

Instructions for Applying HMG Marine K Type Varnishes & Coma Berenice Brightwork Varnish

In order to obtain a proper finish you must first assess the area to be finished and determine the necessary procedure for preparation. This determination can be achieved by answering the following questions:

1. Has the area been finished before? If no the preparation instructions for bare wood (#1) apply.
2. If the area has been finished before, is it in good condition? If the area is determined to be in good condition then the refinishing instructions (#2) Good Condition apply. Generally if the whole area appears to be peeling, cracking or showing signs of separation it is considered to be in poor condition.
3. If the area has been finished before and determined to be in poor condition then the instructions for strip and finish (#3) Poor Condition apply.

Note: K Type Reducer should be used with K Type Varnish and Coma Berenice Reducer should be used with Coma Berenice. Coma Berenice is not recommended for interior use – K Type can be used inside or outside.

#1 Bare Wood

A bare wood surface should be well seasoned, clean, dry, and free of contaminants. It is necessary to point out that certain woods are oily by nature. These are woods like teak and iroko. If you are varnishing one of these rare naturally oily woods the instructions in subset “A” will apply to you. For a normal bare wood application you will need to apply 4 – 6 coats of varnish to achieve a durable finish. Coma Berenice Brightwork Varnish is the preferred varnish in this situation although it should not be used on high traffic areas.

1. To start the bare wood should be sanded with 150 to 180 grit sandpaper.
2. After sanding the area should be wiped with a tack cloth to remove the sanding residue.
3. The first coat of K Type/Coma Berenice Varnish should be thinned 10%-30% with K Type/Coma Berenice reducer. This will allow for better penetration and proper sealing of the surface.
4. After the first coat has dried – sand the area with 180 to 320 grit sandpaper.
5. After sanding the area should be wiped with a tack cloth to remove sanding residue
6. The remaining coats should be applied by brushing the varnish both along and across the wood grain; while holding the brush at a 90 degree angle. Then lay-off or finish-off the coat by holding the brush at a 45 degree angle.
7. Repeat steps 4 through 6 until the desired finish is achieved. A minimum of 1 thinned and 4 unthinned coats are advised, however it may be necessary to apply as many as ten coats to achieve the desired finish.
8. Prior to the final coat the area should be sanded with 320 to 400 grit sandpaper.
Subset A) For naturally oily woods the initial sanding should be done with 80 grit sandpaper, and the first coat should be thinned at least 20%-30% with K Type/Coma Berenice reducer. This will allow the varnish deeper penetration into the wood grain, which is necessary to properly seal these types of wood.

#2 Refinishing (Good Condition) Begin by assessing the area to be ensure that it is in good condition. There should be no areas where the existing varnish is peeling, cracked, or separating from the wood. The area should also be clean, dry and free of any oil, grease or other contaminants. K Type Varnish would be your first choice in this application as the true benefits of the Coma Berenice cannot be fully recognized when coating over pre-existing varnish.

1. To start sand the existing finish with 180 to 220 grit sandpaper.
2. After sanding the area should be wiped with a tack cloth to remove the sanding residue.
3. The first coat of K Type/Coma Berenice Varnish should be thinned 10%-15% with K Type/Coma Berenice reducer. This will allow for better penetration into the wood grain and properly seal it.
4. After the first coat has dried – sand the area with 180 to 320 grit sandpaper.
5. After sanding the area should be wiped with a tack cloth to remove the sanding residue.
6. The remaining coats should be applied by brushing the varnish both along and across the wood grain; while holding the brush at a 90 degree angle. Then lay-off or finish-off the coat by holding the brush at a 45 degree angle.
7. Repeat steps 4 through 6 until the desired finish is achieved. A minimum of 1 thinned and 3 unthinned coats are advised. However it may be necessary to apply as many as ten coats to achieve the desired finish.
8. Prior to the final coat the area should be sanded with 320 to 200 grit sandpaper.

#3 Refinishing (Poor Condition) If an assessment of the existing finish determines it to be in poor condition, then the existing finish should be completely removed. There are a number of methods that can be used to remove the finish i.e. scraping, grinding, burning off, or sanding. After the existing finish has been removed the area should be clean, dry and free of any oil, grease or other contaminants. Coma Berenice Brightwork Varnish is the preferred varnish in this situation although it should not be used on high traffic areas.

1. Start by sanding the area with 150 to 220 grit sandpaper.
2. After sanding, the area should be wiped with a tack cloth to remove the sanding residue.
3. The first coat of K Type/Coma Berenice Varnish should be thinned 10%-15% with K Type/Coma Berenice reducer. This will allow for better penetration into the wood grain and properly seal it.
4. After the first coat has dried – sand the area with 180 to 320 grit sandpaper.
5. After sanding the area should be wiped with a tack cloth to remove the sanding residue.
6. The remaining coats should be applied by brushing the varnish both along and across the wood grain; while holding the brush at a 90 degree angle. Then lay-off or finish-off the coat by holding the brush at a 45 degree angle.
7. Repeat steps 4 through 6 until the desired finish is achieved. A minimum of 1 thinned and 4 unthinned coats are advised; however it may be necessary to apply as many as ten coats to achieve the desired finish.
8. Prior to the final coat the area should be sanded with 320 to 400 grit sandpaper.

NOTE: Coma Berenice remains “soft” when sanded and can clog the paper. Wet sanding is preferred. This is normal and desirable as it allows the varnish to move in harmony with the wood.

NOTE: We recommend the use of Contec ProSat presaturated wipes for cleaning between coats. These wipes remove residue and help reduce static and aid in the ability to maintain a cleaner substrate – better preparation = better finished result.