

Dissolving & Mixing Shellac Flakes

Shellac 'Pound Cut' Chart

Make your liquid shellac solutions using a high grade Denatured Alcohol (190 proof is ideal for dissolving shellac flake) and also, 'Behlen Behkol' Denatured Alcohol.

Mix what will be used within 3 months. Select a **glass or plastic container** (*do not use metal*) slightly larger than the amount you are making. The larger container will allow for volume increase from adding the flake and agitation. Temperatures under 60° F will slow the dissolving. A hot water bath can assist in cold weather.

• **Warning: DO NOT use direct heat. Keep alcohol and liquid shellac away from open flame or burners.**

Add shellac to the liquid (*crushing button lac will speed dissolving*).

Stir or Shake every 15 -30 minutes. Let solution stand in a warm environment (with occasional agitation) until shellac is completely dissolved.

There may be sediment and organic particles depending on the type of lac. Strain all types through cheesecloth, white cotton cloth, or paint strainer. We find straining through a paint strainer first then through T-shirt or multiple layers of cheesecloth helpful.

Store your shellac, tightly stoppered or sealed, in a cool dark location. *In our shop the coolest place, outside the fridge, in hot weather is on the cement slab under the bench.*

In general a "2 Pound Cut" is a good place to start. *Several thinner coats are often easier to apply and finish than few heavier coats.* Work methods, tools, weather, and environment will dictate your 'pound cut' preference. A 3-pound cut is generally reserved for priming or sealing of stains, and sap, or knots prior to painting, especially on softer woods.

Always use a Dewaxed Shellac as a primer under paint or as a seal-coat under clear finishes.

'Pound Cut' (*the weight of dry lac cut into alcohol*) designates viscosity or thickness of liquid shellac.

Denatured Alcohol or Behkol	One Pound Cut	1.5 Pound Cut	Two (2) Pound Cut	2.5 Pound Cut	Three (3) Pound Cut
One Gallon = 128 Fluid Oz.	1 Lb. (16 Oz.) Flake	1.5 Lb. (24 Oz.) Flake	2 Lb. (32 Oz.) Flake	2.5 Lb. (40 Oz.) Flake	3 Lb. (48 Oz.) Flake
1/2 Gallon = 64 Fluid Oz.	1/2 Lb (8 Oz.) Flake	12 Oz. Flake	1 Lb. (16 Oz.) Flake	20 Oz. Flake	1.5 Lb (24 Oz.) Flake
One Quart = 32 Fluid Oz.	1/4 Lb. (4 Oz.) Flake	6 Oz. Flake	1/2 Lb. (8 Oz.) Flake	10 Oz. Flake	3/4 Lb. (12 Oz.) Flake
One Pint = 16 Fluid Oz.	2 Oz. Flake	3 Oz. Flake	1/4 Lb. 4 Oz. Flake	5 Oz. Flake	6 Oz. Flake
One Cup = 8 Fluid Oz.	1 Oz. Flake	1.5 Oz. Flake	2 Oz. Flake	2.5 Oz. Flake	3 Oz. Flake

The intersecting cell *above*, shows the amount of dry Shellac (8 Oz.) to make 1 Quart of '2 Pound Cut' liquid shellac.

Shellac.net Wood Finish Supply

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