



# French Polishing (or Polish Anglais)

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**Course** French Polishing (or Polish Anglais)

**Dates** 29th - 30th April 2017  
21st - 22nd October 2017

**Price** £275.00 plus materials

**Skill Level** Suitable for all

**Description** Despite the fact that we've all heard of the term French Polish and shellac it's amazing to think that very few of us actually know what it is and how to do it. It has a reputation for being difficult to master, time consuming and not nearly as robust as some other finishes. Here's the bottom line. None of the above is true. Sure, you'll need to keep your wits about you when you're doing it and if time spent taking care of the details is wasted time then just maybe it's time to find another hobby. The fact is, a perfect shellac finish will be touch dry while the first coat of oil is still attracting bugs and dust. And as for fragile, don't you believe it.

In this two day course you'll mix your own shellac polish from flakes and create your own blend of wax from raw materials. You'll learn to assess and manipulate the colour temperature of a project to disguise faults in the timber and mask repairs. I can't teach you all you need to know about French polishing in two days but you will have grasped the basics and have the necessary information to go on and perfect your technique in your own time. This course is hosted by Marc Fish and held at his Robinson House Studio in Newhaven, East Sussex. The class will have a maximum number of 8 students and will be taught by Derek Jones, editor of Furniture & Cabinetmaking magazine and author of French Polishing, Finishing & Restoring Using Traditional Techniques.

You will be supplied with enough materials to make approximately 250ml of Dewaxed Blonde Shellac polish. We will use approximately 100ml so the rest is yours to take home and practice with. Your sample polishing board will be a single piece of mahogany approximately 450 x 250 x 25. This is also yours to take home.



Lowfat Roubo

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## What to bring

I have added a couple of extra elements to the course to include a simple method of grain filling and with time permitting a technique for carrying out seamless patch repairs.

This will require the use of some basic hand tools:

- Marking knife
- Block plane or small shoulder plane
- Bevel edged chisels 8mm smallest, 20mm largest
- Mallet or chisel hammer

It's not essential to bring your own as there will be some available but you might be happier using tools you are familiar with. Please just make sure they are sharp.

The cost of the course is £275 plus materials as outlined below

Course fees	£275
Polishing materials	£25.50
Timber	£12
Total	<b>£312.50</b>

If you would like more information or to reserve a place on the course please let me know as spaces are limited and I cannot accommodate more than 8 students.

## Schedule

- Day 1** Arrive at 8.30am for a 9.00am start. We'll stop for lunch around midday and take tea/coffee breaks as and when we can depending on progress. The workshop must close no later than 5.00pm.
- Day 2** Arrive by 9.00am. The workshop must close no later than 4.00pm but we'll aim to get you on your way by 3.00pm.



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## Where

**Robinson House Studio**  
**Robinson Road**  
**Newhaven**  
**East Sussex**  
**BN9 9BL**

There is usually adequate off street parking outside but as the workshop will be open for business as usual some of these spaces might be taken up by permanent students or bench rental customers. There are however a number of residential streets in close proximity that are free to park.

The Studio has basic kitchen facilities for making tea and coffee and a microwave. You are welcome to use these facilities and make a donation to the studio for any consumables used. No hard and fast rules here, just be sensible.

There are two supermarkets close by:

**Sainsbury's**, The Drove, Newhaven BN9 0AG - five minutes by car

Or

**Co-op**, Fort Road, Newhaven, East Sussex, BN9 9EL - five minutes by foot

If you haven't arranged accommodation yet and would like some suggestions, let me know the sort of thing you're looking for and I'll try and point you in the right direction. Saturday evening is an opportunity to wind down and enjoy some time away from the workshop.

If good food served up in an old village pub is your sort of thing I am planning on booking a table at <http://raminn.co.uk/> It's about fifteen minutes' drive from Newhaven and they also do B&B. We will need to book. Family and friends most welcome.