

Finish woodwork with beautiful French polish

BY JAMES DULLEY
Creators Syndicate

Dear James: Will you please explain how to apply a French polish on old woodwork that needs to be refinished? I have heard it is very beautiful and might be a good choice for some natural cherry woodwork? — Kyle H.

Dear Kyle: Old cherry woodwork is absolutely beautiful, so take care in refinishing it. It is a stable, durable species of hardwood, so even if it looks bad now, you most likely will be able to bring it back to its original beauty.

With the natural durability of cherry wood, a French polish finish is a particularly good option. The most durable finish for hardwood is gloss urethane, but that would detract from the beauty of the cherry wood. Just go somewhat easy on it, and keep it clean and free from sticky grit.

Proper preparation of the wood surface is critical. The beauty of a French polish wood surface is the illusion of depth that is created. To attain this appearance, a mirror-smooth wood surface is required before the finish is applied. Cherry, being such a hardwood, can be finely sanded to a very smooth surface.

When you strip off the old deteriorated finish, use a very mild chemical stripper so the wood surface is

not damaged. It may take several chemical treatments to soften and remove all of the old finish. Try to limit the amount of hard scraping to reduce the possibility of gouging the surface.

Follow this with medium sandpaper to a fairly smooth finish. Fill in any deep scratches at this time with matching wood filler. You may have to tint the filler yourself to get a perfect color match. When the filler is set, do further sanding with fine sandpaper.

Finally, slightly dampen the wood surface by placing a damp cloth over it. This raises the grain before your final sanding with extra-fine sandpaper. If you have some tinted wood filler left, rub it into the surface with a lint-free cotton cloth to fill all the minute pores and scratches.

When the wood surface seems mirror-smooth, apply a sealer to the wood surface. This sealer will keep the grain from coming up again when you begin the actual French polish finish.

When the sealer dries, sand the surface with very fine sandpaper lightly coated with linseed oil.

A true French polish finish requires about 10 to 15 coats of clear shellac. It is rubbed onto the wood surface with a "fad" (a wad of cotton or gauze). Wrap the fad with a lint-free cotton cloth. Try to eliminate any wrinkles in the

HOME Do-it-Yourself

French Polish

French polish is a process, not a material. French polishing consists of applying many thin coats of shellac dissolved in denatured alcohol using a rubbing pad lubricated with one of a variety of oils.



- 1 Prepare the surface by sanding to a mirror-smooth finish.
- 2 Create an application "fad" to apply the polish. Use cheesecloth or tray cloth for the core. The wrapper can be made from linen or any tightly woven cloth.
- 3 Prepare surface for polishing by applying a seal coat to the bare wood.
- 4 Apply polish to the outside of the pad.
- 5 Start by rubbing the pad on the surface in a circular motion.
- 6 Use the friction of the pad to burnish the surface.
- 7 Replenish with polish as the fad starts to dry out.
- 8 Lightly sand between coats.
- 9 Apply six to 20 coats until the desired finish is achieved.



Creators.com Bob Kast

cloth. When it is soaked with shellac, it will apply a very thin layer with each coat.

Mix alcohol and shellac together to form a watery solution. Saturate the fad with solution, and wrap it with the cotton cloth. Rub this into the wood. If you are doing a large piece, you may have to unwrap the fad and add more of the shellac solution to finish the entire surface.

Let each coat of shellac dry, and lightly sand between them with extra-fine sandpaper. When you feel you have applied enough coats and created the deep look you desire, add some linseed oil and fine pumice to the cotton cloth and lightly polish the surface.

Send your questions to *Here's How*, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244, or visit www.dulley.com.

CORRECTION

There were some errors in the tax incentive story that ran February 21. The text should have read:

In addition to the ease of doing business virtually, it's easy for business people to get back to the Northeast when they need to, said David Arditi of Aria Development Group, developer of YOTELPAD Miami, a mixed-use project with 231 residences and 222 hotel rooms.

At Smart Brickell, a project with three towers, two with 50 condominiums and 50 hotel rooms each, and the third comprised of 97 rental units, buyers like being able to rent out their residences while they're away, said Sales Director Ana Maria Velez.

We regret the errors.

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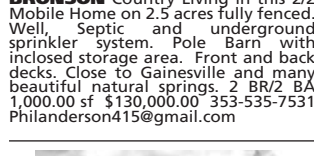
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Miami's Entertainment Options Enhances Real Estate Market

American Airlines Arena in Miami ranks as the 18th-most-popular venue in the world by annual ticket volume, according to a new study from Pollstar. The ranking highlights South Florida's growing entertainment options and how they are boosting Miami's incredible live, work and play lifestyle.

South Beach, the international capital of late-night fun, is known through the world, but now Miami's other entertainment options are becoming acclaimed as well.

In addition to South Beach and American Airlines Arena, Miami is home to the breathtaking Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts and the internationally-acclaimed Perez Art Museum. South Florida's new science wonderland — the \$300 million Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum of Science — is located across from Perez Art.

Pro Sports Teams in World-Class Venues

Basketball's Miami Heat, baseball's Miami Marlins and football's Miami Dolphins have each won championships. The Heat have a long-term lease at their downtown arena; the Marlins recently opened a state-of-the-art, indoor park and the Dolphins' home stadium has hosted five Super Bowls.

The Miami Dolphins hosted its sixth Super Bowl in 2020 (Super Bowl LIV) at Hard Rock Stadium. Also, Miami is currently fielding a Major League Soccer team in 2020.

Miami's Urban Core

Once a quiet 9-to-5 job district, downtown Miami has transformed into one of America's most exciting, thriving areas.

A growing population of young professionals are living, working, and playing in downtown, which today boasts the highest concentration of cultural institutions in the Southeast and almost 400 restaurants and bars.

South Florida is no longer a resort town known only for its beaches. Today, South Florida is a leading global center with world-class amenities and entertainment options.

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