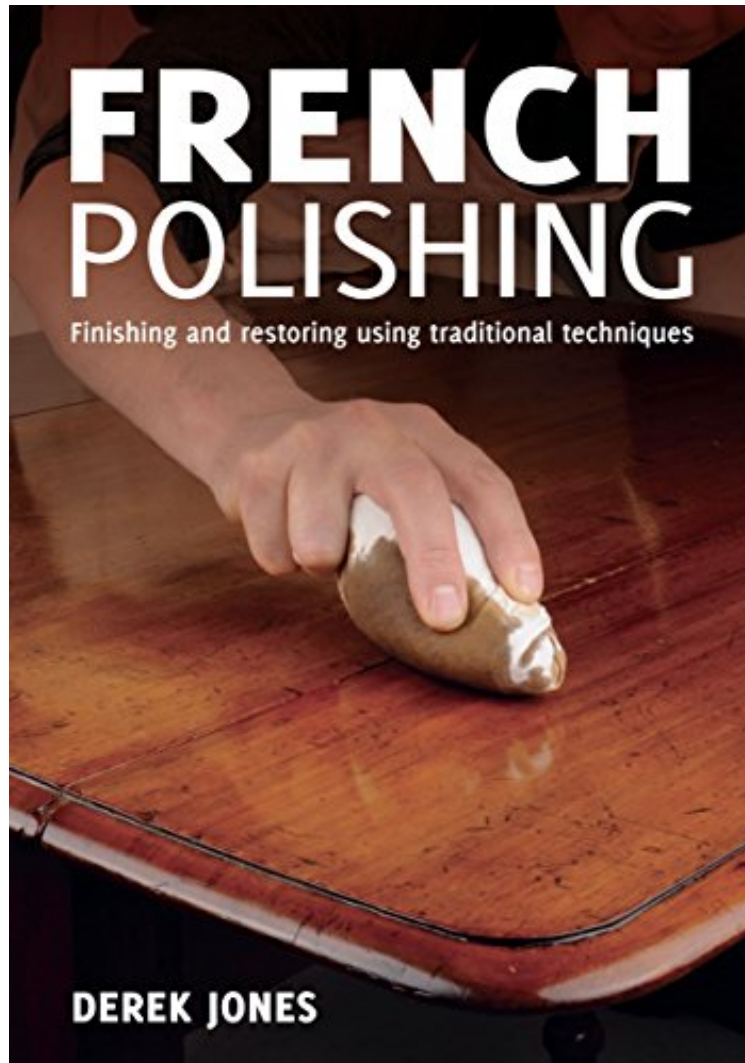


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# French Polishing: Finishing and Restoring Using Traditional Techniques

*Derek Jones*

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**Derek Jones : French Polishing: Finishing and Restoring Using Traditional Techniques** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised French Polishing: Finishing and Restoring Using Traditional Techniques:

19 of 20 people found the following review helpful. ShallowBy Just Bob againHe may be able to polish but he's not good at educating. It's a short book with too much space devoted to general finishing topics. Virtually no discussion of shellac itself and mixing. He doesn't adequately discuss the grades of shellac, considerations of using waxy or dewaxed shellac and how to dewax or filter when necessary. No mention of solvent versus alkali-refined shellac. He

doesn't mention what 'cut' is and shows mixing shellac using dyed Methyl alcohol without mentioning that it's toxic and not desirable to soak your hands in it or breathe it for extended periods. I only use Ethyl for French polish. Not so important if you're using a brush. No mention of other alcohols besides Methyl and Ethyl. He doesn't mention that alcohol is very hygroscopic and the necessity of using a very pure variety rather than some generic 'denatured' alcohol. He recommends mixing shellac with varnish as a sealer. Not to say I didn't possibly learn a few tidbits to try but this isn't a recipe for success for a beginner. Watch Fernandez' DVD on French Polishing for Guitar Makers and read a few other books plus several good FAQs on shellac which can be found with an internet search. This isn't all that difficult but takes practice, a light touch, it's very time-consuming and you do need to understand the materials and process. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. No need to have a title By Frank W. Hastings Great Book .If anything it's a bit over done , meaning that it has information that is not needed to be precise .0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Marc Meyer, Jr. Great polishing book

Reviving the lost art of French polishing. Popular in Victorian times, French polish is the mirror-like finish that has long been admired as one of the most beautiful ways to finish wood. Because it is also labor-intensive, its popularity waned in the 20th century, but that could all change with the publication of French Polishing by Derek Jones. A no-nonsense approach to this antique finish. Simple and straightforward, French Polishing demystifies the entire process, demonstrating that this finish is easier to do than most people think. Essentially, it consists of laying down one thin coat of shellac over another, time after time, to produce a tough, high-gloss finish. Get the inside story from a hands-on pro. Now you can easily master all aspects of French polishing with this complete guide with all the must-know details, including: Techniques for applying layers of shellac to achieve a warm glow Step-by-step instructions for restoring an old finish to its former beauty Properly preparing the wood surface before beginning Choosing the right products and materials to do the job Solving the most common problems woodworkers encounter And tips for getting flawless results every time A good choice for a special project. Since French polishing cannot be replicated by mass production methods, it is worth learning because it enhances a newly made piece with the warm glow of a prized heirloom. And if you enjoy refinishing older pieces, it's important to learn how to repair this finish and that, too, can be easily learned in French Polishing.

About the Author Derek Jones began his career in the woodworking industry as an apprentice to a cabinetmaker, learning on the job the meticulous skills needed for fine furniture making. He later took on his own furniture commissions and is now the editor of Furniture Cabinetmaking magazine. Derek is also the author of French Polishing and Bird, Bee Bug Houses.