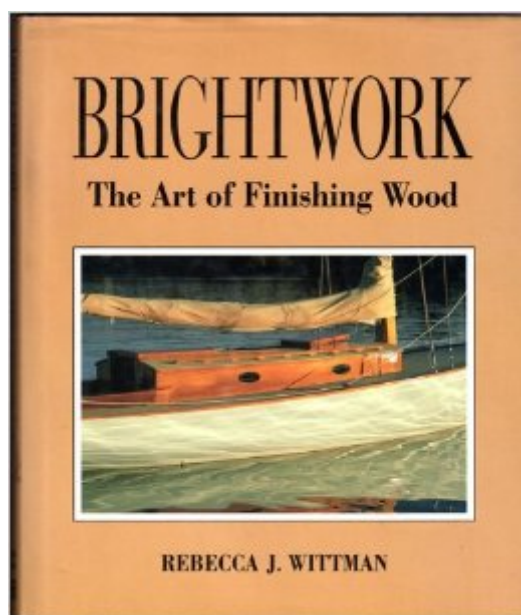


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# Brightwork: The Art Of Finishing Wood



## Synopsis

Brightwork is a rarity among boating and boat maintenance books: a beautiful how-to book, with 59 lush four-color photographs that celebrate the incomparable look and texture of oiled, varnished, and bare wood surfaces on boats. Rebecca Wittman's meticulously thorough yet graceful and entertaining text details in 17 chapters how to achieve such stunning results. Chapters include choosing Finishes; The Yacht Refinishing Commandments: Stripping Old Finishes; Intermediate Prep Work; Oiling; The Varnishing Prelude; Varnishing; Maintaining and Repairing Varnish; Rescuing Teak Decks; Tools; and Materials. A glossary and an appendix on safety, both personal and environmental, complete the book.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 182 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (31 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #488,208 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > Ships > Boat Building](#) #428 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Miscellaneous > Reference](#) #529 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Outdoor Recreation > Boating](#)

## Customer Reviews

I'm firmly resolved to hereafter always buy how-to-do-it books written by women. Brightwork tells you everything, unlike most h-t-d-i books that tell you everything except for that one elementary essential detail that you probably should know, but don't. And when you just can't get up the energy to do yet more tedious prep work on your boat, you can just pull out the book, read some of Rebecca's engaging prose, drink in the beauty of the photographed boats, and next thing you know you can't wait to tear into your project again. This is the book to buy.

This book is a delight to read and enjoy. The photos are spectacular and Wittman is a wonderful author. I found the book extremely educational on the subject of brightwork and entertaining to gaze through numerous times just looking at the incredible photography. It definitely has a place in any

boating library.

Rebecca Wittman has obviously scraped, sanded and varnished many, many boats. But the whole time she has been thinking about ways of doing it better. Her advice is practical, effective and tested. I only wish I could get her to do my "brightwork". Failing that, her book is the next best thing. It is also a very beautiful book. So beautiful that you might need 2 copies; one to refer to while you are working, the other to read when you in your arm-chair at home.

We bought this book when we purchased our 1942 40' cruiser. Rebecca taught us what to do (and not do) to keep "September Morn" in excellent condition; what to use and the tools you will need to do the job right. We learned very quickly that if we followed her refinishing program, we could spend more time cruising and less time sanding.

I am a novice to brightwork and I most certainly enjoyed Wittman's photoessay of wonderful finished wood and beautiful wooden boats. What puzzles me is why the author shows no images of the processes she describes. All photos are of finished results. As a novice, I'd like to see what bleached wood looks like and how stain brings the wood back to life, etc. The companion book has exactly the same problem, by the way.

I found the book absolutely engrossing. I am buying an older wooden trawler with lots of brightwork, and this book helped to ease my fears. I found it amazingly enjoyable and informative. I wish every how-to book was as carefully and thoughtfully written.

A book every wood finisher should have. Very detailed in its process of going from raw wood to bright work or for refinishing. In fact, the author is quite blunt in the need for precision--do it right or hire some one who can. The book is a hands-on guide and as the author states, keep it in the shop, not on a shelf. If you haven't finished marine woodwork before, this book will be a bit threatening. But if you have the desire and the love of the work itself, it is an indispensable tool in getting that just right finish. Pretty much the best, and most honest, how-to book I've ever owned and enjoyed.

I told myself that I wouldn't do it. I promised myself, but I did it anyway. I read most (was getting too judgemental to finish) of her book only to come away dissatisfied. I have been in the business for twenty years in San Diego, where we can varnish outside more than 10 days a year. Yes, I read her

intended scope and reader experience criteria, but that still should not excuse her from some seriously flawed advice. First, how much did Interlux pay you to become their spoke person? Schooner varnish with a foam brush? I can see it now. If your intentions were to educate the novices, recommending a foam brush is a bad idea, for starters. I have used foam for too many years along with my "environmentally unfriendly" Badgers. Small foamers have their place, but your description of foams' superiority to Badgers is down-right comedy. If I had known that only ten years' experience, varnishing mainly indoors (remember, Seattle) with foam brushes dipped in a third-rate finish would make me an expert.... I know this sounds harsh, but a beginner to varnishing should know what other professionals in the trade think about her advice. Refinishers will always disagree about various techniques, and best product to use. This book gave minimal print though, to what is recognized WORLD WIDE as the "the best". (ox hair, badger brushes, Epifanes High Gloss). Proof is in the pudding. I would gladly invite you to come down here to San Diego, and demonstrate your expertise on a 16' wide caprail, 85 degrees, Santa Ana winds in full form, with 15% rel. hum. Yes, these conditions are extreme, but a variation of one or more of these, happen quite often almost everywhere. And, oh yeah, we can't go indoors. In my opinion, the techniques, varnish, and brushes recommended in this book, fail to pass the most important test of all: what if I don't live in Seattle. Rob W.

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