

Sanding Wax

By Eddie Castelin

This wax and technique was introduced to me by Master Turner Eli Avisera during a class at Arrowmont in the summer of 2007. Eli used this wax for almost all his sanding needs, especially fine turnings, exotics and those very delicate finials he is so famous for.

After using the wax, he coated the pieces with a shellac finish followed by Renaissance Wax for a fantastic finish.

Ingredients:

2- 8 ounce bottles of regular mineral oil (drugstore item)

1 - 1 lb. block of pure bees wax from Michael's Arts and Crafts, Hobby Lobby, etc.

2-3 each 2- gallon Zip-Lok bags

1 package of Zip-Lok disposable closeable or reseal able containers (1 pint size)

Equipment:

1 stainless steel mixing bowl (Wal-Mart \$4.00)

1 pot boiling water

Boil a pot of water and place the stainless steel mixing bowl, full of chunks of the bees wax in it, floating on the top of the water. Allow the bowl to warm the wax slowly, without burning or changing the molecular make-up of the wax. Bees wax melts at less than 200 degrees so the boiling water will melt it slowly. As soon as it is about 90% melted, remove it from the water and set on counter. Allow to stand for just a moment and before it begins to gel, stir in the first bottle of mineral oil. Mix thoroughly and allow to cool. Using the 2 gallon Zip-Lok bags, scoop a portion (1/3) of the cooled mixture into the bag and add about 1/3 of the remaining bottle of oil to the bag. Knead the two products together until you have something about the consistency of cake icing. Clip off the corner of the bag and squeeze the contents into the pint sized containers. Get it all out, don't waste the wax. Repeat until batch is complete.

This product will not freeze, or dry out. It last for years. Make a batch and share it with your turning buddies.