



Dissolving and mixing shellac flakes

Keys to success and safety

- Use a high-grade denatured alcohol (190 proof is ideal).
- Mix only what you will use within 3 months.
- Mix in a glass or plastic container that's slightly larger than the liquid volume (to allow room for the flakes). **Do not use a metal container.**
- Be aware that temperatures lower than 60° F will slow dissolving. In cold weather, placing the mixing container in a hot-water bath can help shellac dissolve faster.
- Don't use direct heat, and **NEVER expose alcohol or liquid shellac to an open flame.**

Mixing procedure

- Determine the "cut" and volume of shellac you plan to mix.
- Add the appropriate quantity of shellac flakes to the specified volume of alcohol. (See chart.)
- Stir or shake, then place mixing container in a warm area until shellac is fully dissolved. Stir or shake every 30 minutes.
- After shellac is fully dissolved, strain the mixture through cheesecloth, white cotton cloth or a paint strainer.
- Store shellac mixture in a tightly sealed container in a cool, dark location.

Shellac 'pound cut' chart

Denatured alcohol volume	Ounces of shellac flakes to be added to alcohol				
	1-pound cut	1½-pound cut	2-pound cut	2½-pound cut	3-pound cut
1 gallon (128 fl.oz.)	16 oz.	24 oz.	32 oz.	40 oz.	48 oz.
½ gallon (64 fl. oz.)	8 oz.	12 oz.	16 oz.	20 oz.	24 oz.
1 quart (32 fl. oz.)	4 oz.	6 oz.	8 oz.	10 oz.	12 oz.
1 pint (16 fl. oz.)	2 oz.	3 oz.	4 oz.	5 oz.	6 oz.
1 cup (8 fl. oz.)	1 oz.	1½ oz.	2 oz.	2½ oz.	3 oz.

About 'cuts'

- A "2-pound cut" is a good starting point. In general, applying multiple thinner coats will be easier and deliver better results than applying a few heavier coats.
- A "3-pound cut" is used for priming or sealing stains, sap or knots prior to paints. (Use dewaxed shellac as a primer under paint or sealcoat under clear finishes.)