

## **DIY Guidelines**

### **Part 3 – Application- Getting the Results!**

This is where the project really starts to move, and the results begin to quickly show. It's just the thing to lift your spirits after the dirty parts of the prep work.

#### **Taping and Masking**

This is a very important part of the job, but it's really no big deal. There are a couple of things that you need to know that make a big difference in both the effort required and the results you will get. First, decide now how to break the project into workable sections. Don't assume that you will tape up the whole boat in ½ hour. It takes a little longer to do the job right, and we sometimes plan this for the last day before beginning the application. It makes for a very easy and usually short day.

Second, don't use cheap white masking tape. At the very least, get the green or blue tape, which can be left on for a couple of days, and used for several coats. If you want the ultimate, get 3M #1071 blue vinyl tape. It can stay on for long enough in the Caribbean sun to get the entire job finished, and be easily removed in a single piece. It costs more, but it saves lots of time. One tape-up job as opposed to several sure makes sense to us. Available at better marine and hardware stores.

Take your time and get the taping done right. Back the tape away from any joint by 1/32" to 1/16, to make sure that no small slivers of wood are left bare. Burnish the tape down with a paint stirring stick so that nothing creeps underneath.

#### **Now the Good Part**

Finally you're ready to go! Give all of the surfaces a really good wipe-down with acetone as you go, and don't get too far ahead of yourself. Mix the Bristol Finish like the directions tell you (you did read the directions in the kit, right?) and you're ready to start.

#### **Proper Painting Technique**

People make this out to be much more than it should be. Here's the info you need, and you can ignore all the nonsense you will hear. It's just so simple. (The "experts" want you to think that varnishing is something difficult.)

***Lay the coating on with one brush stroke.*** Gently, using light pressure. You're not "whitewashing a fence", so there's no need to madly flail back and forth with heavy pressure on the brush. If you want, give one final light stroke, but move fast. Without all of the silly over-brushing, the finish will flow out like glass, with no bumps or lumps or brush marks.

Continue with the other coats when the last one is dry enough (as described in the kit directions). If you get lucky with the weather, you're done in a day or two at the most. We have applied six coats in one day so many times, but three today and three tomorrow isn't bad either. Let it dry, pull up the tape and admire the beautiful finish that you've created!

Also (after you get some dinner and rest) get ready to continue admiring the beauty for years to come. This is where Bristol Finish really delivers the payoff- a stunning appearance and very low maintenance.

You will wonder why everyone tried to tell you how difficult a varnish type job is.