

WOODWORKER'S EDGE

Information on Glazes

What is a Glaze?

A Glaze is a stain that is thick enough to stay where you apply it—even to a vertical surface such as a Case side. A Glaze may be oil based or water based. The oil based will allow enough time to manipulate the glaze to the desired effect. The Glazes that I use are heavy bodied Glazing Stains (oil based) that are used after a first coat of finish or what is called a “seal coat”. The difference between a stain and a glaze is that the stain is applied directly to the wood, whereas a glaze is applied between the seal coat and additional topcoats. It is essentially “sandwiched” between the layers of finish.

These are made from Linseed Oil and fine pigments. The common shades; raw umber, burnt umber, raw sienna, burnt sienna and van dyke brown; are very concentrated and can be mixed with each other to obtain a custom shade, or mixed with a Clear glaze to lighten the shade. I use the burnt umber and van dyke brown mostly. The darker brown tinted colors seem to work best for furniture.

Uses of Glaze!

The primary focus of my use of glaze is to add highlights to carved areas, blend the tones of the overall piece, and to add an antique aged appearance. There are, however, many other uses for this product.

Applying the Glaze

The method that I like in using glaze is to apply an even coat, with either a brush or by spraying, to the entire piece, then allow the glaze to “Flash off” or come to a dull, whitish appearance. At that time I removed the glaze with a dry cloth while allowing some product to remain in the needed areas. The benefit of applying the glaze in this manner is that it will even the overall tone of the stained hardwood, which can stain to a slightly different hue.

Problems with Glazes

Most of the problems that I have found in using glaze fit into two categories. The first is leaving the glaze to thick, which can cause the topcoats to not properly bond allowing the finish to crack or get knocked off. This is generally in the recesses of the piece. The second area is not allowing the glaze to completely dry. This can cause the topcoat to show a “wrinkled” texture which is the worst problem. It will require you to strip the piece and start over!

Caution should be used in disposing of the rags from this finish! They are highly flammable and should be laid flat on a concrete floor until dry then disposed of properly or immediately put into a water filled bucket and later properly disposed