

Dennis Tholen's Lacquer Finishing Protocol

1. Apply 1-2 coats of gloss lacquer with aerosol can or HVLP sprayer.
2. Sand with 220 grit paper.
3. Apply 8-10 coats of gloss lacquer. Allow approximately 30" drying time before recoating.
Between coats remove any dust nibs with P400 Wetordry paper. Always use a sanding block.
4. Sand with P400 Wetordry until the finish has no surface flaws.
5. Apply 2-3 coats of gloss lacquer removing any dust nibs between coats with P400.
6. Allow lacquer to dry completely for at least one week. In high humidity conditions longer is better.
7. Wet sand entire project with P800 Wetordry (do not allow paper to become dry). This step removes any orange peel, dry spray, runs and dust nibs. Remove slurry and inspect in good light conditions to ensure no defects remain in the finish. This is a good time to check for any dips in the surface. You should not see any small shiny spots.
8. Wet sand entire project with P1500 Wetordry.
9. Use polishing compounds and a cotton loose buff wheel to create a high gloss finish.

Meguiar's #2 Fine Cut Cleaner

Meguiar's #9 Swirl Remover

10. Apply any quality car polish, not car wax. Allow to dry to a haze and remove with a soft cotton rag or micro fiber towel.

Lacquer is the finish of choice when you want a mirror-like high gloss and minimum color change in the wood. It's an absolutely durable clear finish that applies easily, dries quickly and produces a luster that look's a foot deep. Compared to polyurethane, lacquer is not as durable and requires more coats because of its low solids content to achieve the equivalent finish. Any open grain wood, such as Oak, Ash, and Mahogany requires the grain to be filled to achieve the high gloss luster.