

# GENERAL FINISHES IDEA BOOK

## Design Inspiration For Your Furniture

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All Waterbase Stains, Country Colors, Milk Paints, Antique Wax and Oil Base Finishes are provided by General Finishes Corporation. Finishes completed by Tom, Rob, Chris, Sheryl and Jenny. [www.generalfinishes.com](http://www.generalfinishes.com) 6-24-05

### General Finishing Tips

<b>Test, test, test!</b>	Always test your colors on a hidden part of the furniture. Every piece of wood and every wood species is unique and will finish differently.
<b>Preparation Sanding</b>	On most raw woods, start sanding in the direction of the grain using a #120-150 grit paper before staining and work up to #220 grit paper. On hard woods such as maple or birch, start with a #120 grit paper and finish with a #150 grit paper to keep the grain open and receptive to stain. Do not over sand or you may seal the wood so much that it will not take a finish. Remove dust with an air hose, damp cloth or "oil free" tack cloths.
<b>Sanding Techniques Between Coats</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Do not sand or buff between coats of wood stains.</li><li>2. Regarding Milk Paints, we like to buff between coats using a #220-#400 grit paper or extra fine to super fine sanding pads. This is a light buffing to smooth out the surface and prepare for the next coat. If paint is balling up, you are sanding too aggressively. Just lighten up your touch and finish up. Remove dust with air or a damp cloth.</li><li>3. Sand between topcoats with #320 to #400 grit sand paper.</li><li>4. Do not use steel wool with water base products, as steel particles will cause rust spots.</li></ol>
<b>Mixing Custom Colors</b>	The following waterbase products; <i>Country colors, Milk paints, Wood Stains</i> and <i>Topcoats</i> can be inter-mixed to create custom colors. Let your creative side come out and play! For example, add <i>Federal Blue Milk Paint</i> to <i>Snow White Milk Paint</i> to get a pale blue.
<b>Distressing, Antiquing &amp; Glazing</b>	<p>Finishing furniture is an art form – you can be as creative as you want! The terms "distressing" and "antiquing" are often used interchangeably in the wood finishing world. These techniques can be used separately or together along with glazing to obtain the degree of "aging" that you desire.</p> <p><b>Distressing</b> is a technique of marking the wood to give the look of character caused by generations of use. Start by gathering the essentials of character building; hammers, nails, screws, old hardware; literally anything you can pound into the wood to leave an imprint. Then start hammering away. If it's been a long week and you need a lift, start a little character therapy project for yourself. Get rid of all that anxiety and distress a piece of furniture at the same time!</p> <p><b>Antiquing</b> is another form of distressing using sanding techniques, often followed glazing to create the appearance of an antique piece of furniture that has been well taken care of over the years but, has slight natural wear and discoloration on the doors, edges, or sides. Antiquing is accomplished as follows: After applying your finish and letting it dry, sand the areas you want antiqued with a random orbital sander, following with 100 grit sandpaper by hand to enhance certain areas along the edges, around doorknobs, etc. The look you are trying to obtain is a slightly distressed piece, so don't hold the sander in one spot too long. DO NOT sand corners or moldings with a power sander - these areas should be done by hand. Do one side at a time. After you have finished a section, wipe it down with a <u>slightly</u> damp cloth to remove dust and reveal either the bare wood or under coat of finish beneath, creating the look of slightly worn areas. Be careful not to sand too hard after you have wiped a section with the damp cloth. When the furniture is sanded while damp, too much paint will come off. It's important to gradually sand all areas. After you have sanded all surfaces inside and out with power sander (using either a #220 gray foam sanding pad or #400 grit sandpaper), you are ready to hand sand the edges, corners, and moldings. Think about where extra wear would be from using the doorknobs, etc. You will notice as you sand that different pressures expose varied amounts of undercoat. The doors of furniture get the most wear, so open and close the door and take notice of where your hands are. Imagine over time how much the areas are used and touched. This should help you decide what areas need to be more distressed.</p> <p><b>Glazing</b> is the process of applying a translucent color to the surface, and then rubbing off the excess glaze. The trick is to <b>really slather it on (and we mean slather)</b>, keeping the surface wet as you apply the glaze. Then just wipe off the excess until you achieve the look you want. You could use an earth-tone glaze such as <i>Van Dyke Brown</i> applied to the sanded areas and moldings of a piece of furniture to create a discolored and aged look. Or you can use glazes to create soft layers of colors. This is not a science – it is an art form!</p>

<p><b>Primer tips for use with Milk Paints:</b></p>	<p>Primer is recommended before painting. It soaks in to seal the wood and provides a good base for the paint to adhere to. Always use <b>primer</b> on anything with heavy, open grain woods such as oak, and on dark woods such as alder if you are painting a light color. Use <i>Brick Red Milk Paint</i> as a primer for darker colors, or just an extra coat of your selected <i>Milk Paint</i>. Use White Primer for light colors such as Snow White, Buttermilk Yellow, Sage Green, and Antique White. Mix primer thoroughly, then apply evenly with the grain using a foam Poly Brush or Handi Painter pad applicator. Milk Paint products may also be sprayed. Refer to <a href="http://www.generalfinishes.com">www.generalfinishes.com</a> for detailed instructions. Normal dry time is two-4 hours. Heavy coats, high humidity, and cooler temperatures will lengthen dry time up to 8-10 hours.</p>
<p><b>Other good stuff to know:</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Unless instructions say otherwise, let product dry between coats as per instructions on the can.</li> <li>2. Don't be stingy when applying water base products. Load up the foam brush or handi-painter with product and apply liberally, keeping the surface wet until you are prepared to remove the excess.</li> <li>3. We love using Handi Painter paint pads or Jen foam brushes (the kind with wood handles). Just remember that when Handi Painter Pads are new, they shed. Be SURE to brush or rinse off any fuzz before using.</li> <li>4. Buy enough foam brushes and paint pads. We always have several either in use or rinsed and drying at the same time.</li> <li>5. Paper plates covered in aluminum foil provide the perfect container for application. So do McDonald's salad bowls – please wash first.</li> <li>6. When using oil base products, be sure to dispose of any left over product and application materials according to label instructions.</li> <li>7. When staining door and drawer knobs, set the knobs in the bottom of a cardboard box for easy finish application. Simply cut slots in the cardboard, and slide the screws (with the knobs attached) into the slots to make them free standing.</li> <li>8. We recommend using waterbase products on any woods that penetrate easily, such as pine or aspen, to reduce the blotching caused by oilbase stains.</li> </ol>

### Design Inspiration Finishing Instructions



**Antiqued White Pantry (Layered colors –distressing, antiquing and glazing techniques, combined)**

This is a piece you can play with to get the look you want. Sheryl's creative touch shows in this two-door pantry. Cheryl and Tom painted two coats of Country Colors Slate Green on with a Handi Painter applicator to make a solid color base. For the second step, they applied one coat of *Polyacrylic Semi gloss* to seal in color. This prevents the base color from being sanded off in later steps. Third, they applied two coats of *Snow White Milk Paint* (or as many coats until desired coverage is achieved). Next, they sanded the entire exterior with a random orbital sander, following with 100 grit sandpaper by hand to enhance certain areas along the edges, around doorknobs, etc. Use your power sander with medium sand paper to go over sides, back, and inside, making sure to hold sander flat and apply firm pressure. The look you are trying to obtain is a slightly distressed piece, so don't hold the sander in one spot too long. DO NOT sand corners or door yet, this will be done using hand sandpaper. Do one side at a time. After you have finished a side, wipe it down with a slightly damp cloth, this will remove dust and restore color, showing slightly worn areas. The *Slate Green* undercoat coming through will start giving the item an aged look. After you have sanded all surfaces inside and out with power sander, you are ready to hand sand the edges, corners, and door. You will want to be thinking about where extra wear would be from using the doorknobs, etc. You will notice as you sand that different pressures will bring out more of the undercoat. The doors of furniture get the most wear, so open and close the door and take notice of where your hands are. Imagine over time how much the areas are used and touched. This should help you decide what areas need to be more distressed. Be careful not to sand too hard after you have wiped a section with the damp cloth. When the furniture is sanded while damp, too much paint will come off. It's important to gradually sand all areas. Finally *Van Dyke Brown Glaze* was applied liberally with a poly brush over the entire surface and then wiped down. *The Van Dyke Glaze* mellows out the look where the sanded areas have exposed the green base coat and cut through the green to the bare wood. You will obtain a warm yellow antiqued look! The entire inside was completed with two coats of *Country Colors Slate Green*. The shelves were antiqued by

	<p>sanding the edges through the green to the bare wood for a worn look and then finished with <i>Country Pine</i>. Then <i>Country Pine</i> was rubbed on and wiped off slightly to give the exterior of the pantry an aged antique look. Or you could use any of the <i>Glaze Effects</i> colors. <i>Waterbase Polyacrylic Topcoat</i> finished the piece off.</p>
	<p><b>One Door White Cabinet</b>  Paint on two to three coats of <i>Snow White Milk Paint</i> painted on with a foam brush. For extra protection, topcoat with <i>Waterbase Polyacrylic Blend</i> or <i>Waterbase High Performance Urethane</i>. Application note: when working with pine, use a coat of <i>White Milk Paint Primer</i> that contains a knot sealer. Primer helps conceal pine grain and knots, but may not prevent Mother Nature from taking her course – knots may bleed through eventually anyway!</p>
	<p><b>Two Drawer Console</b>  Paint on two to three coats <i>Autumn Haze Milk Paint</i> with a Handi Painter pad or foam brush. For optional extra protection, topcoat with <i>Waterbase Polyacrylic Blend</i> or <i>Waterbase High Performance Urethane</i>. Application note: when working with pine, you may first wish to use a coat of <i>Brick Red Milk Paint</i> or an extra coat of <i>Autumn Haze</i> as a primer.</p>
	<p><b>Buttermilk Small Two-Door Armoire</b>  Paint on two to three coats of <i>Buttermilk Yellow Milk Paint</i> with a Handi Painter pad or foam brush. For optional extra protection, topcoat with <i>Waterbase Polyacrylic Blend</i> or <i>High Performance Urethane</i>. Application note: If working with pine, you may first wish to use a coat of <i>White Milk Paint Primer</i>.</p>
	<p><b>Eggshell Armoire</b>  The doors, drawer fronts, base and crown molding are finished in <i>Prelude Salem Oilbase Stain</i>. Tape off the cabinet moldings tightly (we recommend blue 3M tape) - then stain and top coat the wood-toned portions first. Immediately after staining, remove the tape along the moldings to prevent bleeding along the grain. (Any stain will bleed under tape if you leave it on too long) After the stain is dry, re-tape in order to put the topcoat on. To make the checkerboard pattern on the door fronts, tape off the area where you want to put the checkerboard design before staining and top coating the door and middle of front door panels. We used two strips of wide blue 3M tape for our template on the door panels. Stain the open area on the door panels and remove the tape IMMEDIATELY after staining – let the stain dry. Then tape off again, seal the stained area with top coat, and again remove the tape after top coating to prevent bleeding along the grain. It is time consuming but necessary. After completing this, tape off around the area for the checkerboard, leaving only the raw wood exposed. Paint on a coat of <i>Antique White Milk Paint</i>. Remove the tape immediately. When the <i>Antique White</i> area is dry, stamp in the checkerboard, using a piece of foam rubber. (We cut a square piece from scrap foam rubber, but pre-cut foam stamps are available at most arts and crafts stores). On this piece, we used a layer of gold metallic paint (available at any arts and crafts store), and stamped directly over the gold with <i>Country Colors Hunter Green</i>. <i>Waterbase PolyAcrylic</i> satin topcoat finished the entire piece off.</p>
	<p><b>Yellow Armoire</b>  The doors, drawer fronts, base and crown molding are finished in <i>Waterbase Pecan</i>, with <i>Waterbase PolyAcrylic Satin</i> as the topcoat. Tape off the cabinet moldings tightly (we recommend blue 3M tape) - then stain and top coat the wood-toned portions first. Immediately after staining, remove the tape along the moldings to prevent bleeding along the grain. (Any stain will bleed under tape if you leave it on too long) After the stain is dry, re-tape in order to apply the topcoat, again removing the tape immediately when finished. The exterior cabinet is done in a layer of colors. Tape off the stained portions before starting the cabinet exterior. First Chris painted on one layer of <i>Country Colors Eggshell</i>. After drying, Chris went over it with a second layer of <i>Buttermilk Milk Paint</i>, painted on and then wiped down lightly to let the brighter first coat show through slightly. The last layer is a coat of <i>Country Pine</i> painted on, and rubbed off. The result is a beautiful, multi-layered look of grain over soft yellow tones. Glazes can also be used instead of the <i>Country Pine</i>. The interior can be done in any color. This interior is finished in <i>Brick Red Milk Paint</i> with the knobs done in the same color. <i>GF Waterbase PolyAcrylic</i> satin topcoat finished the entire piece off.</p>

**Red Credenza**

The doors, drawer fronts, base and two crown moldings are finished in *Waterbase Pecan*. Chris finished the exterior of the cabinet in two coats of *Brick Red Milk Paint*, painted on. After drying, she sanded the corners and edges down lightly through the Brick Red paint to the bare wood. Pecan was then brushed on with a foam poly brush over all red painted surfaces and wiped off. This gives the red an old world glazed look and colors the areas that were sanded through to the bare wood creating a unique distressed finish! *Waterbase PolyAcrylic Satin Topcoat* finished the piece off.

**White Three Drawer Chest**

Two to three coats of *Snow White Milk Paint* painted on - use either a foam brush or Handi Painter. Then the entire piece is finished with *GF Waterbase PolyAcrylic Gloss Topcoat*. The knobs are finished with a blended color: One Tablespoon of *Federal Blue Milk Paint* mixed with 1 Pint of *Snow White Milk Paint*. Simply mix colors until you get the look you want. Put the screws in the knobs, dip them in the color, and let them dry while inserted in the bottom of a cardboard box. For optional extra protection, topcoat with *GF Waterbase PolyAcrylic Blend* or *GF Waterbase High Performance Urethane*. Application note: when working with pine, you may first wish to use a coat of *White Milk Paint Primer*.

**Oak Cupboard**

This is stained with 1 coat of *GF Oilbase Salem* and top coated with *GF Arm-R-Seal Semi-gloss*.

**Federal Blue Night Stand**

Paint on two to three coats of *Federal Blue Milk Paint* with a Handi Painter pad or foam brush. For optional extra protection, topcoat with *Polyacrylic Blend* or *High Performance Urethane*. Application note: when working with pine, you may first wish to use a coat of *Brick Red Milk Paint* or an extra coat of *Federal Blue Milk Paint* as a primer.

**5 Drawer Pine Chest**

The exterior is painted with two coats of *Country Colors Barn Red*, and the drawers are completed in one coat of *Waterbase Pecan wood stain*. *Waterbase PolyAcrylic* topcoat finished the piece off.

**Three Tone Armoire**

The frame of this armoire is finished in one coat *Shaker Maple*. The raised door panels are completed in one coats of *Rosewood* with one coat of *Country Colors Hunter Green* around the edges of the panels. *Waterbase PolyAcrylic* topcoat finished the piece off.

**Sleigh Bed**

This bedroom set is stained in one coat of *Waterbase Rosewood* with three coats of *Waterbase PolyAcrylic* topcoat.



**4 Drawer Chest**

The frame & drawer pulls of this wood chest are finished in two coats of *Wipe-on Oil Base Mahogany*. The top and feet are finished in one coat of *Wipe-on Oil Base Honey*. The drawer fronts are completed in *Wipe-on Oil Base Salem* edged with *Wipe-on Oil Base Honey*. The piece is finished with three coats of *Waterbase Polyacrylic* satin topcoat.



**Pine Cubes**

The white portions are done in *Snow White Milk Paint*. The green is *Sage Green Milk Paint*. The periwinkle is a blend of colors: ½ pint of *Snow White Milk Paint*, One Tablespoon of *Federal Blue Milk Paint*, and one teaspoon of *Country Colors Black*. We simply mixed until we got the color we wanted. We recommend using any of the *Milk Paint Colors* to get the look you want. The entire piece is finished in *Waterbase PolyAcrylic Gloss Topcoat*. Application note: when working with pine, you may wish to use a coat of *White Milk Paint Primer*.



**Two Door Pantry in Pine**

For the two-door pantry cabinet, start with one coat *English Brown Oak Antique Wax*. Pour product onto a plate or shallow container (a paper plate lined with foil works fine). Working in sections, apply product onto piece with long strokes using a *Handi Painter* pad. On the first coat, use a **LIBERAL** amount of wax to ensure proper coverage (really slather it on), and get into any deeper character lines. Don't be surprised if the first coat is uneven. Even though *Antique Wax* is a one step product, it needs several coats to achieve color and depth. Let the first coat dry 30 minutes (if humid or raining, dry times may be longer). Buff between coats with a gray sanding pad 220 or higher or gray 400 sand paper to knock down any grain and smooth out surface for next coat. Wipe off the sanding dust using a soft, dry cloth – do not use tack cloths! To enrich the depth of color, we added a second coat of *Wexford Maple Antique Wax* - this made our rustic pantry cabinet just glow! Buff again and add a final coat of the clear wax, which gives the piece more build, luster and that hand rubbed feel. A very touchable piece!



**Two Door Pantry in Oak**

This pantry is stained with one coat of *Wipe-on Oil Base Antique Cherry* and top coated with three coats of *Wipe-on Oil Base Satin*.



**One Door Glazed Pantry – Layered colors**

Sheryl's first application on both the exterior and interior was a coat of *GF Waterbase Brown Mahogany*. Second, she sealed the color in with a coat of *Waterbase Polyacrylic topcoat*. Third, Sheryl painted on two coats of *Country Colors Mustard Yellow*, allowing the coats to dry in between. Seal again with *Waterbase PolyAcrylic topcoat*. Then sand along the edges and the raised panels with a hand sander (120) grit paper) to reveal the *Brown Mahogany* color underneath. Glaze over the Mustard with *Van Dyke Brown Glaze* to create a rustic look. For optional extra protection, topcoat with *GF Waterbase PolyAcrylic Blend* or *Waterbase High Performance Urethane*.



**Corner China**

The first application on both exterior and interior is a coat of *GF Waterbase Golden Oak*. Second, seal the color in with a coat of *GF Waterbase Polyacrylic topcoat*. Third, paint on two coats of *Country Colors Black* on the outside and doors of the cabinet, allowing the coats to dry in between. Next, sand the edges and along the raised panels with a hand sander (120) grit paper) to reveal the *GF Waterbase Golden Oak* color underneath. *GF Waterbase PolyAcrylic Topcoat* finished the piece off.

	<p><b>Corner China – Black and Red</b>  Tom stained the interior with <i>Country Colors Cranberry Red</i>, and wiped the excess stain off while the surface was still wet. The first application on the exterior was two coats of <i>CC Cranberry Red</i>. Second, he sealed the entire unit, interior and exterior, with a coat of <i>GF Waterbase PolyAcrylic topcoat</i>. Third, he painted on two coats of <i>Country Colors Black</i> on the outside and doors of the cabinet, allowing the coats to dry in between applications. Then he sanded the edges and along the raised panels with a hand sander (120) grit paper) to reveal <i>Cranberry Red</i> color underneath. Two coats of <i>GF Waterbase PolyAcrylic Topcoat</i> finished the piece off.</p>
	<p><b>Antique White Kitchen Hutch</b>  Sheryl finished this piece with one coat of <i>White Milk Paint Primer</i> followed by two coats of <i>Antique White Milk Paint</i>. One coat of <i>GF Waterbase PolyAcrylic Topcoat</i> finished the piece off.</p>
	<p><b>Bombay Chest</b>  This looks like a Bombay Chest your grandfather would have brought back from India after the war. And Chris fell in love with <i>Antique Wax</i> while finishing this piece. The top is done in three coats of <i>Wexford Maple Antique Wax</i> painted on with a Handi Painter pad. The base is done in three coats of <i>Victorian Cherry Antique Wax</i>. Pour product onto a shallow container (a paper plate lined with foil works fine). Working in sections, apply product onto furniture with long strokes using a Handi Painter pad. On the first coat, use a <b>LIBERAL</b> amount of wax to ensure proper coverage (really <b>slather</b> it on), and get into any deeper character lines. Don't be surprised if the first coat is uneven. If you make any brush strokes, just add more wax and go over the area again. The second two coats will apply more easily as the wax finish builds over the raw wood. Then just drag each coat of <i>Antique Wax</i> out using dry foam brush until you get the look you want. Let each coat dry for 30 to 60 minutes before applying the next one.</p>
	<p><b>White Blanket Chest/Striped Top</b>  First, paint on one coat of <i>White Milk Paint Primer</i>. Second, apply two coats of <i>Snow White Milk Paint</i> to create a strong white base. To create the effect of three colors of stripes on the top, you will be applying a green and a periwinkle stripe over the white base. The green is <i>Sage Green Milk Paint</i>. The periwinkle is a blend of one pint of <i>Snow White Milk Paint</i> and one tablespoon of <i>Federal Blue Milk Paint</i>. The stripes were created using wide blue 3M tape, using the width of the tape to measure the distance of the stripes from each other. (We used a two" wide tape). Pull the tape off immediately after painting each stripe to prevent bleeding. <i>GF Waterbase PolyAcrylic Gloss Topcoat</i> finished the piece off. Application note: when working with pine, you may wish to use a coat of <i>White Milk Paint Primer</i>.</p>
	<p><b>Two Piece Buffet</b>  The frame of this two-piece buffet is finished with two coats of <i>Country Colors Black</i> in a distressed finish. After applying the <i>Country Colors Black</i>, the frame was hand sanded all around the edges and on random areas of the flat surfaces. Next, <i>GF Waterbase Country Pine</i> was applied with a poly brush over the entire black portion of the surface. <i>Country Pine</i> really mellows out the color where the sanded areas have exposed the bare wood. You will obtain a rich, antiqued look! The frame was completed with <i>GF Waterbase Polyacrylic Topcoat</i>. The door, drawer fronts and top are finished in <i>GF Salem Wipe-on Oilbase stain</i>. The interior is completed with two coats of <i>Red Pepper Milk Paint</i> and one coat of <i>GF Waterbase Polyacrylic Topcoat</i> – a smashing look!</p>
	<p><b>Rocker and Corner Entertainment</b>  One coat of <i>White Milk Paint Primer</i>. The white chair frame is done in two coats of <i>Snow White Milk Paint</i>. The periwinkle is a blend of one pint of <i>Snow White Milk Paint</i> and one tablespoon of <i>Federal Blue Milk Paint</i>. Application note: when working with pine, you may wish to use a coat of <i>White Milk Paint Primer</i>.</p>



### **Blanket Chest**

Pour product onto a shallow container (a paper plate lined with foil works fine). Apply three coats of *Victorian Cherry Antique Wax*. Working in sections, apply product onto furniture with long strokes using a Handi Painter pad. On the first coat, use a liberal amount of wax to ensure proper coverage (really slather it on), and get into any deeper character lines. Don't be surprised if the first coat is uneven. The second two coats will apply more easily. Even though Antique Wax is a one step product, it needs several coats to achieve color and depth. Let each coat dry 30 minutes (if humid or raining, dry times may be longer). Drag out each coat of wax using a dry foam brush until you achieve the look you want – this is an art form, not a science. Lots of artistic license is allowed! The second two coats will apply more easily. If desired, finish the piece with *GF Waterbase Polyacrylic* topcoat.

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