

# Idea Book Finishing Instructions

All finishes, Country Colors, Milk Paints, Kids Colors, Antique Wax and Prelude 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)

EF Glaze Effects, Country colors and EF Milk paints can be inter-mixed to create custom colors. There are only a few rules about finishing. Let your creative side come out and play!

	<p><b>Surface Preparation:</b> On raw wood, start sanding with the grain using a #120 grit paper and work up to #220 before painting. Remove dust with air or damp cloth. Sticky tack clothes are not recommended, as they will leave a residue behind.</p>
	<p><b>Sanding Preparation:</b> Sand between coats using a #320-#400 grit paper or extra fine to super fine sanding pads. Steel wool is not recommended for water base products. Clean up with warm soapy water.</p>
	<p><b>Distressing Preparation:</b> To give the furniture even more character, gather the essentials of character building; hammers, nails, screws, old hardware, literally anything you can pound into the wood that would 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. Get rid of all that stress and finish a piece of furniture at the same time!</p> <p><b>Primer recommendations for use with Milk Paints:</b> We recommend using <b>primer</b> on anything with heavy grain or open grain woods such as oak, and also dark woods such as alder if you are painting a light color. Use Red primer for darker colors; Brick Red, Federal Blue, Lamp Black, and Autumn Haze. Use White Primer for light colors; Snow White, Buttermilk Yellow, Sage Green, and Antique White. Primer is recommended before painting. It soaks into the wood sealing it and provides a good base for your paint to adhere to.</p> <p>Mix primer thoroughly, then apply on evenly with the grain. Use a foam Poly Brush or Handipainter pad applicator for application to the wood. Milk Paint products may also be sprayed see label for detailed instructions. Normal dry time is 2-4 hours. Heavy coats, high humidity, and cooler temperatures will lengthen dry time up to 8-10 hours.</p> <p>Mix the Milk Paint thoroughly in the can . Apply Milk Paint evenly using poly foam brush or Handipainter pad applicator, stroking in the direction of the grain. Let dry. Normal dry time is 2-4 hours. Heavy coats, high humidity, and cooler temperatures may lengthen dry time up to 8-10 hours. Buff between coats using a #320-#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, your are sanding to aggressively. Just lighten up your touch and finish up. Remove dust with air or a damp cloth. Two to three coats are recommended. If you do not prime you may have to apply extra coats to get solid coverage.</p>

### Antiqued White Pantry (Layered colors -distressing 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 2 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 EF Polyacrylic Semi gloss to seal in color. This prevents the base color from being sanded off in later steps. Third, they applied 2 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. Hand sand around all edges of furniture, you will notice as you go along 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 EF Country Pine was applied with a poly brush over the entire surface. Country Pine really 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 get a warm yellow antiqued look! The entire inside was completed with two coats of Country Colors Slate green. The shelves were antiqued by sanding the edges through the green to the bare wood for a worn look and then finished with Country Pine. Then EF Country Pine was rubbed on and wiped off slightly to give the pantry an aged antique look. Or you could use any of the *EF Glaze Effects* colors. *EF Polyacrylic Topcoat* finished the piece off.

### One Door Cabinet



Two to three coats of *Snow White Milk Paint* painted on with a foam brush. For extra protection, topcoat with *EF PolyAcrylic Blend* or *EF High Performance Urethane*. Application note: when working with pine, use a coat of White Milk Paint Primer 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!

### Two Drawer Console



Two to three coats *Autumn Haze Milk Paint* – painted on with a handi-painter pad or foam brush. For optional extra protection, topcoat with *EF PolyAcrylic Blend* or *EF High Performance Urethane*. Application note: when working with pine, you may wish to use a coat of Red Milk Paint Primer that contains a knot sealer.

### Buttermilk Small Two-Door Armoire



Two to three coats of *Buttermilk Yellow Milk Paint* -painted on with a handi painter pad or foam brush. For optional extra protection, topcoat with *EF PolyAcrylic Blend* or *EF High Performance Urethane*. Application note: If working with pine, you may wish to use a coat of White Milk Paint Primer that contains a knot sealer.

Primer that contains a knot sealer.

### Eggshell Armoire

The doors, drawer fronts, base and crown molding are finished in *Prelude Salem Oilbase Stain* with a clear 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 put the topcoat on. To make the checkerboard pattern on the door fronts, tape off the area you want to put the design on before staining and top coating the doors. We used two strips of wide blue 3m tape for our template. Be sure to remove the tape IMMEDIATELY after staining and again 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 *Antique White Milk Paint*. Remove the tape immediately. When the *Antique White* 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, and stamped directly over the gold with *Country Colors Hunter Green*. *EF Polyacrylic* satin topcoat finished the entire piece off.



### Yellow Armoire

The doors, drawer fronts, base and crown molding are finished in *EF Pecan*, with *EF Polyacrylic Satin* 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 put the topcoat on, again removing the tape when finished. The exterior cabinet is done in a color wash. Tape off the stained portions before starting the cabinet exterior. Chris mixed a soft but bright yellow for the first layer: a blend of *Country Colors Yellow*, One Tablespoon *Country Pine* and One Pint *Eggshell*. It looked too bright, so (after drying) Chris went over it with a second layer of coat of *Buttermilk Milk Paint*, painted on and then wiped down lightly to let the brighter first coat show through slightly. The last layer is a coat of *Country Pine* 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 *Country Colors Pine*. The interior can be done in any color. This one is finished in *Brick Red Milk Paint* with the knobs done in the same color. *EF Polyacrylic* satin topcoat finished the entire piece off.



### Red Credenza

The doors, drawer fronts, base and crown molding are finished by Rob in *EF Pecan*. Chris finished the exterior cabinet in 3 coats of *Brick Red Milk Paint*, painted on. Then she sanded the corners and edges down lightly through the Brick Red paint to the bare wood. *EF Pecan* was then brushed on with a foam poly brush over all surfaces painted Brick Red 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! *EF 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 hand-painter. Then the entire piece is finished with *EF Polyacrylic Gloss Topcoat*. The knobs are finished with a blended color: One teaspoon of *Federal Blue Milk Paint* and ½ Cup 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 *EF PolyAcrylic Blend* or *EF High Performance Urethane*. Application note: when working with pine, you may wish to use a coat of White Milk Paint Primer that contains a knot sealer.





### Oak Cupboard

This is stained with *Prelude Salem* and top coated with *Prelude Semi-gloss* topcoat.



### Federal Blue Night Stand

Two to three coats of *Federal Blue Milk Paint* -painted on with a handi painter pad or foam brush. For optional extra protection, topcoat with *EF PolyAcrylic Blend* or *EF High Performance Urethane*. Application note: when working with pine, you may wish to use a coat of Red Milk Paint Primer that contains a knot sealer.



### 5 Drawer Pine Chest

The exterior is painted with two coats of *Country Colors Black*, and the drawers are completed in *EF Pecan* wood stain. *EF PolyAcrylic* topcoat finished the piece off.



### Three Tone Armoire

The frame of this armoire is finished in *EF Shaker Maple* and the raised door panels in *EF Rosewood* with *Country Colors Hunter Green* around the edges of the panels. *EF PolyAcrylic* topcoat finished the piece off.



### Jelly Cabinet and Night Stand

The jelly cabinet is two-toned in *EF Country Pine* & *Country Colors Hunter Green*. The drawer chest is finished in *Kids Colors: Sunflower yellow, Pumpkin Orange, Fire Engine Red, Deep Purple and Froggy Green*. Finish off with *EF PolyAcrylic Blend* or *EF High Performance Urethane*.



### Sleigh Bed

The bedroom set is stained in *EF Rosewood* with 3 coats of *EF PolyAcrylic* topcoat.



### 4 Drawer Chest

The frame & drawer pulls of this wood chest are finished in 2 coats of *Prelude Mahogany*. The top and feet are finished in *Prelude Honey*. The drawer fronts are completed in *Prelude Salem* edged with *Prelude Honey*. The piece is finished with 3 coats of *EF 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*, 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 *EF Gloss Topcoat*. Application note: when working with pine, you may wish to use a coat of *White Milk Paint Primer* that contains a knot sealer.



### Kids Colors Table

The top is done in *Kids Colors Fire Engine Red*, the drawer in *Kids Colors Sunshine Yellow* and the legs and frame are sponge painted with *Kids Colors Royal Blue* over a white base. Finish with *EF PolyAcrylic top coat*.



### 2 Door Pantry in Pine

For the two-door pantry cabinet, start with 1 coat *English Brown Oak Antique Wax*. Pour product onto a plate or shallow bowl and dip handi-painter applicator in and then apply onto piece using long strokes. 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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. 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!



### 2 Door Pantry in Oak

This is stained with *Prelude Antique Cherry* and top coated with *Prelude Topcoat*.



### One Door Glazed Pantry – Layered colors

Sheryl's first application on both exterior and interior was a coat of *EF Brown Mahogany*. Second, she sealed the color in with a coat of *EF Polyacrylic topcoat*. Third, Sheryl painted on two coats of *Country Colors Mustard Yellow*, allowing the coats to dry in between. Seal again with *EF 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 *EF PolyAcrylic Blend* or *EF High Performance Urethane*.



### Corner China

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



### Corner China – Black and Red

Tom stained the interior with *Country Colors Red*, wiped off while still wet. The first application on the exterior was two coats of *EF Cranberry*. Second, he sealed the entire unit, interior and exterior, with a coat of *EF Polyacrylic topcoat*. Third, he painted on two coats of *Country Colors Black*, allowing the coats to dry in between. He sealed again with *EF Polyacrylic topcoat*, and then sanded the edges and along the raised panels with a hand sander (120) grit paper) to reveal *Red* color underneath. 2 coats of *EF Polyacrylic Topcoat* finished the piece off.



### Antique White Kitchen Hutch

One coat of *White Milk Paint Primer*. 2 coats of *Antique White Milk Paint* and one coat of *EF Polyacrylic Topcoat* finished the piece off. Application note: when working with pine, you may wish to use a coat of *White Milk Paint Primer* that contains a knot sealer.



### Bombay Chest

This looks like a piece your grandfather would have brought back from India after the war. The top is done in three coats of *Salem Maple Antique Wax* painted on with a Handpainter pad. The base is done in three coats of *English Brown Oak*. Use a liberal amount of finish during the first coat, working in sections and keeping the surface very wet. Then just drag the finish out using dry foam brush. The second two coats will apply more easily, since the application is over a wax finish, instead of dry, raw wood.



### White Blanket Chest/Striped Top

One coat of *White Milk Paint Primer*. The white base is done in 2 coats of *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*, One teaspoon of *Country Colors Black*. The stripes were created using wide blue 3M tape. Pull the tape off immediately after painting each stripe to prevent bleeding. *EF Polyacrylic Gloss Topcoat* finished the piece off. Application note: when working with pine, you may wish to use a coat of *White Milk Paint Primer* that contains a knot sealer.



### 2 Piece Buffet

The frame of this two-piece buffet is finished with *Country Colors Black* in a distressed finish. The door and drawer fronts are finished in *Prelude Salem Maple*. The interior is completed with *Kids Colors Red* – a smashing look!



### Rocker and Corner Entertainment

One coat of *White Milk Paint Primer*. The white chair frame is done in 2 coats of *Snow White Milk Paint*. The periwinkle is a blend of colors: ½ pint of *Snow White Milk Paint*, One Tablespoon of *Federal Blue Milk Paint*, One teaspoon of *Country Colors Black*. Application note: when working with pine, you may wish to use a coat of *White Milk Paint Primer* that contains a knot sealer.



### Blanket Chest

3 coats of *English Brown Oak Antique Wax* painted on with a Handpainter pad. Use a liberal amount of finish during the first coat, working in sections and keeping the surface very wet. Then just drag the finish out using dry foam brush. The second two coats will apply more easily.