



Care Sheet

First of all, I would like to thank you for your custom. I really hope you are happy with your purchase and I am sincerely grateful because you are making a big difference to my life and helping me to achieve a lifelong dream. Have a look at this page on my website if you want to find out what I mean:

<http://pjnwoodturning.weebly.com/my-highland-dream.html> or scan the QR code overleaf if you have a smartphone.

Surface maintenance

I finish most of my turned work with wax as it nourishes the wood, allows it to breathe and gives a deep lustre. I often work the wax to a satin finish rather than high gloss for anything that may get handled as it makes the piece silky smooth to the touch and doesn't show fingerprints. It also looks more like a natural patina and allows the beautiful figuring and grain of the wood to shine through. I do use high gloss finishes on my pens and some parts of a turned piece such as finials and feet to add contrast. I usually finish the finials and feet with a coat of paste wax to enhance the grain then apply pure carnauba wax over the top.

My wooden pens are finished with a hard-wearing melamine lacquer which is polished and burnished. My acrylic pens are polished and burnished the same manner but the work is done directly to the acrylic itself as no extra coatings are needed. With the exception of my acrylic pens, I strongly advise against using water to clean your turned item. Wax is water-resistant, **not** waterproof.

The finish I have applied should last for a very long time and shouldn't need any maintenance or attention other than an occasional dusting or a light buffing with a soft cloth. I made myself a Georgian Style wardrobe 12 years ago which is finished with wax, the finish is the same today as it was then and it's only ever been dusted. If you want to re-wax the piece, use paste wax, **not** spray polish such as Mr Sheen. Spray polish does have wax in it but it is for hard surface finishes such as varnish or lacquer. Paste wax usually comes in a flat, round tin (like a bigger version of shoe polish). I use and personally recommend the following brands; Liberon Black Bison, Mylands, Briwax and Renaissance Wax. Make sure you get the 'clear' or 'neutral' version of the first 3 as they do come in various colours as well (Liberon Black Bison is actually yellow in the tin but that's because it has a high carnauba and beeswax content, it's still a clear wax). Renaissance Wax is more expensive than the others and comes in much smaller tins but a little goes a very long way and it's a microcrystalline wax so it is more hardwearing. The British Museum uses it to protect priceless artefacts (they also invented it) and it's approved by the Queen so it must be good stuff!

These pictures show what each tin of wax looks like:



How To Apply Wax

To apply the wax, a piece of kitchen roll works well or you could use a soft cloth. Use the wax sparingly and work it in with small circular motions. Don't overwork it or apply too much as it can form clumps that stick to the surface and can be hard to remove. For a soft sheen, apply the wax on a small area and polish with a soft cloth or a fresh sheet of kitchen roll straight away. For a low gloss finish, apply the wax and let the wax dry for a few minutes before polishing. Repeat the process 2-3 times for a gloss finish. An even gloss finish can be quite difficult to achieve but if you get into difficulties it can be fixed. You can cut the finish back with 0000 fine wire wool and start again. You don't have to completely remove all of the finish as the wax will blend into the surrounding area. I would suggest getting a small piece of wood and practice on that first to see how you get on with waxing. Once you get the technique right, you'll be waxing everything in sight!

Wood Care

Your hand-turned wooden item is totally natural and can react to its environment. It is not mass produced by machine from factory treated wood thus the item you have could be affected by several factors if not looked after properly. Please don't let this information scare you, I keep some of my work and not all of it is in technically ideal places around the house and it's still all perfectly fine after many years. I just want to make you aware of potential hazards that could affect the lifespan of the item.

Archaeologists have dug up wooden spears in Schöningen, Germany that were made around 400,000 years ago, they weren't kept in ideal conditions and they have survived relatively unscathed! That's an extreme example but I'm sure you get my point. Essentially, common sense is your best guide but here's some information that will help.

Heat

Natural wooden products do not like great amounts of heat, be it central heating or direct sunlight.

I would advise that your item is not placed too close to a radiator or fireplace or in a sunny window. Leaving your item close to a source of heat will dry the wood very quickly and will possibly make it crack as the moisture escapes from inside.

Moisture

Your turned wooden item needs to retain a certain level of moisture content to keep at its best. A very dry environment can cause the wood fibres to dry out and crack as they shrink and a very humid environment can allow the wood to move or warp as the extra moisture allows the wood fibres to swell, slip past each other and release any residual tension they have. A normal home environment is just right to keep your item stable although a small amount of warping is quite normal (ever had a wooden door or window that sticks or catches the frame all of a sudden for no apparent reason? well, it's usually the same thing that's happening).

Light

Light, particularly ultraviolet light can affect the colour of wood. Light coloured wood often darkens and dark wood can get lighter in bright sunlight and brightly coloured wood can become duller in sunlight too. This is a normal and natural process and if the item is kept in a normal position within a room, it will be almost unnoticeable and take many years to change but if placed on a windowsill or direct sunlight all day can happen much quicker. One of my favourite types of wood to turn is called purpleheart. This actually needs to be exposed to sunlight to make the purple colour appear as the wood is a dark, chocolate brown when freshly cut. I only turn purpleheart on sunny days and I leave the finished piece in the garden for 10 minutes or so to turn bright purple. Once it has, the colour darkens over the years to a beautiful deep plum.

I hope you have found this useful and informative and just remember that even if your item appears quite delicate and fragile, it's tougher than you might expect. After all, it has survived being spun at over 1000 revolutions per minute while being cut with steel tools!

Thank you once again for your valued custom.

Kind Regards,

Pete.



My Highland Dream