



Thank you for purchasing one of my signs! I have some tips and suggestions for finishing the sign. - Phil



Burnishing - Fast and Easy!

Grab your propane torch or even a chefs torch and go to town on it! wave the flame back and forth quickly, starting 8 or so inches away and slowly move closer until you see color change. It's best to do this outside placing the sign on a non flammable surface. After you scorched it, if it looks too uneven or dark, take some steel wool to it to smooth it out. Then take sandpaper to all the raised surfaces to expose the light wood underneath. Clear coat with poly if desired (UV proof if the sign will be outside).

Background Painting Using The Wipe off Method - Staining Optional



Take your sign and stain the complete thing first if desired. Allow stain to dry for 8 hours minimum prior to next step.

Next, if available, use sanding sealer. It will lesson the amount of clear coats needed. After sanding sealer...Lightly sand at least the raised surfaces. It's easier to wipe off the paint on a smooth surface rather than if the grain is raised.

Now apply several coats of clear poly or shellac (I prefer shellac). If you are using brush on clear or shellac, you only need to clear the top surfaces.



Next, prepare with a few scrap pieces of an old shirt or similar, and some mineral spirits. Lightly soak a few pieces of the cloth in mineral spirits and leave one or two dry.

Spray or brush the recessed areas (background) with oil based paint, DO NOT USE LACQUER. It is too hot chemically and will cause wrinkles in the clear.



Immediately wipe off the raised clear coated surface with one of the dry clothes and remove as much as you can. Then follow up right away with one that was soaked lightly with mineral spirits. If the wiping is just smearing it around too much, you can let it dry slightly for 5 - 10 mins. and try again. I usually follow up with one more piece of dry cloth.

After the paint has completely dried, you can clear coat with poly or shellac.



Surface Only Painting Using Oil Based Paints

Oil based paints work the best. Using a cheap small sponge brush it's easy to paint just one raised area at a time by lightly dabbing it on. The paint will settle and smooth, so don't over work the brush. Two coats usually looks great.