

NZAR ID A17 **Microcrystalline Wax for Arms Protection**

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Prior to 1950, the only surface protectors / polishes available were based on beeswax and carnuba wax. Unfortunately, these natural, saponifiable products would cause damage when acids arose spontaneously through oxidation or hydrolysis.

To address these problems a scientist at the British Museum created a new wax. The revolutionary formula he invented is a semi-synthetic microcrystalline fossil-origin wax entirely free of, damaging acids. It remains chemically neutral and is therefore completely safe, even on vulnerable surfaces.

The British Museum approved manufacture of this wax for its own use and for distribution to the public.

It should be pointed out that this microcrystalline wax is a surface protective coating. For it to be effective all parts of a technological functional object such as a gun need to be completely dismantled by a competent / qualified arms conservation and restoration specialist / gunsmith / museum curator and all the parts properly cleaned, treated and stabilized. The microcrystalline wax needs to be applied to all internal surfaces and several coats where dissimilar materials such as a wooden gunstock when reassembled is in contact with a metal part. The microcrystalline wax will act as a protective separator

This wax will lift oil, dirt and the murky accretions of other polishes. The surface detail remains crystal clear through unlimited applications of this translucent wax; removes previous wax build-up; reveals fine detail & wood grain; non-staining, non-abrasive.

RESTORES AND ENHANCES

Revitalize and return your objects to pristine condition. RENAISSANCE WAX buffs easily to a hard, transparent finish that will not discolor; Renews fading colors and "tired finishes;" retains matte finish when unpolished; buffs to a high gloss; reduces shine of new picture varnish.

POLISHES AND PROTECTS

Guard your precious pieces against the damaging effects of humidity...heat...dust... environmental destruction...aging...and ordinary wear. RENAISSANCE WAX provides a barrier against fingerprints and the devastation of water, wine, alcohol and other spills. With its high moisture resistance, it forms a durable, lustrous protective coating. prevents tarnish, corrosion and "bloom;" remains completely waterproof; retards weathering on exteriors and objects exposed to climatic abrasion.

A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY... AND LASTS A LONG TIME

Excellent spread and indefinite shelf life make RENAISSANCE WAX economical and convenient, even for very large objects and infrequent use. A small dab goes a long way, unlike most waxes that need generous application. Use a minimal amount of RENAISSANCE WAX, rub lightly, and buff if a gloss is desired. The long-lasting preservation reduces the need for frequent maintenance. Airtight container keeps wax in perfect condition; always spreadable, no caking or drying out; indefinite shelf life; no "polish smell;" no added fragrance to endanger material.

SAFE FOR ALL THESE MATERIALS

Wood - Raw & Finished, Leather, Parchment & Paper, Metal - Silver, Silver-plate, Gold, Copper & Copper Alloys (Bronze, Brass, Tin, Zinc, German Silver, Nickel), Lead & Pewter, Iron & Iron Alloys, Tin & Tin Alloys, Damascus; Stone, Marble, Onyx, Limestone, Granite, Brick, Tile, Terrazzo, Obsidian, Alabaster; Gems, Glass, Porcelain, Holloware, Bone, Ivory, Horn, Shell & Mother-of-Pearl, Gutta Percha, Dammars; Gilding & Gold Leaf, Patinas, Enamel, Lacquer, Japanning, Cloute, Pose d'Or, Pique Point, Varnish, Marbleizing, Stains & Artificial Graining; Plastics, Formicas, Paints, Polyvinyl Acetates, Esters of Polymethacrylic, Polycyclohexanones, Fibreglas Epoxy Resins, and much more!

USEFUL FOR ALL THESE PRODUCTS

Furniture - Antique & New; Sculpture, Porcelain, Pottery & Ceramics; Cutlery Knives, Swords, Armour; Jewelry, Carvings, Antiquities, Bibelots, Hardware, Wood Interiors, Fine Books, Clocks, Paintings, Oils, Acrylics, Gouaches, Tempera, Alkyds, Pastels, Oil Sticks, Martins Dyes, India Inks, Photographic Prints, Carvings, Engraving, Scrimshaw, Architectural Ornaments, PLUS... Automobiles, Boats and Yachts, Decoys, Golf Clubs, Firearms, Frames, Kitchen Cabinets, Counters, Appliances, and much more!

WHO USES RENAISSANCE WAX/POLISH

UK: British Museum, Victoria & Albert Museum, Royal Armouries (Tower of London in London & Leeds, National Army Museum, Imperial War Museum, the Wallace Collection, H.M. the Queen's Royal Armorer (at Marlborough House), the Guards Museum (Wellington Barracks), the Gurkha Museum (Winchester), the Military Museums at Aldershot, Royal Green Jackets Regimental Museum, the Gunsmith at Chatham Historic Dockyard (Kent), the Johnny Armstrong Gallery, and Museum of Border Arms & Armour (Scotland), National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland. Belgium: Musee Royal de l'Armee et d'Histoire Militaire-Brussels. USA: Gunsmith at Colonial Williamsburg, the Smithsonian, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Academy of Art-Honolulu, Texarcana College-Bladesmithing & Metallurgy, Rockefeller Restorations, and many many more institutions around the world

microcrystalline wax polish is widely encountered in antique restoration and museum curation. Although not appropriate for all materials, it is known to and used by almost every collection. It is also used as a primary finish for cabinetry and furniture. **Microcrystalline** wax is also used by reenactors of historic swordsmanship to protect arms and armour. It is widely recognised that this substance is more protective and longer lasting than oil, especially for swords and helmets that are frequently touched by human hands.

To quote a typical commercial supplier of conservation materials, it is used, *to revive and protect valuable furniture, leather, paintings, metals, marble, onyx, ivory etc. Freshens colours and imparts a soft sheen.*

Wax coatings for conservation are most widely, and least controversially, applied to metals. This has several objectives: to produce a barrier that excludes moisture and oxygen from the metal surface, to ensure against further introduction of contaminating elements by handling, and to provide a protective layer over anti-corrosion under coatings.

Microcrystalline Waxes should not be applied to materials with deliberately loose or powdery surfaces.

Microcrystalline Wax is available in New Zealand from any good conservation materials supplier.

Acknowledgements & special thanks to: <http://www.britishmuseum.org> <http://en.wikipedia.org>
Osborne Arms Museum