

# Pew Refinishing Project

## Step 1: Clean

- Clean the pews with TSP and water.
- Mix TSP and water according to the directions on the carton
- Dip brush in mixture and scrub pew with brush. Scrub bench, backrest, back of backrest, ends, and both sides of pew legs, not the bottom of the pew.
- Using a clean rag, wipe down the pew to remove residue from TSP and scrubbing. Rinse rag regularly
- Let pew dry

## Step 2: Lightly Sand

- Using 220 grit paper lightly sand pew using orbital finishing sander. Sand the pew backrest, back of backrest, pew ends, and sides of legs. Do not use the orbital sander on the seat. It is curved. It is best to just hand sand this with a piece of paper and the palm of your hand. Sanding is done to merely rough up the existing finish that remains so the new coat of varnish will adhere well. It is not necessary or desirable to remove the existing finish.
- With a clean damp rag, wipe the remaining dust off of the pew
- Let dry

## Step 3: Repair Pew Legs if Split (if not skip to step 4)

- Some of the pew legs are split and need to be glued. Using wood glue, as best as possible, apply glue so that it runs into the crack.
- Using clamps, clamp the two cracked halves together.
- Drill a pilot hole and a countersunk hole for a flathead woodscrew and drive at least 2 screws to hold the two halves together.
- Remove the clamps and allow the glue to dry overnight.

## Step 4: Varnish Pew

- Using a 3” brush, apply a coat of varnish. It is best to work from one end of the pew toward the other always working from and keeping a wet edge.
- Apply the varnish to a small area and then use a long stroke back toward what was just applied. This evens the coat and prevents drips.
- Allow to dry at least 24 hours before applying a second, and then a third coat. Sand lightly between coats.