

Yamaha Acoustic Guitar Craftsmanship part 4

From Japan to the World

This article focuses on the finishing process, providing a detailed introduction to each step, including painting, sanding, and buffing. The craftsmanship shines through as multiple layers of paint are applied and sanding is repeated, balancing both the aesthetic beauty and acoustic performance of the instrument. Additionally, we delve into the attention to detail in the finishing process of the flagship FG/FS9 series, shedding light on the refined beauty unique to this series.

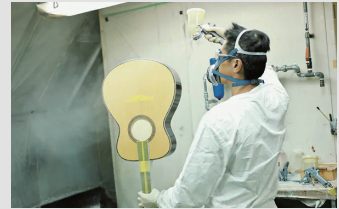


Painting and Finishing

The finishing process of a guitar is divided into four primary stages: "Undercoating," "Middle Coating," "Top Coating," and "Buffing (Polishing)". Throughout these stages, multiple layers are meticulously applied, with each coating process involving careful sanding to ensure a smooth surface and achieve the desired coating thickness.

Painting

Depending on the product, different painting methods are employed: "**wiping**," where stain is rubbed into the wood, and "**spraying**," where paint is applied using a spray gun.



Sanding

Each stage of the painting process—applying the undercoat, middle coat, and topcoat—involves sanding to smooth the surface, **gradually using finer-grit sandpaper**. To achieve a beautifully thin and even finish, painting and sanding are repeated multiple times. This controlled process builds up the necessary and sufficient thickness, **creating an optimal coating structure that protects the guitar's wood while preserving its tonal character**.



Buffing (Polishing)

The final polishing stage, known as "buffing," involves **using a soft cloth or buffing wheel to polish the hardened finish**, resulting in a high-gloss, mirror-like appearance. This process requires skillful adjustment of the speed and pressure applied by the buffing wheel, as the hardness of the finish varies depending on the type of coating used.



Finishing Process that Enhances the Beauty of FG/FS9

The FG/FS9 series features a lacquer finish, enhancing the natural beauty of the Adirondack spruce top. To accentuate the bright and elegant grain of the top, the back and sides are finished in a subdued hue, creating a refined contrast unique to the FG/FS9 models.

Key finishing aspects:

- **Meticulous Color Matching:** Extensive prototyping led to a precise color formulation for the back and sides, ensuring both the individuality of each material and a consistent aesthetic across the product line.
- **Neck Finish Coordination:** The neck's finish is tailored to complement the body color. Specifically, the FG9 R (Rosewood model) and FG9 M (Mahogany model) feature distinct hues that harmonize with their respective bodies, enhancing the overall design balance.
- **Glossy Headstock Surface:** The headstock boasts a gloss finish, adding a touch of luxury and drawing attention to the player's hands during performances.

These thoughtful design choices contribute to the sophisticated and elegant appearance of FG/FS9, reflecting Yamaha's commitment to both aesthetic and functional excellence.

