

Woodwork Refinishing

by

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Fulmar Concerto FR38

for

Westerly Owners Association

East Coast Group

Zoom Clinic 24 February 2021



SAPELE (quarter cut)



TEAK (crown cut)



Westerly used sapele marine plywood for interior woodwork until about 1982 and then they changed to using teak faced plywood.

The original lacquer can degrade, along with some fading due to long exposed to light, and can make sapele look the colour of teak, but the grain pattern tells them apart.



Concerto's
galley when
viewed in Dec
2013

The fiddle rail has been sanded and refinished with the original lacquer and looks a lot brighter and fresher.



This fiddle shows how different the woodwork can change in colour. The pillar on the left will become the same colour.



This is the port shelf in the forward cabin that has been relacquered. The colour of the plywood has been brought out by the lacquer.



Westerly finished all the internal
woodwork except sole boards with
a lacquer, not varnish.

Supplied by Morrells and the
current description is

**450 Low Odour High Build Acid-
Catalyst Lacquer**
with a 30% sheen.

<https://www.morrells.co.uk>

It can be sprayed or brushed and 3
coats is recommended.

5 litres is sufficient for a Fulmar.



For a perfect finish, it is best to remove all existing finishes as a previous owner may have used varnish or a wax that will affect any new application.

For gentle removal, use a cabinet scraper. However, I prefer to sand carefully with an orbital to remove most of the finish and complete by hand. This photo shows the dust is yellow but will change to brown as you touch any veneer or solid wood.



If there is any water damage to the woodwork like this, then it must be treated before lacquering.

The wood must be bleached to remove the dark staining.

Use cheap supermarket bleach diluted 1 part to 5 parts water. Brush on and cover with some polythene. Leave for about 20 minutes and wash off with water.



If an area has been subject to long term trapped moisture and lifted the veneer, this requires slightly different treatment. The veneer must be refixed before any treatment. My method is to dry the area. Then take a sharp knife to carefully split the lifted veneer along the grain. Now glue the veneer down with a waterproof wood glue. Make sure all excess glue is removed before covering with polythene and hold flat with a timber chock. Once dry treat as previous slide.



Three sections of teak and holly sole board. The left is scuffed and marked, the middle is sanded and the right is fully finished.



This shows the sanding in progress. There are still marks in the sanded portion that need individual preparation. For orbital sanding I use 180 grade at a slow speed.



The sanding clearly shows how dented the sole boards can get. Notice along the sanding edge how the colour of the finish changes colour, this is very helpful to see how much finish has been removed.



The colour of the dust changes from a light yellow at the top to slightly brown at the bottom. So the surface in the left corner will only need hand sanding along the grain.

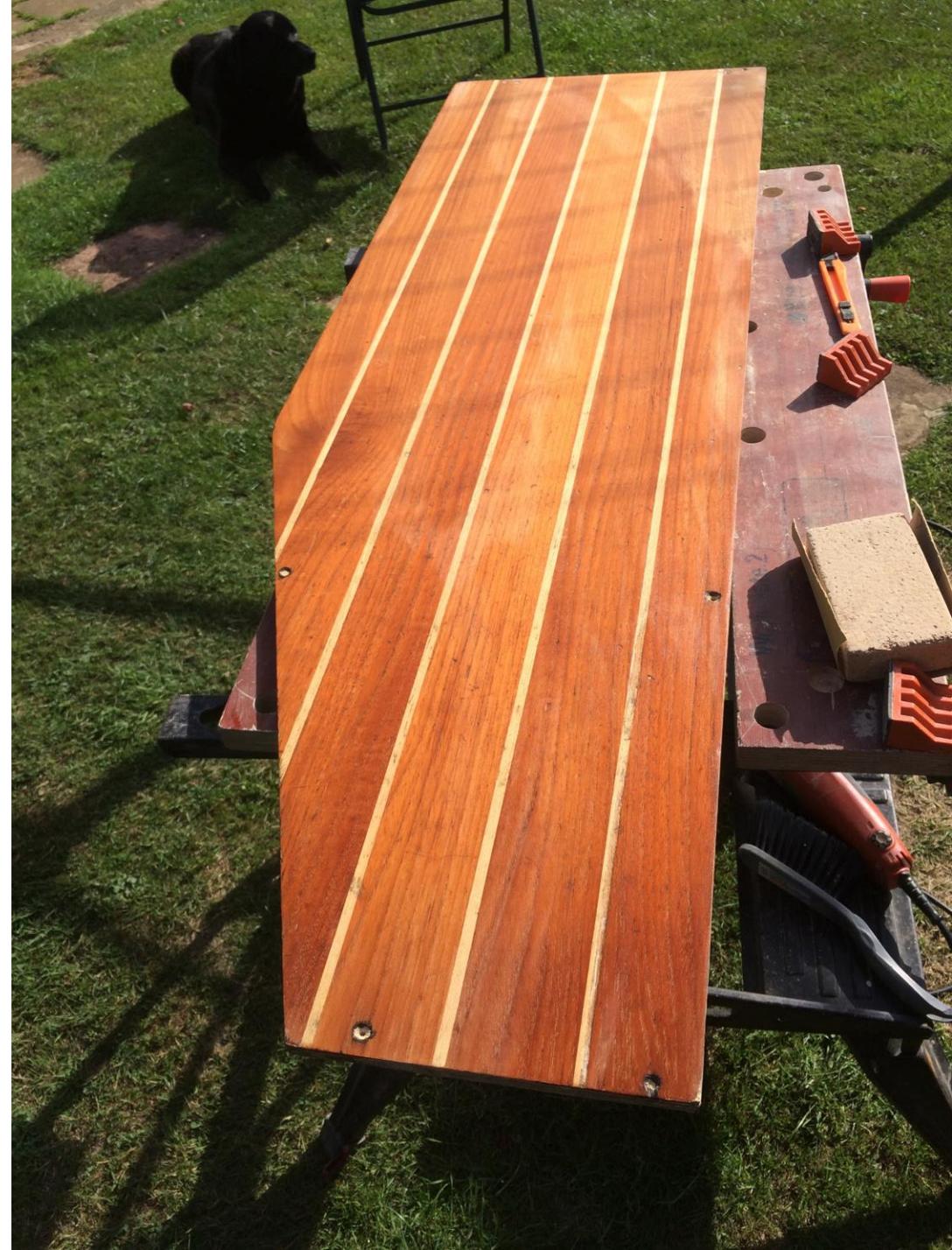


All of these marks can be cleaned up.
My favourite tool is a snap off knife,
but using the rough broken edge of
the blade not the ground sharp edge.
You can scrape flat areas, dips or to
scrape old finish out of dents.



Once the panel has been hand sanded with 180 grade along the grain, wipe it down with a wet J cloth. If any existing finish is present, the moisture does not soak into the wood. If so, leave to dry and sand some more.

A tip from a furniture restorer to remove oil stains. Clean any finish off and then pour some methylated spirits on and set light to it. The wood will not burn, but the oils are pulled out of the wood. It may need to be repeated.

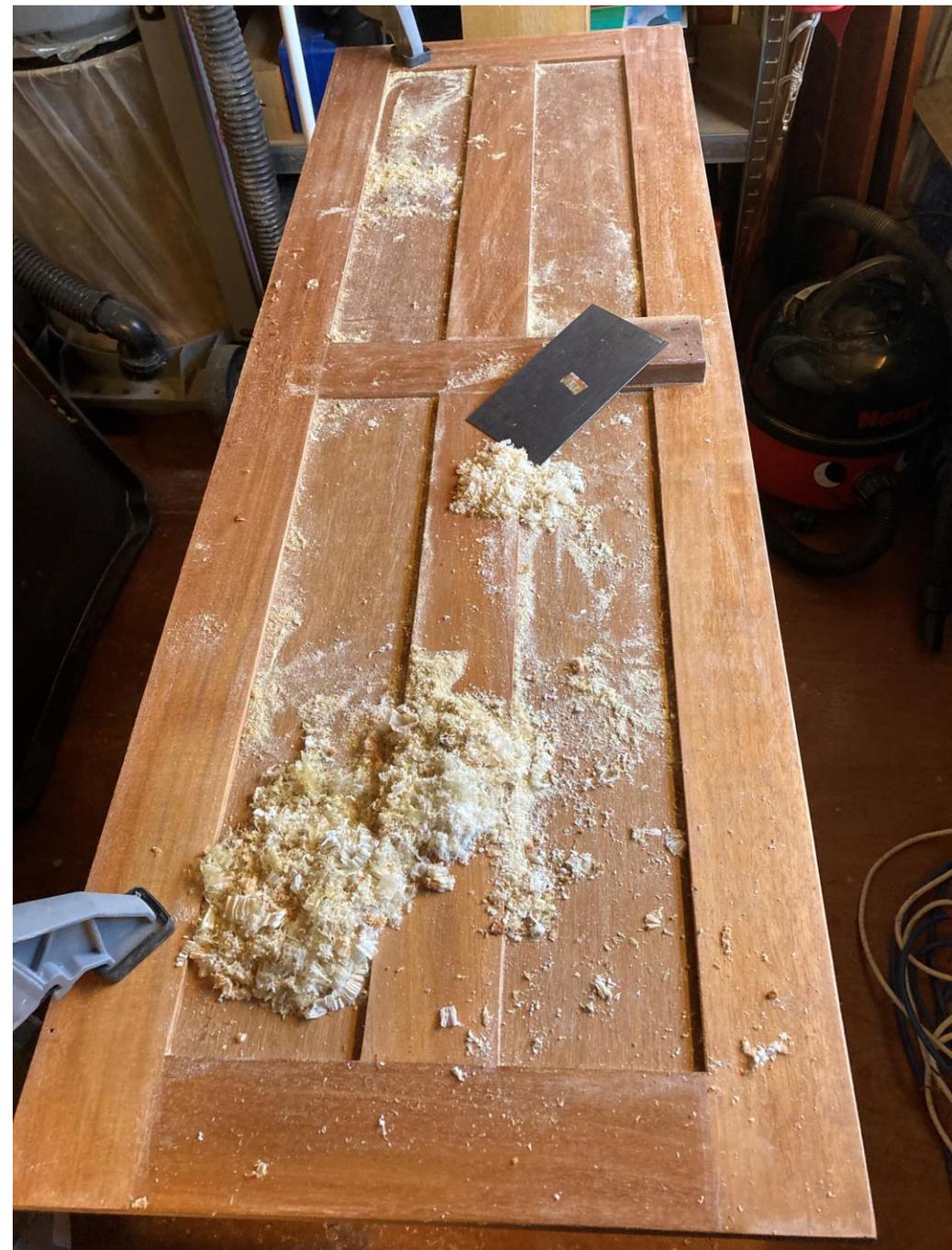


The sole boards were finished with Morrells 8SM/284B induro[®] XL1 in 30% semi-matt floor lacquer. This is a water based lacquer designed for high traffic areas and sports floors. This has been brushed on with 3 coats. These sole boards are 40 years old and look almost like new.





This panel door shows the change in colour by removing the old lacquer using a cabinet scraper.





The left side has been cabinet scrapped, but I noticed some residual bits of lacquer. The right side shows it being hand sanded with 120 grade sandpaper.

The photo below shows the patches of rubbed lacquer as white during sanding.





The first coat of lacquer is being applied. It is mixed at 9 parts to 1 of catalyst. It is touch dry in 30 minutes, and recoatable after 2 hours. So, 3 or 4 coats can be applied in a day.





Before
and after
photos
shows
how the
colour of
the wood
and
plywood
has
changed.



This was the condition of the handrails before I started work. This was a polyurethane varnish that cracked and allowed water enter.



Using a Skartsen scraper and a chisel to remove the varnish. Before sanding, the wood was surprisingly clean and unstained.



The deck has been protected with 3M 2090 ScotchBlue 14 day Outdoor Masking Tape. Notice how the tape has been torn to fit around the curves. 8 coats of Le Tonkinoise Vernis Marine No.1 were applied. This is a traditional oil based varnish that initially soaks into the wood. Not as hard as polyurethane, but flows to a high shine and can easily be patch repaired if damaged. To keep looking nice just requires a couple of coats every other year.



Varnished handrails and toe rails help edge the look of Concerto and helps to make her look younger than 40 years old.

