

Questions and solutions – Clear Finishing Timber

Before finishing there are some questions to ask or have an idea of how to Prepare and finish the project filling holes, cracks or River Pours;

- What size is it and how thick?
- Do the holes / cracks go all the way through?
- Do you just want to fill the holes and then finish? or
- Do you want to encase the whole piece and have it level with clear outer edges? or
- Do you want the natural contours of the burl?
- Do you want an ultra-clear finish to see down into the timber or use pigment in the holes?
- What finish do you want? Gloss “see your face finish” a good gloss or Matt finish.
- Will it be used indoors or outdoors? Even on a covered balcony.
- Do you want a softer colour or have the colour of the timber jump out at you?

Once you have answers to the above questions, we can lead you down the right garden path.

There are several ways to finish your Luci Clear River Pour finish. As the project needs to be dammed in some way, it will leave a concave meniscus edge if using a form and shrinks back slightly as it cures. Therefore, when filling cavities of any kind it will rarely be a finish as poured. The finish is dependent on the use and finish you require / desire.

Solutions

1. Oil or wax finish - Fine sand to around 600 to 1000 Wet & Dry and then use timber oil such as Aussie clear (which is exterior durable) or wax polish – it will provide a flat to matt finish. This is fairly durable and easily recoverable with a clean and reapplication with oil or wax.

Tips:

- i. To enhance the River Pour finish to a “see your face” finish - buff and polish like Car duco and you can achieve a magnificent crystal clear finish even with oil or wax applied.*

2. The easiest way to bring up the Luci Clear high gloss finish is to sand flat with 80Grit sand paper with Abranet Sanding pads providing a fast and great finish. Then pour a thin layer of Luci Clear over the surface.

Tips:

- i. Coat the surface underneath and sides with at least two coats of Bote Cote Epoxy Resin with non-Yellowing Hardener before sanding the top. Preferably adding TPRDA for the 1st coat. This will waterproof and stabilise the timber.*
- ii. Once cured, sand the edges and top of your job to remove all gloss. Then apply masking tape underneath back from the edge about 2 to 3 mm.*
- iii. Suspend the job off your working surface using plastic buckets, measure cups or our stand-off plugs.*

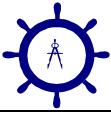
3. For a matt to gloss finish on your River Pour surface or timber with filled holes for interior use; sand all surfaces to about 320 grit and then apply Clear Aquacote about 1 to 2 hours apart.

Tips:

- i. Add about 10% water for the 1st couple of coats for a matt to semi-gloss finish.*
- ii. Applying 3 or 4 coats in the one day will provide a gloss to high gloss finish. Last coat add 20 to 30% water.*

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- iii. Do not play with the Aquacote when applying as it tips off very fast and will go lumpy / rough if you try to go back over it after 2 to 5 minutes.
- iv. After a week it can be buffed like car duco if you want a "See your Face Finish".

4. For a Durable gloss on your River Pour surface or timber with filled holes for exterior use or for kitchen bench tops / bathroom vanity units follow the below process.
- a) Coat the surface underneath and sides with at least two coats of Bote Cote Epoxy Resin with non-Yellowing Hardener before sanding the top. Preferably adding TPRDA for the 1st coat.
 - b) Once cured, sand the edges and top of your job to remove all gloss. Then apply masking tape underneath back from the edge about 2 to 3 mm.
 - c) Suspend the job off your working surface using plastic buckets, measure cups or stand-off plugs.
 - d) Then apply at least 3 coats of Bote Cote on the top and sides.
 - e) Once cured sand the Bote Cote back on all surfaces exposed on the finished job to remove all gloss. Start with 80 or 120 Grit and sand down until gloss areas are about 5 cent coin size. Then go to 120 grit and sand to about 2mm diameter gloss patches. Then go to 240 Grit to take the surface down to no gloss. Then finish to 320 Grit for a high gloss finish.

Tips:

- i. Do not power sand edges and always use radiused edges.
 - ii. Always put Cardboard or plastic under your job.
 - iii. Always elevate your job as per 4c. or it will be stuck to the cardboard or worse your workbench.
 - f) Finish off with Aquacote as per Paragraph 3 above. Or oil as per Paragraph 1, but if exterior it will need recoating on a regular basis based manufacturer's directions.
5. Colour – Aquacote softens the colour of timber and needs several coats to fill the grain and bring up a high gloss depending on the timber type. Luci Clear, Pour On Gloss and Bote Cote brings out the colour in timber, plus it seals and waterproofs the timber, stabilising it. The left hand piece in Figure 1 is coated with 2 coats of Aquacote & the right hand piece is coated with the Clear System (3 coats Bote Cote with Non Yellowing Hardener, then 2 coats of Aquacote Clear.



Figure 1 – Tassie Oak & Jarrah Laminated – Courtesy John Miller

If you require further answers or assistance we look forward to hearing from you.

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