

- Types of Finishes
 - Wax (Renaissance, Dr. Woodshop micro crystal wax, Briwax, others)
 - Transparent, can have high gloss when buffed, very little protection
 - Shellac/Wax/Solvent (Dr. Woodshop Pens Plus, Mylands, others)
 - Apply on the lathe, easy to apply, friction creates high gloss, better protection than wax but decreases with age. Nice for smaller objects and objects with minimal usage. Dry when coming off the lathe.
 - Oil (Walnut, Tung, others)
 - Soak into the wood to 'pop' the grain, polymerizes and strengthen wood fibers, provides a warm, soft hand-rubbed look and feel. Long drying time.
 - Oil/varnish or urethane mixes (Danish Oil, Seal-A-Cell, Arm-R-Seal, Waterlox, Winburn, others)
 - Dependent on oil/varnish ratios, high oil formulations act like oil finishes with minimum surface build; high varnish formulations build surface protection. Can produce a nice glow all the way to high gloss. Long drying time.
 - Spray/brush-on (lacquer, shellac, varnish, others)
 - Very easy to apply as a spray on or off the lathe. Build surface protection and can be rubbed and buffed to a high gloss. More susceptible to damage by alcohol, perfumes or other chemicals. Very fast drying time.
 - Others (CA glue)
 - Very hard and durable finish for small items. Typically used as a finish on pens. Very fast drying time but very toxic.
 - Buffing System (Beal Buffing system)
 - Buffing wheels with various buffing compounds and wax. Can be used after many of the finishes mentioned above to add a high gloss waxed surface. Does not add significant protection.

Which finish should I use?

Look at the criteria for picking a finish and select a few products from each category and try them. The final look is a personal decision based on your personal taste and expectations of your 'customer'.

Products to start with based on experiences within the club:

- Renaissance Wax
- Drs Woodshop Microcrystal Wax
- Aussie Oil
- Drs Woodshop Pens Plus
- Myland's Friction Polish
- Walnut/Tung Oil
- Seal-A-Cell
- Arm-R-Seal
- Waterlox
- Danish Oil
- Deft lacquer
- Winburn Formulation
 - 1 part (5.3 oz) MinWax Gloss Poly – Fast drying
 - 2 parts (10.6 oz) Tung Oil
 - 3 parts (15.9 oz) Odorless Mineral Spirits