STUDENT HANDOUT · SESSION 9

Finish preparation & finish

Goal: remove construction marks, protect future glue surfaces, pore-fill in class, and start the class's simple finish system: Aqua Coat grain filler in class, TruOil coats at home.

Class: 3 hr | Home: about 6 active hr | Plus cure time



The bridge footprint protected before finish.

WORK SEQUENCE

1. **Inspect before sanding.** Circle dents, glue, scratches, torn grain, and seam defects under raking light.
2. **Flatten first.** Use a scraper or firm block where appropriate. Sand the body and neck to 180 grit before progressing to 220 or 320 as the finish requires.
3. **Protect glue surfaces.** Dry fit the neck to locate and mask the bridge footprint and the soundboard area under the fingerboard tongue.
4. **Pore-fill in class.** Apply Aqua Coat Water-Based Clear Wood Grain Filler Gel to the back, sides, and neck — anywhere with open pores. Do **not** pore-fill the soundboard. Squeegee it in, let it haze, and wipe clean across the grain.
5. **TruOil is homework.** All TruOil coats go on at home in the approved space — never in the classroom. The exact schedule is in the homework box.
6. **Level only when approved.** Do not sand through edges or into the soundboard. Stop when the surface is ready for the next coat, not when it looks aggressively flat.
7. **Cure and protect.** Keep parts dust-free, supported, and separated from fabric or foam that may react with the finish.

STOP & ASK

Before masking the bridge area, before pore filling, before the first coat, and whenever the surface shows contamination or sand-through.

FINISH SAFETY

- [ ] Read the product label and safety data.
- [ ] Use the assigned ventilation and personal protective equipment.
- [ ] Keep ignition sources out of the finishing area.
- [ ] **Oily rags:** TruOil rags can self-ignite. Spread used rags flat outdoors to dry, or seal them in a metal can with water. Never ball them into a trash can.
- [ ] Write product and coat dates on the spec sheet.

HOMEWORK — TRUOIL SCHEDULE

- TruOil coats go on **at home**, in the approved space only.
- Schedule: 8–10 thin coats. Wipe on with a folded cloth, wipe dry after a few minutes — no pooling, no thick spots.
- Recoat every 12–24 hours. Light scuff with a gray pad after coat 3, then keep building.
- Budget about 6 hours of active work across roughly two weeks.
- Do not rush the recoat or final cure window.
- Bring the finish product and your coat log to Session 10.

CORE-BUILD RULE

No binding or rosette is required. Clean woodwork and a well-controlled finish are the decoration.