

## Directions for the use of EEE and Shellawax on turned items

By Ian Robertson

A 200mm (8") laminated Blackwood bowl was used in this pictorial but the same applies to spindle work.

Disclaimer: I demonstrate for U-Beaut Enterprises on occasions.

Surface preparation is vital the same as in applying any other finish. It must be sanded up through the grits to remove the previous sanding marks. EEE will not remove scratches from bad sanding. It is not a magic potion.

To show what I mean, this was sanded to 120# and then EEE applied.



It doesn't look too bad but see what happens when a finish is applied. In this case Shellawax cream.



Sanding marks are visible.

So sand up to at least 400# before applying EEE. It does not take long and the results are far better.

Bowl sanded to 400# ready for EEE.



Fold a CLEAN white cloth not a coloured one as the dye can run in some.

We use flannelette sheets or old "T" shirts cut into about 200mm (8") squares. Fold into half and half again until you get a tight wad.





Dip this into EEE. You don't need much. This will do for a 200mm (8") bowl. About a thumbnail dob.



With the lathe stopped, quickly wipe the contents lightly over the bowls surface. This requires a little practice but you soon work it out. I use the hand wheel to turn the bowl whilst applying the EEE.

You don't have to cover the whole surface but you do need to avoid local build up.



Once you have the EEE on, step aside (saves excess splash on you ) and start the lathe. The revs should be as fast as the article will go safely. This was turning at 2000 RPM.

Using the same part of the cloth that you applied the EEE and a heavy pressure, start from the centre and work out to the rim, then back into the centre, work it back and forth with a smooth even movement covering the entire face of the work with each successive stroke. Continue like this until you can see a bright, crisp, clear, mirror image/reflection of the rag and your fingers in the face of the timber.

EEE starts cutting the timber at around 1500 grit, but as you continue to use it the abrasive in the product breaks down to finer and finer grit particles and as it does it continues to cut and can be worked up to the equivalent of between 20000 and 30000 grit which in turn polishes the timber. So the longer you work it the better the finish will be and the better the base will be for you to build your final finish of Shellawax on. When you can see the reflection and you are satisfied you can't get a higher or brighter finish on the work, get a clean section of soft cloth, still in a wad, work the EEE again to remove the final traces of wax and abrasive from the piece. Keep selecting a clean section of cloth until no more colour appears on the face of the rag.

Working the EEE in, note amount of pressure:



About to change to fresh bit of cloth:



First bit of colour on fresh cloth:



This will do. The colour is not the EEE but the timber being abraded off.

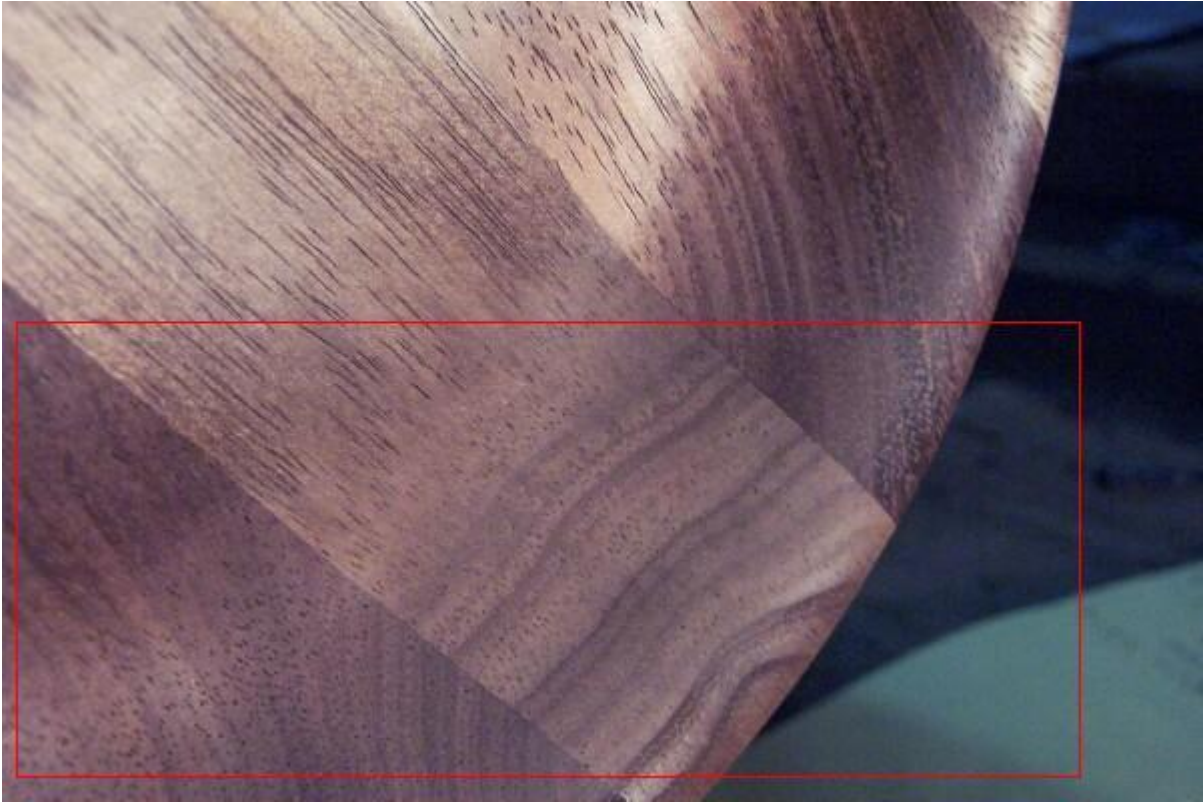




EEE is an extension of your sanding, IT IS NOT A FINISH although the timber will have a nice glow.

In time it will disappear and to show what I mean, I wiped this with a damp cloth. The glow has completely gone and the timber is “flat”.

After EEE outside the red, wiped with damp cloth inside rectangle:



We have now finished the EEE side of things except for saying remove the cloth from the scene.

It is very detrimental to accidentally use the same cloth to apply the shellawax.

EEE can leave a wax residue on the timber and it is advisable that if you are applying anything other than U-Beaut products it pays to experiment on a scrap piece.

On to the Shellawax.

Application of the Shellawax is very similar to the use of EEE. Basically the same amount is applied in the same way as the EEE.



Note that the cloth is folded the same way.

Cover all over:



Again, step aside and start lathe. Work the shellwax from the centre in a slow even movement

keeping the “line” flowing towards the rim.

Work back towards the centre and do this (centre out and back) until the “line” is practically non-existent. A light haze will come over the timber and it appears to dull off. This is the wax being drawn out of the finish and coming to the surface. At this point use a clean soft cloth to wipe/buff that wax off the surface of the work

This is the ONLY time you use an “open” cloth like this to polish the wax off.



It pays to use a fresh cloth because it is possible to put a little unused Shellawax on. It is hard to get off. Don't ask me how I know.

If you do this it should look like this:



It takes a little practice but the results are worth it.

Some tips and traps.

If you have a thin walled bowl and are worried that the pressure might snap the edge, use a cloth behind to support it:



If your EEE or Shellawax separates, stir it:



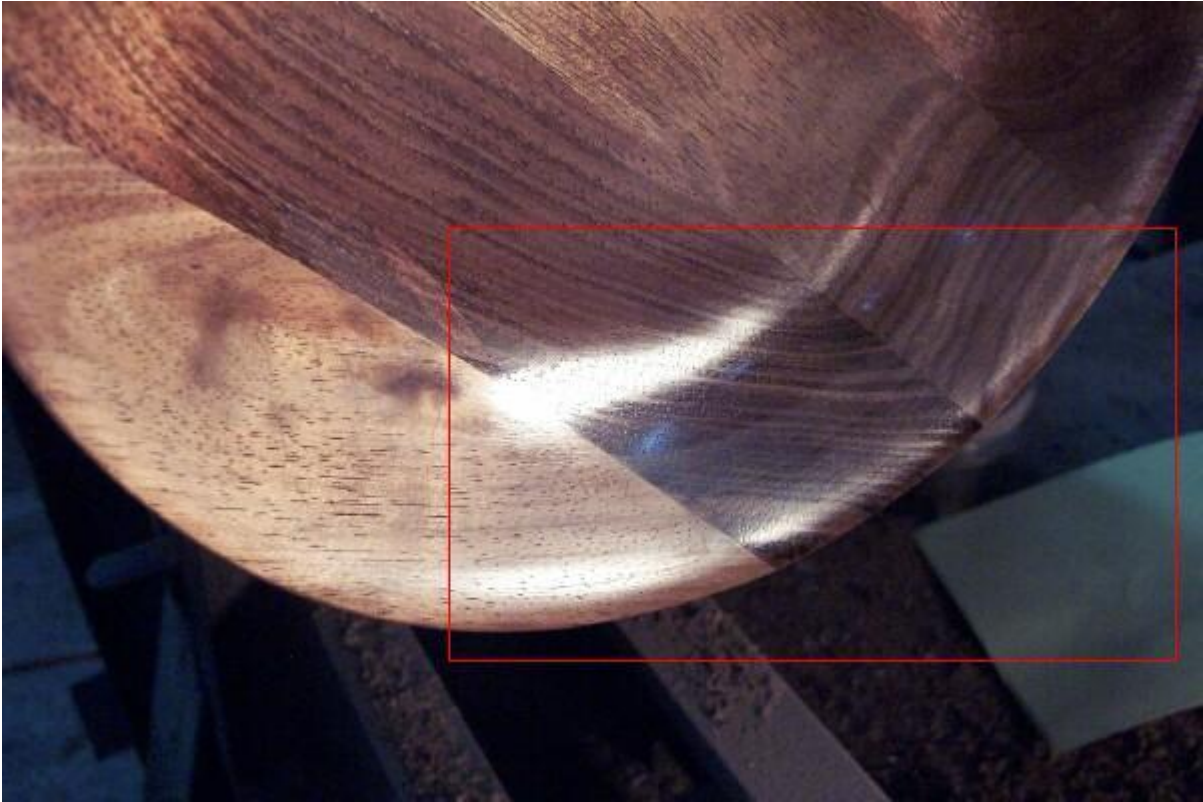


If your Shellawax goes hard, give it a good stir up and if needed add a little LIQUID Shellawax and stir. If this does not work, throw it out and get some more.

The biggest trap with Shellawax is putting too much on like this:



Because you cannot get it off you end up with lines:



Generally the only fix for this is to sand it back and start again.

There is some more info about the uses of EEE here: <http://www.ubeaut.com.au/ubhome.htm>

Also worth a look is the Shellawax Problem Solver here: <http://www.ubeaut.com.au/swinfo.html>

**NB For decorative items** that are not going to receive much handling usually 1 coat of Shellawax is all that's required. In this case the finish is in the timber as much as on the timber and more susceptible to damage for handling

**For functional items**, pens, working bowls or anything that will be handled a lot, 2 or more coats should be applied. This will give the finish a good surface coating that will withstand the added handling, also marking from water, alcohol and heat.

On bigger items like bowls it is far better to use the cream as an extender for the liquid.

Mix about 1 part cream to 5-10 parts liquid to extend the working time for better and easier coverage.

The best way to do this is put a dab of cream in the lid and add liquid. Stir with your finger and use as above.

The excess can be put back in the cream with no problems.