

## **Q&A about lacquerware**

### **Is lacquerware furniture more durable?**

Lacquer is a highly resistant and durable material. As a result, it is a widespread wood furniture finish preferred by most woodworkers that also protects the true beauty of the wood ageing process. However, while the finish has excellent resistance to damage, it is difficult to remove scratches or dents if the wood surface is penetrated.

### **What's better – lacquerware or varnish?**

While alcohol-based varnishes provide an exceptional finish that brings out the grain of the wood and is affordably priced, it has low abrasion resistance. On the other hand, lacquerware is tough. As a result, its longevity lasts longer than any of its contenders without flaking or chipping.

### **Why is lacquerware furniture so pricey?**

Lacquerware is seen as a decorative art form from many different regions of China, Korea and Japan, it has held its status with its particular exotic appeal for its European collectors. The price of Asian Lacquerware furniture comes down to its flawless finish, refined for over 7000 years. As the artistic quality of lacquered furniture has improved with the development of the economy and culture, so has its value.

### **What is lacquered furniture?**

Lacquer is a modern wood finish that is commonly used on high end furniture. It is fast drying, impervious to water, and maintains its transparency as it ages. Lacquer finishes are popular because they don't yellow with age, protect well against liquids, and require very little maintenance.

Lacquers are comparable to a varnish or urethane, but are usually sprayed on rather than applied with a brush or hand-rubbed cloth. Like varnish and urethanes, and in contrast to oil finishes, lacquer forms a film on top of the wood grain rather than saturating it. The use and advancement of lacquer finishes has made shellac largely irrelevant since the mid 1900's.

### **Pros & Cons of Lacquer as a Wood Finish**

Although lacquer is one of the most common furniture finishes used among high end manufacturers, it does come with some drawbacks.

#### Pros

- Cures to a very hard and durable finish
- Impervious to water and other liquids
- Doesn't get cloudy or yellow as it ages (certain types)
- Super low maintenance, requires no additional care

## Cons

- Difficult to apply (need the right equipment and a dedicated spraying areas)
- Difficult to remove scratches or dents
- Toxic off-gassing when first applied (safe when dry)