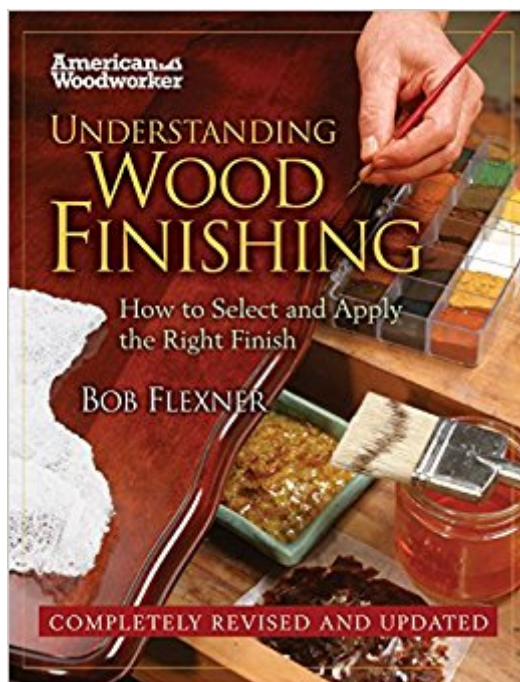


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# Understanding Wood Finishing: How To Select And Apply The Right Finish



## Synopsis

For more than 18 years, Bob Flexner has been inspiring woodworkers with his writings and teachings on wood finishing. Now, from this best-selling author comes the long-awaited and completely updated second edition of *Understanding Wood Finishing* is the most practical, comprehensive book on finishing ever published. The first edition of *Understanding Wood Finishing* has sold hundreds of thousands of copies and is widely regarded as the bible of wood finishing. We use *UNDERSTANDING WOOD FINISHING* as the textbook for our students training to go into the furniture industry, says David Miles, wood technology professor at Pittsburg State University. It s the best written, most accurate, and most thorough wood finishing book in print by far. With its clear writing and engaging style, this is without a doubt the best researched, most authoritative, and easy-to-follow book on the subject, notes Steve Shanesy, *Popular Woodworking* magazine editor. As professional finishers know and as amateurs will surely realize, Finishing is easy once you know what you are doing, says Frank Klausz, a professional cabinetmaker. *Understanding Wood Finishing* makes the science of finishing understandable.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

With its clear writing and engaging style, this is without a doubt the best researched, most authoritative, and easy-to-follow book on the subject. --Steve Shanesy, *Popular Woodworking Magazine* editor  
As professional finishers know and as amateurs will surely realize, finishing is easy once you know what you are doing. *Understanding Wood Finishing* makes the science of finishing understandable. --Frank Klausz, a professional cabinetmaker  
We use *Understanding Wood*

Finishing as the textbook for our students training to go into the furniture industry. It's the best written, most accurate, and most thorough wood finishing book in print by far. --David Miles, wood technology professor at Pittsburg State University --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Before beginning his writing and teaching career, Bob Flexner spent 20 years running a woodworking and restoration shop. In addition to writing the first edition of *Understanding Wood Finishing*, Bob has made two award-winning videos, hosted *The Furniture Workshop*, his own call-in radio show, and taught several hundred workshops and seminars. In addition, he has written more than 300 articles and edited the leading magazine dedicated to the professional furniture-restoration trade.

A friend loaned me a copy of this book when I was trying to figure how to stain a cherry cabinet without the typical splotchy results one usually gets with this difficult-to-stain wood. This book not only addressed that problem, it gave several techniques to deal with it. Flexner even explained why different brands of stain would have different results. I was so impressed I bought my own copy. No other book I've seen does such a great job of explaining the technical aspects of how finishes work, and what protection each kind of finish provides, while keeping the text easy to follow and understand. This makes it a great book for learning about the many different stains and wood finishes. Plus, it is more comprehensive than other wood finishing books I've seen. It explains in detail the different application techniques, when and how to use them. There are plenty of helpful illustrations, including color photo examples of different stains and finishes on various woods. So it is a great reference source when working on a particular project and trying to decide the best finish or application technique to use. I keep looking for other books on wood finishing that would add to what is in this book. But I haven't come across any yet.

Two words...Bob Flexner...do I need to say more? I've always been a fan of Bob Flexner's finishing tip, techniques, and practices, so buying this book was a no-brainer. The book offers step-by-step instructions on how to prepare wood and apply a variety of finishes to wood. The book is also splattered with some finishing techniques to use on hard to finish woods like pine and such.

The book provided various sections concerning types of finishes on various wood surfaces. Subsections provided tips and guidelines concerning application of finish, problem areas, and how

to correct problem areas for various materials. Individual areas for shellac, varnish, staining, oils, wax, and lacquer. How to choose and then apply these various finishes. How to remove and/or repair finishes. For those not educated on this subject, the book is a ready reference to avoid mistakes, or correct previous mistakes. For non professional woodworkers the book provides guidance to produce a well finished product. Excellent book, presentations and written portions are easy to understand and from my experience, well worth the cost.

This is an excellent reference presented in such a way that it is easy to comprehend and digest. I discovered that what I knew about finishing was nominal at best (after having worked with shellacs and stains for over 20 years). I would highly/strongly recommend this book to anyone who would like to improve their skills as well as anyone who is about to start on a project that will involve finishing. The author also does an excellent job in explaining the different types of finishing products and the importance of knowing how their chemical composition effects your projects results.

This is a fantastic book. He covers every detail yet it's still very easy and fun to read. This book immediately raised the quality of my wood finishing projects, I wish I'd had this to read 50 years ago when I started making things from wood.

I have several books on wood finishing and almost all of the Fine Woodworking issues since Volume 1. All of it confusing, contradictory and self-contradictory. Very, very little of it based on science. This book solves it all. It is broad in scope, answered all of my many questions and went deep in enough in it's explanations and techniques to allow me to go out and start finishing with a new and clear understanding of what I was doing. Thank you, thank you Bob. A brilliant work.

The secret is..there is no secret!Manufacturers of wood finishing products deliberately confuse, mislead and incorrectly label their productsThis book clearly explains all of the available options, and their strengths and weaknesses, while helping decode and unscramble the confusing product names

Knowledge is power and this book is jam-packed. Bought as follow-up to his earlier edition and well worth it.

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