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The Furniture Bible: Everything You Need To Know To Identify, Restore & Care For Furniture



Synopsis

Christophe Pourny learned the art of furniture restoration in his father's atelier in the South of France. In this, his first book, he teaches readers everything they need to know about the provenance and history of furniture, as well as how to restore, update, and care for their furniture—from antiques to midcentury pieces, family heirlooms or funky flea-market finds. The heart of the book is an overview of Pourny's favorite techniques—ceruse, vernis anglais, and water gilding, among many others—with full-color step-by-step photographs to ensure that readers can easily replicate each refinishing technique at home. Pourny brings these techniques to life with a chapter devoted to real-world refinishing projects, from a veneered table to an ebonized desk, a gilt frame to a painted northern European hutch. Rounding out this comprehensive guide is care and maintenance information, including how to properly clean leather, polish hardware, fix a broken leg, and replace felt pads, as well as recipes to make your own wax, shellac, varnish, stain, and more.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Rarely do I find a book I feel like I have to own; I read "The Life-Changing Method of Tidying up" and I follow it...I don't own things I don't love and have gotten rid of most of my books. If I want to read one, I borrow it from the library. I checked this book out from the library on a whim...then maxed out my renewals because I didn't want to give it back. There were a lot of "ah-ha" moments and terrific instructions with an excellent lay-out. Pourny gives wax recipes and the reason for the ingredients and the amounts and good instructions for polishing and stripping. Even if you don't

refinish or repair furniture, it's worth it to know how to maintain what you own. The library will be glad I bought my own copy.

As someone with related experience in the trades I found this book to be clear, informative, and wide in scope. There is plenty of content that will satisfy a wide spectrum of people with varying interests and abilities. On one end people interested in furniture style and history will be able to also have a glimpse into how the actual finishes and techniques are created, restored and maintained. Those with a strong practical side will be able to make a connection to the evolution of furniture styles and how they form a visual vocabulary that helps us understand the elements of design that we see in all the varying types of furniture around us today. The pictures are clear and the drawings are charming. Truly a wide range of information with something for everyone all done with taste, style, and humor. I especially liked the photos of all the tools used in the trade. Highly recommend for the casual reader to the informed craftsman.

I may not have the skill, aptitude or patience to do what he does, but I will still end up with better-looking yard sale finds than I ever imagined possible. If you love the look of fine old furniture, but shop thrift stores/Craigslist/ebay, Pourny demonstrates how to bring well-made but worn wood furniture back to maximum gorgeousness. I can't wait to revive a Widdicombe mid-century mod bachelor's chest I bought much worse for the wear--but well made and rock solid. I can revive the drawer fronts' original finish, repair veneer and stain the more damaged body with Pourny's not-quite ebonizing technique. I'm so glad I got this book. Each technique--stain/oil or shellac finish, French wax polish, two degrees of ebonizing (true ebony and not-quite), gilding, repairs, hardware aging, etc.--is illustrated with step by step photos of what he does and clear, concise instructions. He gives a list of tools and materials up front, so you'll have what you need start to finish. And he names names in terms of products to use, so you'll get the one he himself relies on. And a huge advantage over other furniture makeover guides, he has exquisite taste. He understands the history of a style and works in ways to enhance it, not obliterate it, as did the mistake-book on furniture makeovers I also got. (Oh what awful, ugly things were done.) Pourny suggests you have a DIY refinishing 'kit' on hand that fits your available space: what fits in a box (the bare necessities), a shelf, or a whole wall (soup to nuts). Having the right tools and materials are critical, but what he specifies is not exotic. His directions are thorough and exacting, but not at all intimidating. Best of all, the results he achieves are spectacular, and to some degree achievable, even by me. Highly recommended.

If I were stuck on an island with nothing but wood, old furniture, tools and this book, I'd be happy. Lonely, I'm sure, but happy nonetheless. Plus, the IRS would find me, so I wouldn't be lonely for long... ok, I digress. But this book will make you money. First, by making it so you can finally sell on , the bookcase full of other books you've been hoarding on the topic. Then, it tells you how to make said bookcase into a sellable gem.

This is a fabulous reference book for everything you want to know about furniture and how to care for it!It is extremely well done and beautifully illustrated. Christophe Pourny is without a doubt an artist and craftsman and able to convey his lifetime of experience in a beautifully done book.It's the perfect Christmas gift for everyone on your list and is a joy to read! The Christophe Pourny line of furniture polishes and waxes are wonderful too. I have tried them all and speak from personal experience. Everyone should have the pleasure of reading and learning from this book!

This book has everything I need to refinish furniture...supplies, instructions, pictures. It has given me incentive to get going on my projects. The instructions are easy to follow, the supplies are readily available at my local hardware or big box store. He explains the supplies needed along with how to use them. This book will never leave my home. I will show it off but never lend it out. It won't come back. Love it!

This is the furniture rehab/refinishing book I've been wanting. Mr. Pourny is not just a furniture refinisher -- he's an artist, and his craft goes back to his father's craft. This is truly one of those "bible" books. Photos and clear instructions, as well as many nuances, are included in this well-laid out book. I've been looking for good recipes to make my own refinishing materials and this one gives me all of what I wanted, including sources.And the book itself has the heft and feel of a, well, good bible. The heft, feel, pages, quality of photographs and illustrations make it one of those books you want to leave out and pick up time and time again to hold and re-read. One of the best books I've bought in some time!

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