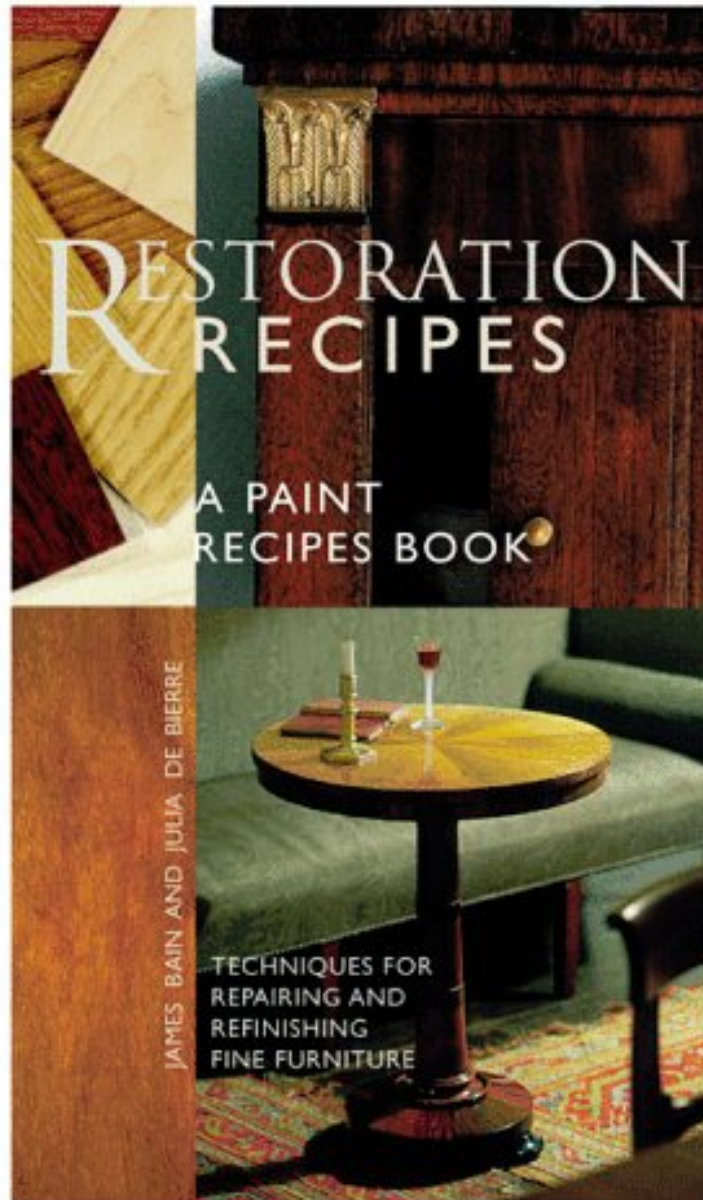


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Restoration Recipes: Techniques for Repairing and Refinishing Fine Furniture

James Bain Smith

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James Bain Smith : Restoration Recipes: Techniques for Repairing and Refinishing Fine Furniture before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Restoration Recipes: Techniques for Repairing and Refinishing Fine Furniture:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very nice restoration book
By J. Brackett
Very good source book for those serious about restoration work. Could be more than a hobbyist is looking for as it covers many advanced procedures and techniques that typically will only be of interest to a serious restoration enthusiast or professional. The book is laid out very well. A great addition to a restoration library.
5 of 6 people found the following review helpful.
Not Comprehensive
By Isfahan
The fundamental failing of this book is that the methods of restoration described in the text require a significant degree of skill to master (French Polishing, Hammer Veneering with hide glue, cabinet-making skills, et al) thus making the text exceedingly schizophrenic. The book assumes that the reader is a neophyte, but anyone who has already mastered the rudimentary skills needed to complete one of the projects given in the text would have no need to purchase the book, as they would now be self-reliant. For someone just starting out, a better learning resource is Brian Hingley's "Ultimate Guide to Furniture Repair and Refinishing" which gives step-by-step accounts of the process. Furthermore, the photographs of the completed projects are so poorly photographed (hidden in shadows, or a close-up shot) that one cannot ascertain if the restoration has been a success.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is the one
By Toy Soldier
The right way to do things.....

The latest in the best-selling Paint Recipes series, Restoration Recipes takes readers beyond the quick fix with tips, techniques, and recipes for refurbishing quality furniture for beautiful, lasting results. With the same unique format and practical style as its predecessors, Restoration Recipes covers a host of traditional and modern methods for restoring antique and heirloom pieces made of wood, glass, metal, and leather. Illustrated, step-by-step instructions guide readers through the 21 restoration projects with ease and confidence.

.com In contrast to the spate of quick-fix makeovers that have become so popular of late, Restoration Recipes promises to offer a new lease on life to old pieces of furniture. The authors, Julia de Bierre and James Bain Smith, both lecture on restoration and have an impressive heritage as dealer-curator and artist-restorer, respectively. They have written this book for "furniture enthusiasts ... who share our love for the well-worn antique or second-hand piece and who wish to progress to the rewarding practicalities of restoration work." This sums up the book perfectly. It begins with a guide to purchasing furniture, offering advice on how to develop an eye, for example going to visit museums and collections and investing in good reference books or back auction catalogues. They also tell you what to look out for when scouring flea markets for a potential bargain. The authors go on to detail the tools and materials you will need for the restoration of wood, upholstery, and surfaces including marble, leather, paint, and gilding. They address potential problems such as treating wood rot or mending surface cracks and offer tips on how to authenticate modern fittings--for example, darkening the gleam of new metal by applying paint-stripper. Each chapter offers particular examples such as a Neoclassical chair, a marbled tabletop, or a gilded mirror, and certain designs such as the Eames chair are knowledgeably placed in their historical context. The restoration instructions include a list of materials, equipment, and step-by-step methods accompanied by photographs. Techniques explained include French polishing, working with gesso as a foundation for paint or gilding, and reupholstering chairs. Finally, the book gives a list of suppliers of specialist materials and equipment. Restoration Recipes will be a tasty treat for anyone attempting to restore furniture to its traditional splendor. --Karen Homer
About the Author
James Bain Smith and Julia de Bierre run Castle Workshops, a series of courses on restoration, fine furniture, period painting techniques, and decorative effects, based at the Chateau de Lucens in Switzerland.