

## Wood Finishing Class, Part Two

by: Mike Cunningham

Our second class on wood finishing took place at Ideal Saw Works on Saturday, October 10, 2009. Our able instructor, Craig Miller shared his vast knowledge of the subject with six SJFWA members, Richard Pierce, Glen Gray, George Zerlang, Bill Lynam, John Stevens and your intrepid cub reporter.

Craig started the class with an overview of spray guns for wood finishing. He recommends Sharpe spray guns, [www.sharpe1.com](http://www.sharpe1.com). The website has a lot of information on spray guns and a particularly good section of Q and A for finishes. Craig explained that Binks used to make a good spray gun gone down on their He explained the systems, pressure, airless and how He recommends a either a 1.4 or can spray almost through the guns. can container, after stirring the recommends pattern to get all bottom of the can.



but that the quality has different delivery siphon, gravity and they affect spray guns. spray tip on guns of 1.6mm. He says you all types of finishes When filling the spray always strain the fluid can it came in. Craig stirring in a figure 8 the solid up from the

Craig then flowed right in to a discussion of shellac by saying that for our purposes use only dewaxed shellac. He described shellac as coming in two shades, clear and orange; he likes clear for our purposes. He discussed many situations and covered questions from the audience on the subject. Shellac comes in cuts (strengths) expressed in pounds, a one pound cut is the lightest with a two dense and a three as dense and so on. purchase four costs a little more then he thins his two and gets twice more money. He effect caused by shellac.



the pound cut being twice as pound cut is three times Craig prefers to pound cut shellac which than two pound cut but four pound cut down to as much for just a little also discussed fisheye silicone or wax in the

Oils were next oil (linseed and tung Walnut, Soy, Safflower oils are semi-curing and examples of non-curing oils are motor oil, olive oil and vegetable oils. Craig prefers to use varnishes and lacquers rather than oils for his finishes due to their ease of application.

discussed covering true oil) which are curing oils.

Lacquer is Craig's finish of choice for most projects. He recommends spraying sanding sealer and sand first then build up several light coats of lacquer and sand after 3 or 4 coats. He recommended thinning the mix with 10% thinner when using a spray gun. One of many hints Craig gave us was to spray lacquer thinner as the last coat on the piece to level out the surface and give a very smooth surface to your project.

Craig also shared several tips of the trade including using short pieces of old band saw blades bent to 90 degrees and surface up to rest your piece on to dry. He also uses false ceiling reverse spring clamp to hang narrow neck vessels while drying.

The class to me was all students had at least tips to share with the benefitted all and the finishing was very



you goes to Craig Miller and to Ideal Saw Works for providing the classroom space. especially beneficial as one or two additional rest of the class. It two part series on successful. A big thank for his time and effort