



# Workshop Beauty Tips

JOHN BORLEY  
Toronto, Canada

LOOKING GOOD IN YOUR HOME WORKSHOP

OK, before you say “What is this magazine coming to?” the headline is a bit misleading.

This article is not going to offer beauty tips for your workshop. But it is going to discuss some beauty products that might have a place there.

Recently, I had to install a lock on a case. Putting the lock into the door: no problem. Accurately locating the lock strike plate in the case: huge pain.

One trick, as most of you probably know, is to put something such as black felt pen ink on the end of the bolt, then turn the key to push the bolt onto the adjoining surface. With luck, you will leave a mark there, which shows where the mortise needs to go. And that in turn determines the location of the strike plate.

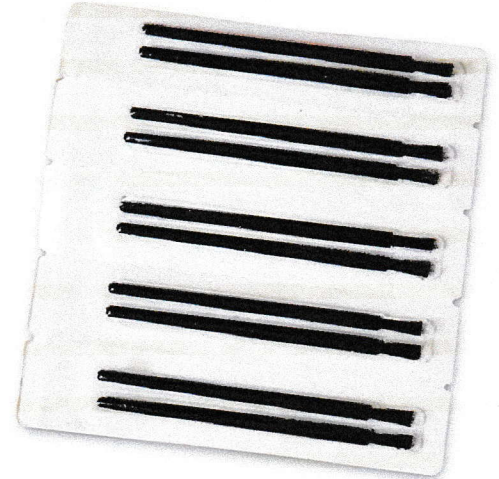
Problem is, the mark is rarely clear,

“His answer: lipstick. It goes on easily and makes a good impression...”

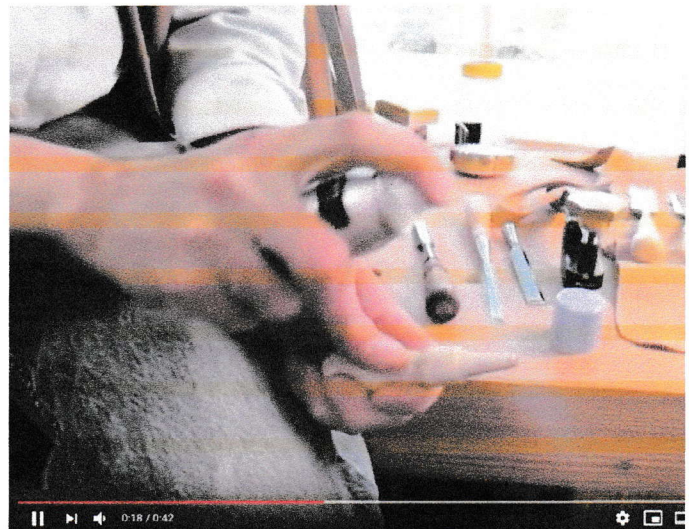
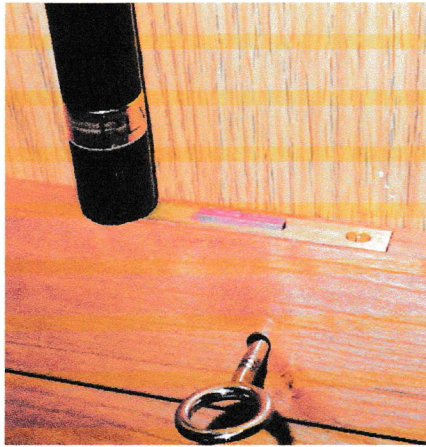
at least when I do it. So I asked a locksmith friend who installs hundreds of locks every year to share his secret. His answer: lipstick. It goes on easily and makes a good impression (which, when you think about it, is what lipstick is designed to do). It also cleans up easily with a bit of solvent.

Now, I know what you’re thinking, and the answer is *no*. It doesn’t matter what shade. I used Revlon’s “Gentlemen Prefer Pink,” but you can use whatever is in your toolbox. Your secret is safe with us.

Still with makeup tips, a female friend recently gave me some small brushes. These are used to apply some sort of goop to



the eyelids. They’re about three inches long and good for getting glue into tiny spaces. Even better, I was able to apply some dye with great precision to a small streak of sapwood in a recent project. They are single-use when used for their intended purpose, but I find they clean up and can be re-used many times. Where to actually get them, I’m not sure, but maybe the ladies in our group can help with that. The manufacturer in this case is Allergan.



<https://youtu.be/D37HtDJ8QRg>





# Workshop Beauty Tips *(continued-2)*

## LOOKING GOOD IN YOUR HOME WORKSHOP

While we are in the ladies' beauty department, don't forget about hair-spray. Bob Van Dyke told me this one that he learned from Tom Lie-Nielsen. Socket-handle chisels sometimes get loose in the

**"Tom told Bob the fragrance was up to him!"**

winter as the wood shrinks. Jam the chisel onto the socket handle after giving it a good spray of hairspray. The chisel will stay on but can be knocked off if you should ever want to change handles. Tom told Bob the fragrance was up to him!



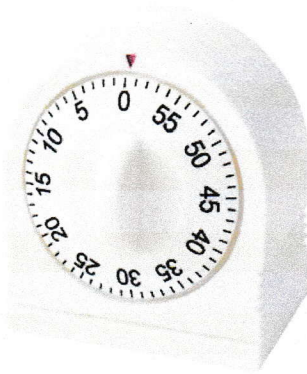
to secure to your project, not barbecue sauce!"

Don't laugh: Hendrik is both a professional furnituremaker and chef, so he knows what he's talking about! ([www.passionforwood.com](http://www.passionforwood.com))

And still from the kitchen, another useful tool: a kitchen scale. Very handy for weighing small amounts of shellac or powdered dye. It's probably best if you don't return it after using it to weigh toxic chemicals. Probably even better if you don't remove it in the first place without asking permission.

Moving now from the dressing table to the kitchen, there's another device that I use from time to time: the toaster oven. I picked up this tip years ago from one of my first teachers, Hendrik Varju. He's a furniture maker in Southern Ontario who runs Passion For Wood. Hendrik recommends baking your dowels.

A tight-fitting dowel makes a great joint. But sometimes trying to glue up a number of them at once can cause binding, especially when that water-based glue causes the dowels to swell. Baking them shrinks the dowels an amount that's imperceptible to the eye, but gives you a tiny bit of wiggle room. They swell



**"Three hundred degrees fahrenheit for 10 minutes with dowels on a perforated rack so they get good air flow all around."**

back up in the hole once the glue hits them. So I asked him to share his recipe.

"Three hundred degrees fahrenheit for 10 minutes with dowels on a perforated rack so they get good air flow all around. Turn off the oven and allow to cool fully with the door closed. Transfer to an air-tight container. 3/8"-diameter dowels will shrink .007" or so. Use glue

Got some offbeat tips for the workshop? Send them to me at [woodworker@rogers.com](mailto:woodworker@rogers.com) or Bob at [bobvandyke52@gmail.com](mailto:bobvandyke52@gmail.com), and we'll share them with fellow SAPFM members in a future edition of P&T. —JB