

### Shellac 'Flake'

#### **Bysakhi Dark Seed Lac**

Warm Neutral Brown, excellent for older antique restorations.

#### **Kusmi Seed Lac**

Lighter Caramel tones (*'kusmi' winter production*)

#### **Kusmi #1 Button** (*genuine buttons*)

Caramel Amber toned buttons

#### **Kusmi #2 Button** (*genuine buttons*)

Warm Amber Brownish for old antiques & darker woods.

#### **Bysakhi Button** (*genuine buttons*)

Dark Brownish warm Garnet tones.

#### **Hand Made Lemon yellow**

a thicker Cinnamon Orange flake.

#### **MMTN - Gossamer**

Extremely Thin, Quick dissolving, medium Yellow toned.

#### **Lemon Yellow / Orange**

general purpose light Yellow creamy colour.

### *Dewaxed Lac*

#### *Dewaxed Garnet*

Deep Rich Brown-Reddish cast.

#### *Dewaxed Orange Lac*

Deep rich colour.

#### *Dewaxed Lemon Yellow*

general & undercoat rich Yellow-Orange colour.

#### *Dewaxed Neutral Blonde* (*Beige*)

Beige, pale slight Golden toned.

#### *Blonde - Dewaxed*

Light Pale Transparency.

#### *Super Blonde - Dewaxed*

VERY Light Pale Transparent.

#### *PLATINA - Dewaxed*

EXTRA LITE PALE Platinum Blonde Transparent.

#### **Needed for Dissolving / Mixing:**

High grade (*190 proof*) Denatured Alcohol.

#### **To aid Brushing:**

Shellac Retarder, slows drying, helps eliminate brushmarks.

#### **To reduce sheen:**

Shellac FLATT, a flattening agent  
especially formulated to reduce shellac sheen.

Shellac is an excellent quick drying, non waterproof, finish. Shellac requires some practice in order to use its full potential. Flake allows fresh quality shellac to be prepared as needed to avoid waste. Use shellac to seal sap, resin, grease or oil marks after cleaning and prior to painting or lacquering. Thinned shellac makes an excellent stain barrier coat or hold out coat especially on soft woods and difficult or end grain surfaces.

Test older liquid shellac on scrap for drying. If the surface stays tacky after 8 hours and does not sand freely without gumming, it is old, will not dry, and Must be discarded.

#### **Dissolving & Mixing**

Mix in a dark plastic or glass container with a tightly fitting lid. Store in a cool and dark place if a clear container is used. Soak the flake shellac in about 1/2 of the total alcohol to be used for 24 hours or longer (cool room temperatures will slow the process; pulverize the button shellac to speed dissolving) stir occasionally and when dissolved add the balance of the alcohol. The consistency of shellac is determined by "cut". A 3 lb. cut would be 3 lbs. of shellac flakes per one gallon of high quality Denatured Alcohol solvent. If you have never worked with shellac before it is recommended that you start with a light consistency, preferably about a 1 lb. cut (1 lb. of flake to 1 Gal.) - or [1/4 lb. in a Qt.] of Denatured Alcohol. To mix 1 pint of 1 Lb. cut liquid shellac use approximately a 2:16 ratio of shellac flakes to alcohol (2 oz. of shellac flakes dissolved in 16 oz. of alcohol). Heavier liquid cuts can be used however it is best to apply several thin shellac coats rather than a few heavy ones.

After the shellac is fully dissolved, it should be strained through a fine mesh cheese cloth to remove any impurities. Shellac is made from the lac bug and a few bits of bug carcass are often left particularly in Seed Lac. Before the liquid shellac is used, it should be shaken or stirred thoroughly and allowed to stand for a few hours.

After dissolving, the different shellac colours may be intermixed in the liquid state to obtain intermediate tones or shades of shellac.

#### **Application**

When applying as an under-coater prior to other finishes use a dewaxed shellac. Shellac should be applied in long strokes with the grain. Dip a good natural bristle brush about half way into the shellac and gently clear excess shellac against the side of the container, this gives a reasonably filled brush for full strokes without incorporating air in the shellac. Shellac should be sanded between coats. Allow each coat to dry thoroughly. If the shellac is dry, sanding will produce a fine powder on the surface. If the shellac is not dry it will be somewhat tacky to sand and the paper will clog. After sanding, wipe the piece thoroughly with a tack cloth and recoat. Depending upon temperature and humidity conditions, allow from two to four hours drying for each coat. Some craftsmen prefer to do their finish sanding of the raw wood after first giving it a coat of shellac since this stiffens the wood fibers and allows any rough portions to be fully sanded off.

After the desired number of coats have been applied, and allowed to cure completely, the finish can be rubbed with #0000 oil free & long stranded Steel Wool, fine synthetic pad or fine pumice with paraffin oil. Rubbing should always be done with the grain. Twenty-four hours after the final rubbing, to protect your shellac finish, apply a thin coat of furniture makers paste wax. Allow the wax to dry completely and buff with a soft cotton cloth.

## FYI

### *A word about:* **SHELLAC - "Packing" or "Blocking"**

Dewaxed shellac flake when exposed to high heat and/or humidity tends to "block" or pack together in small, or occasionally, large chunks or 'blocks'.

#### **NOTE: Blocking is Not detrimental to the shellac flake.**

If you leave a pound of dewaxed flake under the weight of other supplies in a closed car trunk on a hot summer day the result can be a SOLID brick. (*I won't do that again!*)

Avoid blocking; store shellac flake in a COOL DRY location (*under 70°F*).

If the flake blocks, wrap larger chunks in cloth or thick plastic sheeting, to keep them from flying all over the room, and reduce them to a manageable size with a hammer or dead blow mallet. A strong blender will crush & grind buttons and packed flake chunks.

The crushed/powdered shellac speeds dissolving.

We try our best (importing via AIR) to give you only the finest flake and to avoid blocking. However, we have little control if product sits in a delivery van or air container on a hot day.

•••••

Shellac Pound Cut Mixing Chart: <http://www.shellac.net/PoundCutChart.html>

### **Mix in a Plastic or Glass Container**

#### *More Notes:*

Use a **high-test denatured alcohol** around 10% denaturants or less. If the label does not say, the MSDS sheet for the brand will have the mixture percentages. 190 Proof has 5% denaturant. A warm environment will aid the alcohol in dissolving flake.

#### **NEVER place alcohol or shellac on or near any source of heat.**

In a cooler room set the lidded jar of dissolving shellac flake in a container of hot (not boiling) water to aid in dissolving.

**Strain the working shellac solution** through layers of cheese cloth to remove any particles of dirt or organic material.

**Evaluate flake color** when in liquid, variation in flake thickness from production batches can make a thinner flake look lighter in tone. Slight seasonal variations do occur in a natural product but they will be within the laboratory acceptable color range.

**For Final color evaluation:** make a test with ALL the finish coats in place.

Depth of color tone increases with each finish layer.

#### **Blending Flake Colors or Tones**

For repeatable results, inter mix or blend shellac colors only in liquid form.

**In hot or rapid drying conditions** use SHELLAC RETARDER to help with flow out and, when spraying, to avoid orange peel and over-spray

•••••

**Shellac.net** *Wood Finish Supply*

Napa, CA