

FINISHING SYSTEMS - CHAIN THEORY VS MOBILE THEORY



There is no doubt that wood finishing is a system because the success of every process is dependant on the success of the process that preceded it. This string of events is often compared to a chain and usually implies the premise that the system is only as strong as it's weakest link. I suggest that this is linear thinking.

In part that premise is true, however in real life there are other procedures within a link that effects its performance. For instance, there is the fact that finishers often compensate for abnormalities. If they do not have the right size needle for their gun they might adjust the amount of reducer they use, or how fast they move the gun over the surface. This may require additional material or labor, but I does get the job done and many accept this as a fact of life in the finishing world.

I like to think of the finishing system as a Mobile. There is a balance in the system. As something goes out of balance there is the chance that it can be compensated for without the system totally crashing. There are some items that carry more weight than others and would require more adjustments to fix. Most of these critical factors are application and technique related, which goes to show that the person behind the tool is often more important than the tool itself. This observation goes a long way in stressing the need for training and education.

Optimal performance is achieved by obtaining balance in each of the arms of the finishing mobile so that nothing else must compensate for it. It is this balance of man, material and equipment that equals profitability

Ron B's FINISHING MOBILE THEORY

