Woodworking for Mere Mortals: Basics!

1. What kind of finish should you use?
   1. Intro:
      1. Not everything needs finish!
      2. Also: the best finish is often just **paint**!
   2. Why finish wood?
      1. Helps to protect wood
      2. Looks nice!
   3. Prepping wood for staining:
      1. Before you stain, you should **always** sand and then vacuum!
         1. Move from 120 grit to 220 grit!
      2. Next: you should **vacuum** the surface, wipe it down, and apply **mineral oil**
   4. What are the types of wood finishes?
      1. Layered finishes (don’t penetrate into wood)
         1. Polyurethane (both oil *and* water-based) 🡪 most common!
            1. Oil based looks *very* organic : )
            2. There is also just regular old **wipe-on** poly! Very easy.
         2. Lacquer 🡪 probably **fastest**
            1. Often sprayed on with HVLP spraying in professional settings, but for hobbyists it can just be brushed on.
            2. Also doesn’t have to be sanded between coats!

*Will need lacquer thinner* to clean brushes after!

* + - 1. Other *varnishes*
    1. Oil finish (**penetrates**)
       1. Linseed oil
       2. Tung oil
       3. Etc.
    2. Should I choose layered or oil?
       1. Depends! Oil looks more “natural” but layered has more protection.
  1. How to apply finish?
     1. Place it into a separate, dedicated container! 🡪 don’t want to contaminate main supply!
        1. Let brush soak up **as much finish as you can** before applying.
     2. Do not go “back and forth”. If possible, finish in **one long stroke**!
        1. Finishing wood =/= painting wood
     3. Sand/vacuum between coats!

1. 9 Woodworking terms you need to know!
   1. 3 types of straight cuts:
      1. Crosscuts
      2. Rip-cuts (**with** the wood gain)
      3. Resawing:
         1. **Parallel** to the face.
            1. **Used to *thin* dimensional lumber which, in the US, is always ¾ inch thickness.**
         2. Band saw, table saw, and **planer** are all possibilities for this
   2. 3 types of **angled** cuts
      1. Miter cut
      2. Bevel cut
      3. *Taper* cuts
         1. *To do this, need a tapering jig*
   3. Non-through cuts (for joining wood *without fasteners!)*
      1. Rabbet
      2. Dado
      3. Groove (like a dado, but goes **with the direction of the grain**)
2. What kind of wood should I use?
   1. Different types of wood include:
      1. Hardwoods
      2. Softwoods
      3. Plywoods
      4. MDF
   2. Two types of solid woods:
      1. Hardwood (from *deciduous)*
         1. *Mahogany, cherry, oak, etc.*
         2. Usually much more expensive!
      2. Softwood (*conifer)*
         1. E.g. pine (most common, incl. for construction; usually most affordable)
         2. E.g. douglas fir…
   3. All solid wood is susceptible to expansion + contraction
   4. Plywood:
      1. Many different types!
      2. Thin veneers of different wood are glued together; most common thickness is still ¾ inches.
      3. High quality if:
         1. Few voids
         2. More layers
         3. Etc.
      4. Note that you can cover up plywood edges with **iron-on** edge banding!
   5. MDF (medium density fiber board):
      1. Like, the crap from IKEA. Veneered on both sides.
      2. Cuts like butter! But very fragile, heavy, etc.
      3. Also creates a bunch of fucked up dust when you sand/mill it.