

# Wood Juice --“The Dry Wood Stabilizer”

by Fred Holder



**Figure 1. This is a fair sized bowl measuring about 7 inches tall and 9 inches across.**



**Figure 2. This view show the bottom of the bowl with the carved feet. I had never carved feet for a bowl, but this one seemed to deserve it. Amazingly, it was not as difficult as I expected.**

I mentioned Wood Juice in the article on Pentacryl in the November issue, but I had never used it. As a result, Preservation Solutions, LLC sent me a bottle

to try. At the time it arrived, I was fighting a Silver Maple piece of rough turned very dry bowl blank and decided to give it a try on that piece. I painted it on the wood with a brush and watched the stuff wick through the bowl on the end grain sections. I painted the stuff on until the bowl would not accept any more and set aside to dry for a couple of days. I was astounded at the improvement of turning. I now got shavings instead of dust. Figure 1 shows the finished bowl and Figure 2 shows it upside down.

The following information is from Preservatin Solutions specification sheet with a lot of frequently asked questions and answers. I have only included a bit of it to give you some idea of that this stuff will do for you and why.

Wood Juice is a compound of modified polymers. It is formulated to penetrate dry to semi-dry wood.

Wood Juice works by completely saturating the wood cells and displacing the remaining water. Once the wood dries, the Wood Juice leaves a thin coating on the cell walls of the wood. This process keeps the cells from shrinking, which reduces future cracking, checking and irregular drying. Shrinkage is reduced up to 600% depending on the orientation of the wood grain and how dry the wood is prior to treating with Wood Juice.

Wood Juice does not contain silicone, will not discolor the wood, is non-hygroscopic (meaning it will not retain water), will not oxidize, decompose or migrate in the wood when exposed to different degrees of temperature and relative humidity. It also contains a UV protectant.

Wood Juice can be brushed on or the wood can be immersed (soaked) in Wood Juice (do not dilute). Although soaking is the preferred method, excellent results are still obtained by using the brushing method.

Wood Juice is formulated to treat dryer wood with a lower moisture content. It is developed to compensate for the difference in the moisture content of the wood.

When to use Wood Juice:

- Low Moisture Content: A general rule is to use Wood Juice if the moisture content in the wood is less than 30%.

- **Naturally Stable Wood:** Wood Juice can also be used on wood that is stable by itself such as Basswood.

- **Thin Cuts of Wood:** Turned wood that has thin walls (such as bowls) or wood that is carved thin is good for Wood Juice since much of the tension is relieved.

- **Small Pieces:** Wood Juice can be used on small pieces of green wood, such as Fruitwoods. Again, small, thinner pieces has less tension.

- **Older Wood:** Use Wood Juice on older wood that is dry and you would like to condition and rejuvenate it.

I may have some further reports on this product in future issues. I especially want to check it out on wood for Chinese Balls.

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## Wood Turners Finish from General Finishes

by Fred Holder

A short time ago, I received an e-mail from General Finishes asking if I would be willing to test their Wood Turners Finish. I wasn't familiar with the finish, because I normally use Walnut Oil or Kerf's Wood Crème, so I said I would be happy to give it a try and report on my findings. The bottle of finish arrived while I was working on this issue and the thing that I was working on at the time was my Collaborative Piece from the October meeting. I finished it with this new General Wood Turners Finish. I don't know what the wood is, but it is a nice dense wood. It was also a small piece. I turned a egg cup with most of the piece and a spinner top with the remaining wood.

The company says that their Wood Turners Finish is extremely durable, non-flammable, has no toxic fume, no odor and cleans up with soap and water. That seems to be true unless you spill some on your clothes. I got a drop on the leg of my pants and still have it. It would have probably washed out if I had done so immediately.

They say that the finish will dry in minutes. I found this to be so and applied three or four coats on the egg cup, waiting only a few minutes between coats. They say to use a cloth, but I used a heavy duty paper towel that we use as shop towels.



**Figure 1.** This photo shows the spinner top and the egg cup.



**Figure 2.** This photo shows the egg cup being used as a storage stand for the spinning top.

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