

## **Miniwax Wipe-On-Poly**

### **A few tips on how to get better results.**

When the weather is cold or damp or with high humidity Wipe-on-Poly has the habit of not going off or at best leaving a poor shine and finish, I have worked up this method after several failures and re-runs.

- 1.** First is the finish on the raw timber this is very important. So much so I buff my turnings with EEE or similar to a very high finish. The higher the finish here will have a direct result on the quality of the final finish. A good finish here will save you a lot of rubbing down later. In fact I rarely rub down between WOP coats.
- 2.** Then seal it with whatever your favourite sealer is although it may require a further buffing. My preferred sealer is Danish Oil with 1-2 coats, in very damp weather this may need over night to go off thoroughly, or place in a warm spot. I prefer the warm spot as I tend to be impatient at this stage. Whatever method you use it must go off completely otherwise the Wipe-on-Poly won't go off either.
- 3.** Shake the can vigorously; this stuff settles out especially if you only use it occasionally. Don't find out the hard way like I did. 😊
- 4.** Warm the entire can up to around blood heat, 5 minutes in the sun should do it, or in front of a heater rotating the can a couple of times to ensure an even heat.
- 5.** Apply as usual with a lint free pad, go over it once. Don't be tempted to go around it several times you will probably get runs and or wipe marks as it starts to dry immediately. I use thin coats and prefer to build it up that way.
- 6.** Place the job in a warm environment; say around 30'C especially in winter or when it's raining. If it's raining cats and dogs you may have to warm the job up as well to remove any moisture film on the piece. You can use higher temps but some timber may react to the higher temps [40'C+] so I go for around 30-35'C. Bear in mind when you heat up the job the WOP will go off very quickly.

For a warm spot come winter I have used an inverted cardboard box over the job with a small incandescent light bulb 15-25watts. If you're going to use WOP allot on many projects, then an old fridge is the way to go with 45watt bulb in the bottom and a few holes punched in the top. Or simply bring into the house and sit somewhere convenient over night.

I like to preheat the box to speed the process up and if the job needs warming it can go in at this time as well. In the course of 2-3 hours you should be able to get two coats of WOP on dried and hard with this method. If not it may require a bit more heat or time for your locality.



Here are two examples of what can be achieved.

The decanter shape is Brown Mallee with a Gidgee stopper with 4 coats of WOP buffed after wards to dial down the shine. A very light sand with 1200 wet and dry after the second coat to knock down a couple slight rises in the burl.



This vase is heart Camphor Laurel with 6 coats of WOP as I wanted a high gloss to show off the figure and then left to dry with no sanding etc between coats. The raw timber was buffed heavily to a good shine

With these sorts of shapes it pays to soak the lint free pad so as to gets right down

into the grooves.