

## Craft Art Homeowner DIY Finishing/Oiling Instructions

### What You Have:

- Full length, full width boards - Homeowner Do-It-Yourself wood countertop
- Voids filled for a smooth solid surface
- Eased Edge on all four sides (a.k.a. 1/8" Roundover Edge)
- 1 Coat of Waterlox Tung Oil has been pre-applied

### Materials Needed:

- **Waterlox Original Sealer/Finish** – available at <http://store.craft-art.com>
- **Waterlox Original Satin Finish** – available at <http://store.craft-art.com>
- **320 Grit Sandpaper** – available at most hardware stores and home centers.
  - Optional – **220 Grit Sandpaper** for additional fine sanding if necessary
- **Sanding Block** – available at most hardware stores and home centers.
- **Cotton T-Shirt Rags**
- **Tack Cloth** – available at most hardware stores and home centers.
- **Short Bristled Paint Pad x 4** – available at most hardware stores and home centers.
- **Paint Tray** – available at most hardware stores and home centers.
- Optional – **Drop Cloth** – available at most hardware stores and home centers.

**Total Working Time:**  
2-3 Hours

**Total Drying Time:**  
36-48 Hours

### Instructions:

You may install prior to finishing or after finishing. If installing prior to finishing, be sure to cover floor with plastic during the finishing process. For optimal results, finish in well ventilated, enclosed area (i.e. garage)

1. **COAT 1** – Wrap sanding block with 320 grit sandpaper. Scuff the surface of your top in 2-3 foot, straight strokes, *always with the grain of the wood*. Follow the straight seams of the wood to assure an even, proper sand. *You do not want to apply much pressure while scuffing, just the weight of your hand resting on the sanding block will be sufficient. Keep in mind that you are not trying to sand completely down to bare wood. The goal is to just scuff and smooth the entire surface area, to knock off any debris and give the next coat of oil something to adhere to.*

Sand the edge. To prep the rounded portion of the edge for the next coat, take a small (4" x 4") piece of the sandpaper (320 grit) in your hand and wrap it around the easing, scuffing in 1-2 foot strokes, working your way down the edge. For the vertical, flat edge surface, use the sanding block as you did on the flat top surface.

**TIP:** Be careful that the motion of your arm/hand **does not** resemble the movement of a windshield wiper, creating a rainbow shaped sanding pattern.

**HINT:** If the absorption rate appears uneven, there is no need for concern as the density of the wood can vary throughout the surface of your top.

Clean entire top with your dry t-shirt rag. Then rub clean with your tack cloth to remove any debris. Do not leave debris on the surface before applying oil.

Pour a generous amount (varying depending on the size of your top) of **Waterlox Original Sealer/Finish** into a standard paint tray. Using a short-bristled paint pad spread the oil out to the edges of your top *maintaining even pressure*. Keep a clean rag handy to wipe away any oil that runs over the edge. Use a clean rag, damp with oil, to even the oil out. The oil will be just thick enough to write in with your fingertip, but not so thick that it will continue to run over the edges after wiping them one time. At one end of your top and in the center of that side of your top, rub the oil back and forth in 2-3 foot strokes going with the grain at all times. Do not pick the rag up from the surface of the top as you work it back and forth. This action will resemble the pressure and motion used while washing the hood of a car, starting from the middle, working your way toward the edge you are standing in front of. Once one section is complete, move over and repeat, slightly overlapping (2-3") the edge of the previous section. If done correctly, there should be no puddles of oil and the remaining oil should start absorbing into the wood.

**DRY TIME 1** – Allow a minimum of 8 hours for this coat to dry, though we recommend as much as 24 hours. For COAT 1 it is ok to use a fan to decrease dry time. *Do NOT go to next step if the finish is tacky, sticky, or wet – wait until fully dry.*

2. **COAT 2** – Repeat the exact process from COAT 1 Instructions including the light sanding, wiping off the debris, and oiling with the **Waterlox Original Sealer/Finish**.

**DRY TIME 2** – Allow a minimum of 8 hours for this coat to dry, though we recommend as much as 24 hours. For COAT 2 it is ok to use a fan to decrease dry time. *Do Not go to next step if the finish is tacky, sticky, or wet – wait until fully dry.*

3. **CRITICAL COAT 3** – Make a **50/50 Mix of the Waterlox Satin Finish with Waterlox Original Sealer/Finish** in a paint tray to achieve a medium to low sheen. Stir thoroughly. The last two coats are less forgiving. Read the guidelines below to minimize any problem areas. Turn off any fans including ceiling fans during these last two coats.

Repeat the exact process from COAT 1 including the light sanding, wiping off the debris, and oiling with the 50/50 Mix of the Waterlox Satin Finish with Waterlox Original Sealer/Finish. Use extra caution to avoid debris getting in finish and avoid stopping mid-stroke. The last two coats are less forgiving than the first two.

For the oil coats of 50/50 mix, try starting at one end of your countertop in the center and drag the pad all the way down the top in one long pass, going with the grain at all

**TIP:** Be sure to protect surrounding surfaces with a drop cloth or tarp if necessary.

**Why Mix the Oils for COATS 3 and 4?** Satin Finish has a thick consistency that when hand-applied can appear streaky and cloudy. The Original Sealer/Finish has a thinner consistency as well as contains a self-leveling agent that makes it much more forgiving during hand applications.

**TIP:** Maintain smooth, uninterrupted strokes from one side to the other. Stopping at any point before reaching the end of the top will result in a noticeable 'lap mark' in the finish.

times. Do this in long, straight strips, applying just enough pressure to smooth out the oil, but not enough to drag a large build-up of oil along with the pad. Once at the end of one strip, have a clean rag handy to wipe up any oil running over the edge. Start back at the other end, moving the pad toward you to start another strip and repeat the process, barely overlapping the last.

Using a clean rag, damp with the 50/50 mixture oil, work your way around the edges applying an even coat but not so heavy that it runs.

**DRY TIME 3** – Allow a minimum of 8 hours for this coat to dry, though we recommend as much as 24 hours. For COAT 3, it is NOT ok to use a fan to decrease dry time. A fan could blow debris into the finish which may show in the next/last coat. *Do Not go to next step if the finish is tacky, sticky, or wet – wait until fully dry.*

4. **CRITICAL COAT 4 – Use the 50/50 Mix of the Waterlox Satin Finish with Waterlox Original Sealer/Finish** in a paint tray to achieve a medium to low sheen. Stir thoroughly. The last coat is the least forgiving. Read the guidelines below to minimize any problem areas.

Repeat the sanding and cleaning process from COAT 1 including the light sanding, wiping off the debris, and oiling with the 50/50 Mix of the Waterlox Satin Finish with Waterlox Original Sealer/Finish. Use extra caution to avoid debris getting in finish – use a fresh, clean cloth and tack cloth to remove all sanding debris.

**\*IMPORTANT GUIDELINES FOR FINAL COAT:** To oil using the 50/50 mix, start at one end of your countertop in the center and drag the pad all the way down the top in one long pass, going with the grain at all times.

Once at the end of one strip, have a clean rag handy to wipe up any oil running over the edge. Start back at the other end, moving the pad toward you to start another strip and repeat the process, barely overlapping the last.

Using a clean rag, damp with the 50/50 mixture oil, work your way around the edges applying an even coat but not so heavy that it runs.

**DRY TIME 4** – Allow a minimum of 12 hours for this coat to dry, though we recommend as much as 24 hours. For COAT 4, it is NOT ok to use a fan to decrease dry time. A fan could blow debris into the finish which may show in the next/last coat. *Do Not go to next step if the finish is tacky, sticky, or wet – wait until fully dry.*

5. Once fully dry, install and enjoy! See installation instructions available at <http://store.craft-art.com> under the DIY Butcher Block menu item.

**HINT: Final Coat is least forgiving. Technique is MOST important on COAT 4. Take Care in following this step's Guidelines!**

**TIP:** Do this in long, straight strips, applying just enough pressure to smooth out the oil, but not enough to drag a large build-up of oil along with the pad. Do not stop mid-stroke while applying the 50/50