

Home & Garden

How to add colour to your wood finishing projects

(NC)—Twenty years ago, if you wanted a professionally stained finish for your shop-made chair or cabinet, you either had to be a professional yourself or look to hire one. Today there are finishing gels that even a

novice do-it-yourselfer can easily apply with outstanding results. And this with no mixing, no matching, just straight out of the can.

One such product actually lets you finish the job as soon as you start. Circa 1850

Stain'n Varnish combines the penetration of a wood stain with the protective qualities of a hand rubbed varnish all in one easy to use gel.

"You no longer have to stain your wood, wait till it dries, then apply the finish," said Eric Chaimberg of Swing Paints, Canada's leading manufacturer of wood finishing products. "You can now do both in one quick and easy step."

Consumers have been singing the praises of its ease of application and handsome soft sheen finish that is completely free of dust specks and brush marks. "It's so easy a child can apply it," said Paul Heyming, a novice woodworker who recently used Circa 1850 Stain'n Varnish to revitalize an antique dining table. "The first coat is simply wiped on with a rag. There's no need to sand, simply let it dry 12-24 hours."

Applying additional hand-rubbed coats will deepen the colour and add more protection, added Chaimberg. "Or you can use Circa

1850 Antique Paste Varnish as the second coat to get the added protection without changing the colour."

The varnish allows you to apply Circa 1850 Stain'n Varnish to any surface: wood, plastic, metal, masonite, composite, etc. It is the best way to give non-wood surfaces, such as embossed composite doors, the look of real wood.

Besides ease of use and a consistent finish, Circa 1850 Stain'n Varnish can also offer a new colour dimension to the finishing spectrum with grain highlighting. "You can take any kind of wood - oak, cherry, whatever - and finish it in forest green, emerald and steel blue or even black cherry," added Chaimberg. "That's something you just can't do with anything else. And because it is transparent, a thin coat of a contrasting colour over an existing colour can be used to give wood an antique, distressed, or faux-finish." For more information or tips on finishing visit www.circa1850.com.

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