

WWW.RIFLECHAIR.COM



The Guinea Pig for this experiment is an Israeli 7.62 NATO K98k Mauser. A lovely little rifle! Personally I have issues with taking any form of sand paper to any milsurp's wood. For the record my intention here is to try and show you an **alternative to sanding** or removing any wood. This method of cleaning a military surplus stock is debatable if you have a very rare model worth a considerable amount of money. Such a phenomenon probably warrants a proper craftsman to restore the rifle. However I offer this example to you as an alternative to sanding and destroying cartouches.

I do not accept any responsibility for injury from any person that attempts to follow this alternative to restoring your milsurp rifle stock. If you accidentally spray oven cleaner in your face, place your hand in your BBQ or set fire to your house that's YOUR FAULT not mine! Just be careful, think about your steps before you start, get the materials you need handy and pay attention to detail - This is supposed to be fun!!!!

Just remember - You're never going to make this milsurp look new BUT you will be successful in making it look better! PLUS you won't be sacrificing the rifle stock's sharp edges by rounding them with sandpaper. Some gun nutters will curse me under their breath by even attempting to restore these old stocks (purists, etc..) BUT you must admit this is a good alternative to sanding out stock cartouches, serial numbers and inspection marks.

LETS GET STARTED!

If I can borrow a line from the movie 'Tremors' I LOVE THAT MOVIE

'Use the right house hold chemicals in the right proportions'

Now my goal was not to blow anything up but you don't need to go out there and buy anything expensive or hard to get for a job like this.

1. Obtain the following materials

- a. Aerosol Oven Cleaner (carpenter's filter mask)
- b. Dish Soap & 000 steel wool
- c. Barbeque
- d. 5 gal bucket full of hot water
- e. Rubber Gloves (for the oven cleaner)
- f. Roll of Paper Towels

2. Set aside a weekend afternoon for this project

THEN

1. Put some paper down (do this outside where it is well ventilated) Place your stock (all metal components removed) and spray down your stock. It is especially important for anyone to know that spray / baked on paint products will be destroyed by oven cleaner. A Good example is the last line of No4Mk2 Lee Enfields made by Fazakerly. MAKE SURE all metal components are removed or you will destroy the finish.
2. Wipe down the stock five to six minutes after each coat (paper towels)
3. Continue this process until comfortable that you have eaten through and wiped away the exterior grunge, dirt, oil and crap embedded into the exterior of the stock.
4. Get your bucket of warm water ready now.....
use dish soap (or Mr. Clean)
5. Give her a thorough wash using a sponge or old rag - Don't use steel wool here (trust me). The oven cleaner will have made the wood fibers very soft, supple and easy to damage. Be gentle with the stock. You will be removing more material than you think and it will make the stock very rough (causing you more work later).
6. Rinse her off with the garden hose when done washing
7. Allow to dry.

DO NOT BE EAGER TO DRY THE STOCK QUICKLY

"Patience young Skywalker" - all you need to do now is use the rest of your paper towels to remove the excess water. You don't want the wood to crack. Don't put her in an overly dry area (i.e.: next to the furnace)

I hang the stock by a bent wire clothes hanger in my basement where the temperature is consistent and the humidity is higher. Do not place her near a heat vent. Remember that humidity is your friend (putting the stock in your green house with the tomatoes might work too!)

Let her hang for a good 24 hours **OR** until completely dry.

OK Speeding through Time and Space..... Your Stock is now Dry.

As all of you already know the stock is very heavily laden with oil. There are a number of ways to getting it out including (but not restricted to)

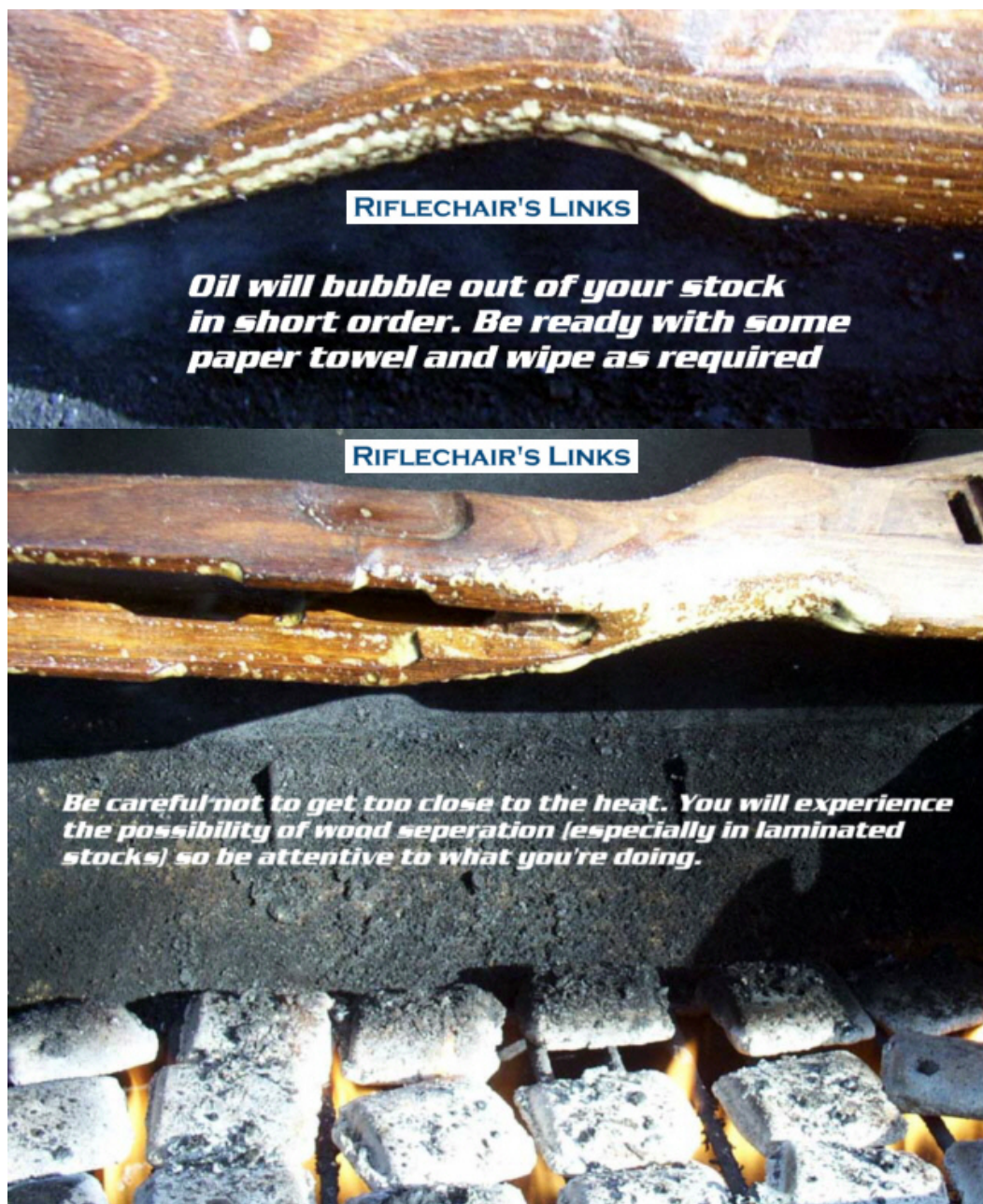
a. Hair Dryer (takes time and patience)

b. Oven (set to BROIL GRILL) and some tin foil on the next tray to catch any dripping cosmoline (stinks up the kitchen method makes the wife very mad as I found out)

c. Hang over the BBQ or camp fire (my preferred method) Try to avoid the temptation of burning it for a laugh.

Personally the BBQ may not be the best method but I've achieved good results plus the wife won't yell at you for stinking up the house. Make sure you don't get the stock too hot

(for obvious reasons) as with all things use common sense and put down some tin foil - Oil will be gushing out of your stock in short order.



Once your bled as much oil out of her as you think you can squeeze - WHILE STILL WARM douse the stock and hand guards with oven cleaner. You will be shocked as to what comes out. Don't be stingy with the oven cleaner. Make sure you have LOTS of old newspaper about - probably best to do this outside if the weather is nice and not too windy.

You may need to do this more than once. Repeat the washing and drying process you used previously

When the stock fully dries:

Do not use sand paper at this point unless you have one or two large gouges to remove (even then I recommend you live with them) Trust me on this

Just go to Cambodia Tire and buy yourself a blend of rough, medium and 000 abrasive steel wool.

Use Steel wool to polish off any stray wood fibers and polish the wood until you are satisfied.

The rest is up to you as to how you want to re-finish her. I use Tru Oil but BLO (Boiled Linseed Oil) is a great treatment as well. This stuff is great fun - although slightly messy

I learned this process working with military VZ24 BRNO Mauser Stocks.

If you want to see oil go buy a VZ24 BRNO Mauser! These Stocks are Black for a reason.

A few BEFORE AND AFTER Pictures For your Reference

RIFLECHAIR'S LINKS



RIFLECHAIR'S LINKS



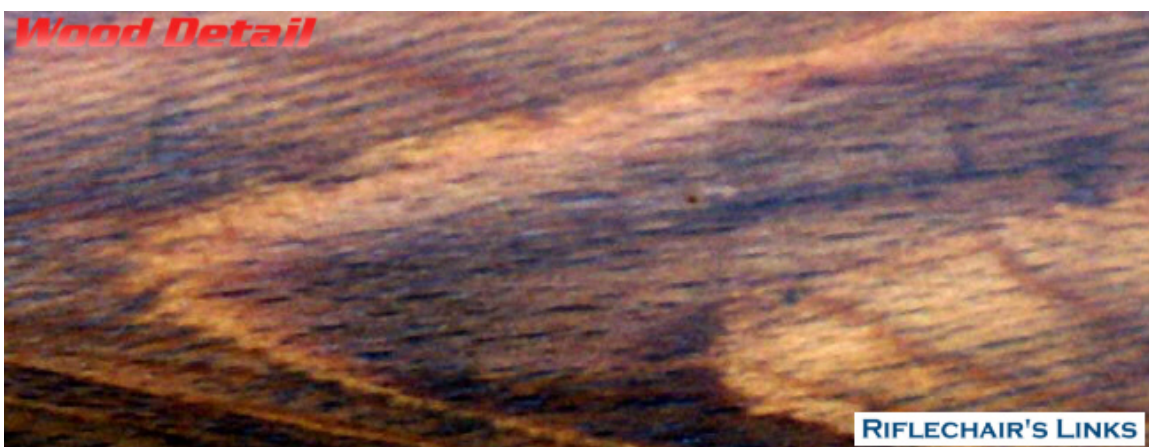
BEFORE



RIFLECHAIR'S LINKS

AFTER





ENJOY AND HAVE FUN!!!!!!!!!!