final finish before buffing with the Beall system. This will create a high gloss finish if a gloss acrylic is used and buffed but the finish does look plastic like.

Application: Sprayed directly on the product from the can

Pens/writing instruments

as a final finish before buffing with the Beall system

Application: Sprayed into a paper towel and rubbed on with the grain

WAX

Beeswax - Mineral oil blend

Bowls

as a final finish for any bowls for food contact

Honey Dippers

as a final finish

Baby or adult Rattles

as a final finish

Any object that might be used for cooking or be eaten from i.e. Spoons, ladles, spatulas. This would be the final finish.

Application: Apply a liberal amount with a lint free cloth while the lathe is running. Rub this in firmly to create as much heat as you can stand. Let dry.

Carnauba - Beeswax blend

Fan pulls

as the final finish

Application: Press the wax chunk firmly into the wood while the lathe is running to create heat that will in turn leave a fairly thick wax coat on the wood. Buff this with paper towels.

Black Bison Paste Wax

Boxes

On the inside of boxes and box lids over the sanding sealer coat. Applied with non-woven sanding pads like ScotchBrite. Wipe off with a terry cloth rag.

MINERAL OIL

This can be used on any project that will have food contact (see items under beeswax - Mineral oil blend)

Application: Heat the oil and soak the items for a while (as long as you have time for). Remove, wipe off the excess oil and let dry. I also apply this in the same way as I apply the Beeswax - Mineral oil mixture if the item is small and I am in a hurry for a finished piece.

- **Here are a couple of water based finishes that might be worth a try on certain projects.**

ENDURO-VAR (General finishes)

An interesting finish because:

- It is easy to apply and flows out pretty well
- It is it's own sanding sealer.
- It dries fairly quickly.
- Can be sprayed (suggested application by the manufacturer).
- It is **not** extremely clear - kind of a pinkish red color in the can.
- It is easy to sand - powders up nicely.
- Self cross linking so it should be extremely durable.
- The final finish rubs out well

Possible disadvantages:

- Larger pieces may need to be sprayed due to the shorter drying time.
- It is a water based varnish and it does raise the grain substantially.
- Not compatible with other sanding sealers.

I have not fully tested either of these products the way I need or want to at this point, but, the Enduro - Var seems to have more going for it right now for the applications I would use it for.

ENDURO SANDING SEALER - a water based polyurethane sanding sealer (General Finishes)

Good points so far are:

- It is thick and seems easy to apply to turnings with a rag or brush
- It is extremely clear
- It is very easy to sand
- It dries quickly (30 min. To 2 hrs. According to the manufacturers)
- It can be used over most dyes and stains with the proper amount of drying time before its application. Again, according to the manufacturer. I have not tested this and you should do so before risking your best piece to an experiment.
- It is compatible with all General Finishes water based Poly. Finishes.

Possible Disadvantages:

- It is a water based finish and raises the grain substantially.
- It is extremely clear. Yes it can be good and bad in certain situations.