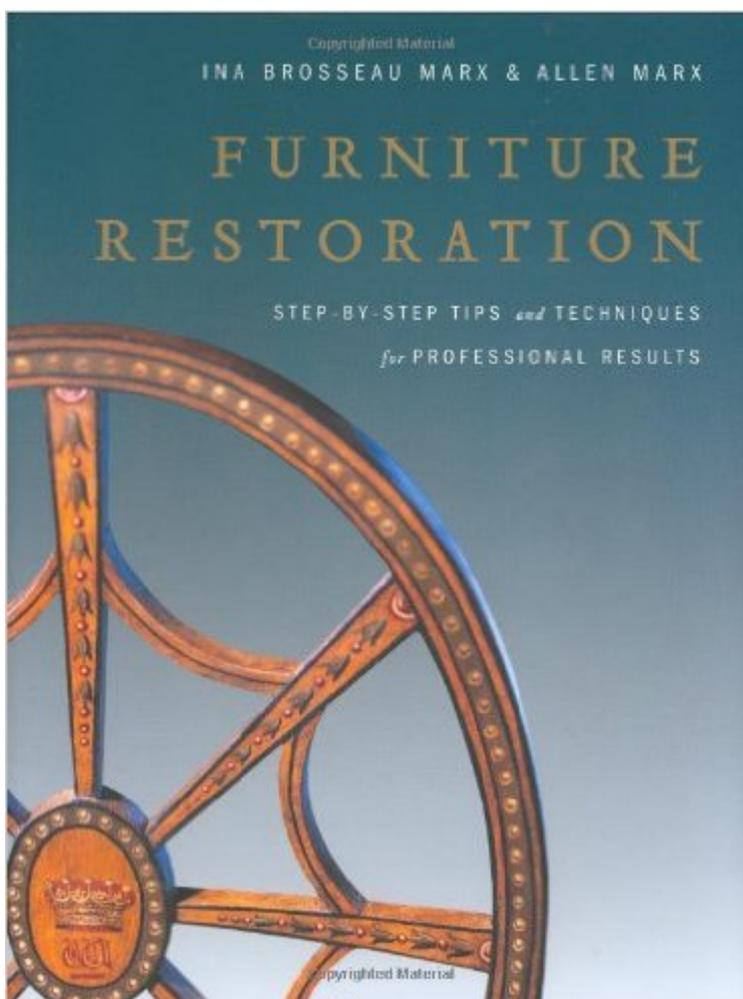


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# Furniture Restoration: Step-By-Step Tips And Techniques For Professional Results



## Synopsis

Repair that favorite antique with step-by-step help from the pros. Who doesn't love to watch Antiques Roadshow? And who doesn't secretly suspect that Mom's sewing cabinet, that great thrift-store table, or Grandpa's rocking chair could someday be the star of the show? If only the cabinet door hung straight... if only the table weren't all scratched up.. if only the chair still rocked. Now it's easy to get those pieces ready for their close-up! Furniture Restoration makes it simple to assess and repair favorite pieces, whether they're family heirlooms or flea-market finds. Authors Ina Brosseau Marx and Allen Marx share more than thirty years of experience in all kinds of antique furniture restoration. The first chapter gives readers an overview of restoration and explains exactly how to tell when a piece is valuable enough to use a professional restorer. The rest of the book guides the reader through furniture restoration and repairs of every kind, looking at common problems on different pieces and some quick fixes as well as the properties of wood, repairing joinery, restoring surfaces, making molds and casts, restoring color, repairing veneers, finishes, and ornamented surfaces, and much, much more. More than 600 full-color photos and dozens of before-and-afters let readers see exactly how to fix whatever is wrong without going wrong themselves. • One-of-a-kind one-volume resource • Everybody is interested in antiques and treasures; an estimated 80 million people in the U.S. are collectors • Accessible methods plus encouraging in-process photographs • Authors are tops in their field, with more than thirty years' experience • Great for beginners, collectors, designers, antiques dealers, fans of Antiques Roadshow, everybody!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

this lovely book is filled with incredible examples of fine furniture, as well as step by step instructions, with specific tools and materials for restoring, rehabilitating, or recreating the pieces. a wide variety of styles and techniques are presented here, and these are applicable not just to furniture but to panels, walls, and other substrates. an inspiring, must-have book for the decorative artist!

I gave this book only four stars so prospective buyers will not think this book, in itself, will be means to becoming a furniture restorer. Rather, this book will give someone a starting point so they can know what direction to proceed. There is not enough information on any of the techniques in the book to enable an initiate to perform credible restorations or to master any specific technique itself. That said, one piece of cardinal advice I would give. Never practice on the object you are trying to restore. Finally, a library of books, advice and instruction from someone in the craft, and experience, all beyond the scope of this book, are the requirements to become adept at furniture restoration. Also, the beginning of the book states, " to be a restorer, it isn't necessary to be a cabinetmaker." That's true, but it sure helps. After all that I recommend this book to anyone interested in restoration as an excellent beginning.

This is not your run-of-the-mill how to refinish or fix up furniture guide. It's not at the 'estate-sale chair to be rehabbed' level. It's waaaay beyond that. Instead, this is a fairly detailed guide aimed at fixing complex furniture-injuries, and repairing gilt details, complex carvings, chinoiserie laquers. It features instructions for mold-making, gesso and so forth. It does have some helpful information about WHY furniture splits, peels, cracks... and I've got to admit, it pretty much looks like you could throw an antique dresser once belonging to Queen Elizabeth I in front of a semi, and these guys could fix it. But as a how-to handbook, I agree that the photos could be a bit more clear, and instructions a bit more detailed. It's an ok addition to my library, but not as useful as say 'Furniture Repair & Refinishing' (Ultimate Guide To... (Creative Homeowner)) by Brian D. Hingley, which was a lot more my speed (which is um... kinda basic...).

This is one of the best book on antique furniture restoration. It covers the major problems that one encounters with older furniture and offers practical approaches to solve them. The sections on color

matching are better than I have seen elsewhere. I am a beginner, so I am not just attempting the easy stuff. Detailed chapters on gilding, etc. will be of interest to more advanced refinishers. Lots of very clear pictures. Beautifully printed too. Five stars.

I've been interested in furniture restoration for a while and was looking to pick up a book that would provide clear photos and diagrams for use. The was not the case with this book. Other may disagree but I found the book frustrating as a reference guide and the instructions lacking in clear diagrams. Pictures were grainy, badly photographed, and did not show the intended result or initial problem they were trying to fix in an adequate way. The photos essentially looked like they had been taken by amateur photographers from old restoration projects and blown up for the sake of the book. The layout of the book was also somewhat puzzling. One would expect a clear well organized summary of typical issues with different materials and a well organized list of chapters that dealt with each issue in a clear and well laid out manner. I found that issues were discussed in general, then solutions were scattered throughout the book.

I have read many furniture fix-up and refinishing books over the years, and must say this is one of the most comprehensive I have ever read! I was especially fascinated by the chapter on making molds of trim, details, and other shapes, so as to cast a duplicate to be affixed to another part of the piece being repaired. I also appreciated the chapter dealing with wood fillers. I long ago learned that store-bought wood fillers, such as "Plastic Wood," never quite match what you are trying to match around the filled-in portion, and many are just too hard to conveniently sand level. The Marx's' approach to mixing up a custom color-matched filler from regular white water based powdered filler, so the patch can be sanded without losing the color match, is just ingenious! Their presentations on color matching and graining are better than anything I have ever read. This book has elevated my aspirations and skill level as never before. I will begin using knowledge and tips gleaned from this book in my very next project. The reviewer who did not like the book because it did not help with a re-upholstery project, needed to find a beginner's book on upholstering. This book is not a beginner's book, but will help anyone, beginner to experienced furniture refinishing guru, understand what can be done to breathe new life into these beautiful old treasures!

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