



APPLE LEEF FARM

Finishing Your Wheel

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There are lots of favorite finishes for these wheels from stains and lacquers to waxes. I've put many of them together and the only stain I use is Watco Danish Oil stain. It is a penetrating stain that delivers beautiful color when hand rubbed. I have not been able to find it at Home Depot or Lowe's, but have found it at Payless Cashways in Sherman. You should be able to find it at fine unfinished furniture stores, or some of the Ace Hardware stores. Below is a list of some of the things you will need:

- A couple of large bags of lintless cloths. These are very important as some fabrics will shed and it is tough picking the lint out before it sets into the stain! It is better to go "lintless" from the beginning, and change your cloth often.
- The large can of your Watco Danish Oil Stain. You will want more, because you may want to stain your equipment accessories (niddy, lazy kate, hand cards, etc.) to go with your wheel.
- A couple of small sponge brushes and lots of Q-tips. These are for getting into the small spaces, and around the spokes on the wheel.
- Mineral spirits, mostly for cleaning brushes and YOU
- A bag of steel wool pads. These wheels come well finished and sanded. All I have ever needed is to steel wool them between coats of stain.
- Tung oil finish. This is optional. I like to put a satin or semi-gloss hand rubbed Tung oil finish as the last coat. This comes in satin, semi-gloss and gloss and can add as much shine as you want. It is a good sealer and wood preservative.
- Lots of newspaper, cord and wire hangers. It is faster and easier to make a hanging line, with newspapers underneath for some of the pieces. You can bend wire coat hangers and put the ends through the pre-drilled holes, and hang them so that you can stain BOTH sides at once. Plus they dry faster.

Once you have all your supplies, open your box and read through the Ashford instructions. Lay out your pieces in the order of assembly, and finish them. Be sure you work in a well ventilated area while staining your wheel. ***DO NOT sand or smooth the grooves of any of the areas where the drive band goes.*** You can stain these areas darker than the rest of the wheel, and it will look attractive. You do not want to put Tung oil, or if you are using a wax, into the drive band grooves, as you want it to have good gripping for driving the wheel, whorls and bobbins. When you are ready to assemble your wheel, work section by section. Be sure you put the WHEEL onto the frame in the RIGHT DIRECTION! There is a front and back, and if you read the instructions, this will be clear.

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Les & Leef Bloomenstiel
669 Massey Road
Gunter, TX 75058



Phone: 903-433-0065
Fax: 903-433-8064
Email: leef@appleleeffarm.com
Website: <http://appleleeffarm.com/>