



Using the Triple Mop Buffing System with coloured work. by Kim Gowney.

First off, don't attempt to buff any coloured item that has not been thoroughly sealed with either a lacquer or a polymerizing oil, the colour will transfer straight to the buffing wheel and can be a devil to remove and if you don't remove it, the very next item you buff will be contaminated with the transferred colour.

So, having coloured your piece you need to protect and seal the surface to provide a hard skin or shell to take a polish.

If you chose to use a polymerising oil to seal, it will just be a case of wiping on several coats (three or four) and leaving a good 24 hours between coats (you can denib between coats for a better finish, but do it with care, I use yellow NyWeb) once the final coat has been applied, give it a good few days to properly harden.

Starting with the Tripoli wheel, lathe speed set to approximately 1200 RPM and using a light pressure, work your way round the item, checking the finish against a light for blemishes, if you get a stubborn bit, don't try pressing harder, or leaving it rubbing the same spot for too long; this will only overheat the surface and destroy the finish.

Keep using light brief touches to the wheel until it smooths out, if that fails, finish the rest of the item and either just patch the blemish or apply another overall coat, then repeat the Tripoli buff when hardened.

Follow that with the DW wheel, the lighter you keep your touch, the better the finish.

Finally, using the wax wheel, apply additional wax if you wish, or just use it to get that last bit of gloss going and remove any smeary looking patches.

With Lacquer I prefer to use Acrylic (Chestnuts brand).

I apply two coats of rattle can acrylic sealer followed by three or four coats of gloss lacquer, leaving each coat to dry thoroughly and denibbing in between each coat using the finest NyWeb (yellow).

The final coat will look stunning when wet, but invariably dries to a light dimple pattern, this is a bit irritating but you must let this final coat harden thoroughly before touching.

The next two images are typical of a lacquered item ready for buffing.



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<http://kimswoodart.blogspot.co.uk/>

Published by:-Chas Jones (<http://www.quest42.co.uk/woodwork/home.html>)



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At this stage you now have two options:-

1. Sand the surface smooth with 400 grit (600 if you have wet and dry, use it wet or it will clog and cause drag marks) then dry it and buff out the scratches with the Tripoli using the same technique as with the oil, right up to finishing, remembering always to keep your touch light.
2. Just go for the dimples with Tripoli from the start. You should be aiming at a finish as seen in the next two images,

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And the subsequent White Diamond treatment should result in something akin to this:-



The main thing with the lacquer is to really give it time to harden before buffing, two or three days in a warm dry environment will mean it fully cures. (longer, seven days or so if using Melamine enhanced Lacquer)

The advantage being it takes a better gloss, is less prone to dragging resulting from breaking through the toughened surface, and in the long run is less work.

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