

# The Push Stick

## Getting a Great Shine



At the memorial for Ray Mitchem they had a collection of some of Ray's turnings. Jim Sparling was complaining that he never got the secret on how Ray got his bowls so shiny. Fortunately, Ray's son Gary was standing behind him. The secret was Gary. Gary would take his father's creations and give them their final finish. Gary has an interest in detailing cars. The techniques used to give that deep luster to car paint also transfers to any woodworking, not just bowls.

Gary came to our June meeting to show how he does it. He even brought wood samples showing the various stages of polishing.

After the bowl is all sanded smooth, he starts with a standard water based brush on polyurethane finish. He puts on 6 to 10 thin coats sanding with 400 grit after the first couple coats and then at the end with 1000 grit. After letting that dry thoroughly he starts the polishing process with rubbing compound, using finer grits each time. He uses a two speed buffing machine that

has a low speed of 1800 rpm. Too high a speed and you can burn the finish.

He uses car polishing compounds he gets from [www.chemicalguys.com](http://www.chemicalguys.com), but you can use those you find at Autzone. Meguiars Ultimate Compound, Meguiars, Ultimate Polish, Meguiars Ultimate wax, Meguiars Ultimate Quick Detail Spray can be used. Start at rubbing compound as the coarsest and work your way up to wax. Only a little wax is needed.

I sent Gary an email asking him some questions about his techniques. He sent me a nicely detailed response that I am including with this newsletter. Thank you so much Gary for sharing your polishing skills with us!

### July 14th Meeting

David Tilson from the Rockler Pasadena store, will show us how to sharpen tools. He showed us how to use hand planes and scrapers at the January meeting.

August meeting demo will be by Dan Wright of D&L Stained Glass. He has some new Street Organs to show us. He showed us hand cranked pipe organs he made a couple years ago.



### Club Volunteers

President  
Dave Reid  
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Paul Wilson

Treasurer  
Arie Korporaal

Secretary  
Dick Toney  
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Refreshments  
Julie McCamey  
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Push Stick Editor  
Website

Alan Webster  
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Founders  
John Erickson &  
Jerry Hughes

## New Officers

Club Officers were voted in at the June meeting. Dave Reid is the new President, Paul Wilson is the new Vice President, Arie Korporall is the new Treasurer, Jim Lockwood returns as Membership, Dick Toney returns as Club Secretary. Appointed posts are the same with Gene Getz doing the raffle, Julie McCamey doing refreshments, Alan Webster doing the Pushstick. Thanks all for your good works. You keep the club going.

## New Members

We had 3 new members join at the June meeting. Bill Covell, Paul Wilson and Albert Winberg joined us. Thanks guys! Paul Wilson fell asleep and was made Vice President. Keep your eyes open boys! You don't know what you will be volunteered for.

**Steering Committee Minutes-** WOW has 42 paid members. Block building project is on schedule. \$2342 in bank. Jim Sparling has signed up meeting speakers through January. Thanks Jim!

## Of Interest

Jim Sparling was having big trouble with his bandsaw motor having low power and it burned up a couple of capacitors. Member Michael Lisberg came over and measured the voltage at the motor. It turned out Jim had a 50 foot 16 gauge extension cord hooked up to the saw. The length of the cord and small wire size caused the voltage to drop by the time it got to the motor. It could not start correctly and fried the capacitor. Jim switched to a 14 gauge 10 foot cord and all is well.

Watch those cord sizes on large motor machines. If you have 220 volt in your shop, and can switch your big machines to that, even better. Thanks for the story Jim, it can benefit others.

**Save Money!** Don't forget to show your WOW membership card when you go to **Rockler** or **Woodcraft** and save 10% off your purchase. After 20 people from WOW make a purchase at a Rockler store, WOW gets a \$20 Rockler gift card to raffle off.



**Open Shop tours needed.** Like an open house, a member will invite other members to tour their shop. This is usually on a Saturday morning. They set the time range (like 9-11 a.m.). It will be announced at a meeting before hand. Your shop does not have to be fancy or even clean. It is fun to pickup ideas and see how others set up their shop.

### Club Calendar

July Meeting -Thursday July 14th 6:30-8:00 p.m.  
 Steering Committee-Tuesday July 19th 7-8:00p.m.  
 August Meeting- Thursday Aug. 11th 6:30-8:00 p.m.  
 Steering Committee-Tuesday Aug. 16th 7-8:00 p.m.  
 Meet 2nd Thursday of the month at Adventure Park  
 10130 Gunn Avenue Whittier , CA 90605

The WOW **Facebook page** is being updated often with club news, videos, announcements between meetings. Give it a look and a "like". [www.facebook.com/woodworkersofwhittier](http://www.facebook.com/woodworkersofwhittier)

**Thanks to:** Harold Ehlers for mailing the newsletter, Julie McCamey for bringing the snacks, Gene Getz for organizing the raffle.

# Gary Mitchem's Polishing Tips

1. I did not use sanding sealer, but it would not be a bad idea to do so.
2. I put between 6 and 10 coats of polyurethane on each of the pieces.
3. The instructions on the can said 2 - 3 coats per day. I wait a day after the final coat before I sand.  
I used THIN coats. They dry faster, and it is easier to keep from getting runs. Keep in mind that you are going to sand and buff a couple of these layers off.
4. I sanded with 400 grit after the first day to smooth out the finish.  
After that I waited to sand until I was happy with the way it was looking.
5. I wet sanded the final with 1000 grit.  
This step is just to remove brush marks, and any small runs or sags.  
You could go to even finer grit. The smoother you make it before you buff, the better.  
That said, the poly buffs pretty easy, so I wouldn't worry too much about it.

I polish with automotive polishes.

1. My first step is with a liquid rubbing compound. You could use a paste, but I have not tried it.
2. I next go to a polish or glaze. (These names seem to be interchangeable)
3. Wax
4. Finish with quick detail spray.

Wipe down the piece with a clean cloth after each step. I recommend using a different cloth after each chemical you use.

Easy to find products at your local auto parts:

- Meguiar's Ultimate Compound
- Meguiar's Ultimate Polish
- Meguiar's Ultimate Wax
- Meguiar's Ultimate Quick Detail spray

Use products you are comfortable with. You don't have to use these, but I know they will work.

Take your time when applying the polyurethane, sanding and polishing. You can ruin your project at any of these stages.

Polish on a low speed. (under 2000) Going too fast can burn the finish.

I use a round cotton buff. (mushroom shaped) I bought mine at an automotive swap meet. I have also purchased them online.

If you need to put more polyurethane on the piece after you start polishing, you will need to wipe it down with a wax and grease remover, or the new coat will not stick.

Always think safety. The buffer can pull the piece from your hands and damage it. It can also hurt you very quickly.

Gary