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# The Furniture Bible: Everything You Need To Know To Identify, Restore & Care For Furniture



## Synopsis

Christophe Pourny learned the art of furniture restoration in his father's atelier in the South of France. In this, his first book, he teaches readers everything they need to know about the provenance and history of furniture, as well as how to restore, update, and care for their furniture from antiques to midcentury pieces, family heirlooms or funky flea-market finds. The heart of the book is an overview of Pourny's favorite techniques—ceruse, vernis anglais, and water gilding, among many others—with full-color step-by-step photographs to ensure that readers can easily replicate each refinishing technique at home. Pourny brings these techniques to life with a chapter devoted to real-world refinishing projects, from a veneered table to an ebonized desk, a gilt frame to a painted northern European hutch. Rounding out this comprehensive guide is care and maintenance information, including how to properly clean leather, polish hardware, fix a broken leg, and replace felt pads, as well as recipes to make your own wax, shellac, varnish, stain, and more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Library Journal, Best Books of 2014, Best Books of the Month for November 2014 "A guide for the pros, DIYers and furniture aficionados eager for tips from the expert. Pourny's practical advice on all things antique is coupled with historical notes. •Time •A comprehensive but accessible guide to restoration that lays out everything you need to

know about making over wooden furniture. **Martha Stewart Living**  
“Authority wafts from [Pourny’s] handsome how-to book like the sweet smell of lemon oil. **New York Times** “A practical, visual guide for anyone who wants to restore a cherished heirloom or simply correct a water stain. **San Francisco Chronicle** “Pourny’s book will serve brave DIYers as well as design aficionados wishing to hone their connoisseurship. **ArchitecturalDigest.com** “It’s really everything you wanted to know about furniture but were afraid to ask. **WWD.com** “Whether you want to refresh your mother’s outdated bureau, refinish a set of vintage Danish Modern chairs, or restore an antique marquetry to its former glory, this volume’s got you covered and then some. **Design\*Sponge** “Encyclopedic in coverage . . . deftly illustrated and defined . . . a fantastic go-to source for furniture care. **Library Journal**, starred review “A thorough and practical guide for the furniture expert as well as for the novice restorer. . . . This guide will find a wide audience among those who simply want to learn about and appreciate good furniture, as well as those who are more hands-on. **Publishers Weekly**, starred review “This is a very useful and important book for anyone who owns furniture—antique, modern, or new—or anyone who plans to fix or restore it. **Martha Stewart**

Christophe Pourny is one of the most esteemed furniture restorers in the business. Descended from a long line of artisans, he was reared in his father’s atelier in the South of France and apprenticed at his uncle Pierre Madel’s legendary antiques shop on rue Jacob in Paris. Today, Pourny restores furniture out of his own atelier in Brooklyn, New York.

This quickly become my favorite furniture book of all time. I restore furniture and find that a lot of books have fluff info that doesn’t really give any new information or insight into age old practices...this book is FULL of information and he gives wonderful examples on how to do each finish. He quickly establishes his expertise in the field so as the reader you know to trust what he’s teaching (which is important to me), starts out explaining the different periods of furniture, styles, places to shop for them, and how to become known in the industry as someone with a sharp eye. He also does a wonderful job of explaining why certain pieces cost an arm and a leg based on the place of purchase & who has worked on them! The finishes he completes as examples are stunning and make me green with envy. I’ve not been able to put this down and it will live in my shop, sure to

be reached for over and over again! I cannot thank Christophe for willingly sharing his knowledge with us all and putting it into such a wonderful and easy to read format. If you want to refinish your own pieces of furniture and care for them properly this book is a **MUST HAVE!**

This is my favorite book for furniture restoration though it covers period identification, I use it for learning restoration techniques. And for that its absolutely amazing. Just reading the materials in this book I've found that I know more about traditional restoration than the instructor of a recent course I took. The instructors solution for all problems was "just strip it" and when asked how to handle certain types of finishes his response was "it depends." This is my go to book and I keep it near me when performing furniture restorations. Its just the right level of detail. I love making my own wax, shellac mix and performing my own french polish. All techniques well documented with photos in this book. If you want information on more modern restoration techniques or a little more detail on the science behind certain processes, buy "Understanding Wood Finishing" in addition to this.

Rarely do I find a book I feel like I have to own; I read "The Life-Changing Method of Tidying up" and I follow it...I don't own things I don't love and have gotten rid of most of my books. If I want to read one, I borrow it from the library. I checked this book out from the library on a whim...then maxed out my renewals because I didn't want to give it back. There were a lot of "ah-ha" moments and terrific instructions with an excellent lay-out. Pourny gives wax recipes and the reason for the ingredients and the amounts and good instructions for polishing and stripping. Even if you don't refinish or repair furniture, it's worth it to know how to maintain what you own. The library will be glad I bought my own copy.

This is the furniture rehab/refinishing book I've been wanting. Mr. Pourny is not just a furniture refinisher -- he's an artist, and his craft goes back to his father's craft. This is truly one of those "bible" books. Photos and clear instructions, as well as many nuances, are included in this well-laid out book. I've been looking for good recipes to make my own refinishing materials and this one gives me all of what I wanted, including sources. And the book itself has the heft and feel of a, well, good bible. The heft, feel, pages, quality of photographs and illustrations make it one of those books you want to leave out and pick up time and time again to hold and re-read. One of the best books I've bought in some time!

For one who has spent 35 yrs in the High End Interior Design business, this book is a extremely

valuable source in understanding the care and maintenance of all furniture, whether vintage or fine antiques! Thank you Christophe!

A superb overview and how-to practical manual! Five stars to Christophe Pourny and the accessibility of his expertise!! A world of fine things, with proper care.

This book has everything I have been looking for, from furniture construction to finishing the wood in any way anyone could use. Tools and materials are discussed, along with page upon page of illustrations to aid the novice and the expert.

Love this book. A must read for anyone interested in refinishing furniture.

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