

The Paint Rag

Episode XI – Q2 2025



The Future Of Finishing is Global And You Can Catch it in Vegas Next!

This quarter has been a wild ride filled with travel! We had over 200 guests at our Future of Finishing event in early May. It was an absolute blast! We also got to host over 30 of our vendors and coating partners all in one place. Our customers got to see the “Future of Finishing” in action, and they were raving about it! They even asked us to do it again!

Next up, we headed to Monterey, Mexico, to exhibit at FAB-TECH Mexico the following week with our Total Finishing Systems crew. Then, two weeks later, we left for Germany where TFS joined our partners who were exhibiting at LIGNA, the world’s largest woodworking exhibition. We’re always the first to research and bring back new technologies from all these trips, and this one was no exception.

VD Finishing was exhibiting a new technology called “Ghost” at Ligna. They can print QR codes on coated parts that are both visible and invisible. This means that large-scale production customers don’t need to print labels with sticky adhesive on their parts. The adhesive can be a sticky mess later on, and it can even get lost in the process. With Ghost, we print a visible QR code on the front of the part (like a cabinet door, for example). Then, the operator scans the QR and loads the part. They paint the back side of the door in flatline, knowing that the printed label on the front will be painted over in the next step. We then print an invisible QR code on the now-finished backside and complete the painting process on the front of the part. The now-invisible unique QR code can be seen by holding a black light. This means it can be seen for years to come, even after it’s installed in someone’s home. So, if there’s a warranty issue, the cabinet manufacturer can scan the invisible QR code and get all sorts of data, like the date it was painted, the color, the time, the temperature, the operator who painted it, the coating, and even the batch number of the coating. All of this data can be fed into the VD MODUS 4.0 System

that they developed and released two years ago at the last LIGNA show. It's pretty impressive and really solves a unique problem!

Guess what? We've got an exciting new solution for filling knot holes in wood, and we're thrilled to share it with you! We'll be launching this live at the AWFS show in Las Vegas, from July 22nd to the 25th. Come on over to our booth and check out this incredible process that can fill and paint a knot hole in less than 60 seconds! Our filler is not only stainable and paintable but also fully cured without any catalysts or UV lights. It takes just 30-60 seconds to cure. And the best part? We offer a variety of colors to match your wood species perfectly. So, mark your calendars and make sure to visit booth 1713 at the AWFS show. It's going to be a blast! Oh, and don't forget to enjoy the vibrant energy of Las Vegas! Who knows, maybe you'll even catch a glimpse of the legendary **Elvis Presley at our booth!**

Ty T. Crowder

Ty T. Crowder
President of Total Finishing Solutions

Product Innovations



LIQUID PRODUCTION INNOVATION

Total Finishing Tip Spa & Tip Spa
Spray

Spray tip maintenance is essential for achieving consistent finishes and extending the life of your equipment. The Total Finishing Tip Spa and Tip Spa Spray are designed to make the job quick, effective, and hassle free- keeping your spray tips



POWDER PRODUCTION INNOVATION

**Walcom® 360 True Light 2.0 – Now
Compatible with Powder Coating Guns**

The *Walcom 360 True Light 2.0* is more than just a spray gun light—it's a game-changer for powder coaters and liquid painters alike. Engineered for precision, this next-generation LED light system now fits all major powder coating gun brands, including **Wagner, Gema, Nordson, Sames**, and more.

Featuring an ultra-bright LED with **12,000 lux** output and an exceptional

clean, conditioned, and ready for peak performance.

The Total Finishing Tip Spa is a convenient, easy-to-use container that holds your tips in a conditioning solution to prevent clogging, dry build-up and premature wear. Simply drop your used tips into the spa and let the solution work its magic. It's compatible with most major spray tip brands and ideal for daily use in professional shops and on job sites.

Complimenting the Tip Spa is the Tip Spa Spray, a fast-acting cleaner and conditioner in a convenient spray bottle. It's perfect for quick touch-ups between jobs or when you're not ready for a fully soak a tip. A quick spray dissolves dried coatings and keeps tips lubricated and protected- helping you avoid downtime and costly replacements.

Together, the Tip Spa and Tip Spa Spray are a must-have duo for any finisher serious about maintaining their tools and the quality of their work. Keep them nearby and your spray tips will thank you.

For more information, visit TotalFinishingSUPPLIES.com

CRI of 97–98, the 360 True Light 2.0 replicates natural daylight for flawless color checking, surface inspection, and finish quality—even in the most demanding powder environments. Interchangeable lenses allow you to quickly switch between **color-enhancing** and **glare-reducing** modes, optimizing visibility no matter the application.

An integrated digital display gives real-time feedback on **spray distance**, **battery level**, and **light intensity**, helping operators maintain consistent, high-quality application technique. The improved CPU, USB-C charging, and 45% longer battery life deliver up to **2 hours and 40 minutes** of continuous high-output lighting.

Designed for durability and flexibility, the True Light 2.0 includes five universal adapter rings to fit virtually any powder or liquid spray gun. Built with **ATEX certification** for use in industrial environments, it's the perfect tool for **powder coating shops**, **industrial painters**, and **training centers** looking to elevate their finishing quality.

A proud **IWF Challengers Award winner**, the 360 True Light 2.0 is redefining clarity, control, and consistency in professional coating applications—liquid or powder.

For more information, visit TotalFinishingSUPPLIES.com

Watch The TFS Tip Spa In Action!



Vendor Spotlight



SARMAX: Italian Engineering at It's Finest

If you've ever admired flawless wood finishes or perfectly structured grain, there's a good chance SARMAX had something to do with it.

Based in Modena, Italy, SARMAX has been quietly (and brilliantly) transforming the word finishing world since 2003. Born from over 30 years of hands-on experience in woodworking machinery, they've built a reputation for high-performance systems that don't just get the job done they do it with precision, efficiency, and a whole lot of Italian ingenuity.

From their signature **Apache impregnating lines** to the ever reliable **Cheyenne brushing machines**, SARMAX offers a full suite of equipment for brushing, spraying, dying, sanding, and more. Their machines are built with operators in mind- smart, intuitive, and built to last. And in 2013, they took things to the next level by acquiring UNIHOLZ, expanding their lineup into drilling and inserting systems.

With a growling global footprint, SARMAX continues to raise the bar for woodworking excellence- proving that thoughtful design and true craftsmanship never go out of style.

Visit totalfinishingsupplies.com to explore the full line of SARMAX machines and bring world-class Inaction engineering to your shop.

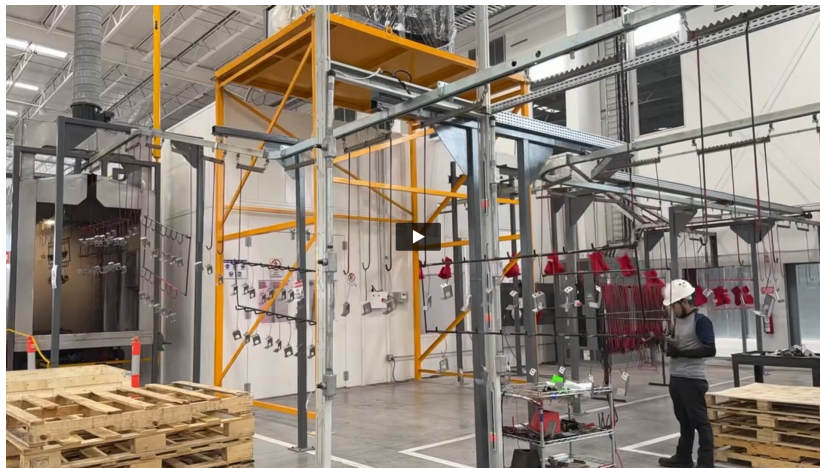


Check Out Sarmax in Action!

Total Finishing Systems

NEW BUILD BY TOTAL FINISHING SYSTEMS

POWDER COATING SYSTEM INSTALLED IN MEXICO!



We're excited to share the successful completion of a large-scale powder coating system for one of our valued customers in Mexico! This fully integrated installation was designed to meet high production demands while ensuring process efficiency and quality control.

Systems Highlights Include:

- A five-stage stainless steel parts washer
- Convection dry-off and cure ovens
- An enclosed track conveyor system
- A climate-controlled environmental room powered by a 30-ton HVAC unit
- A downdraft-style, spray-to-waste powder booth
- Our advanced **Smart Line 4.0** system controller for seamless process management

This project is a great example of our dedication to providing customer-engineered, turnkey finishing solutions that support the unique needs of every operation.

Want to learn more about how we can optimize your finishing process? Let's talk!

[Visit TotalFinishingSystems.com](https://TotalFinishingSystems.com)



Total Finishing Systems is headed to FABTECH in Chicago!

FABTECH 2025 takes place at McCormick Place, September 8-11, 2025.

Come explore our latest finishing systems, automation solutions, and industry innovations — at Booth D40351!

Click the button below to register for free!

For all your systems needs, visit TotalFinishingSystems.com.

FREE REGISTRATION

Tech Tips by Tony

Are You Cross-Threading Your Gun Parts Without Realizing It?

Cross-threading can cause serious, often irreversible damage to your spray gun components. Proper technique during reassembly is critical to maintaining the performance and longevity of your equipment.

What to Watch For:

- **Unusual resistance:** If threads begin to tighten after only 1-2 turns by hand, stop immediately.
- **Misalignment:** Starting a part at an angle is a common cause of cross-threading.
- **Contamination:** Dirt, overspray, or Debris in threads can cause binding and lead to damage.

Best Practices to Prevent Cross-Threading:

- Always start threading by hand, not with tools.
- Ensure all threads are clean and free of debris before reassembly.
- Use a light lubricant if needed, but avoid over-lubrication.
- Thread components in straight and level- never force a fit.
- If resistance is felt, back out and recheck alignment.

Pro Moves:

- Use a thread chaser periodically to clean and maintain internal threads.
- Inspect threads with a magnifier under good lighting- look for burrs or wear.
- Label or photograph complex assemblies before disassembly to ensure accurate reassembly.
- Keep a clean workspace to minimize contamination.

Taking the extra time to reassemble with care helps avoid costly repairs and keeps your equipment running like new.

For more information, please visit TotalFinishingSUPPLIES.com

Stay tuned for more **Tech Tips by Tony!**



News and Events

AWFS[®]
Fair

JULY 22-25, 2025
LAS VEGAS CONVENTION CENTER
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
www.awfsfair.org

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COMPLIMENTS OF



EXPO ONLY:
Use code **FBCCA1** for **FREE** admission to the Expo.

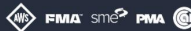
FABTECH

SEPTEMBER 8-11, 2025
CHICAGO, IL | MCCORMICK PLACE

Check out these Exceptional Finishing Conference Sessions

- C21:** Coat It - Batch vs. Automated Finishing Systems: Which is Right for You?
 - C22:** **NEW!** Automation in Action: Finishing Cobots and Industry 5.0 Overhead Systems
 - C23:** **NEW!** Clean Without Chemicals
 - C31:** **NEW!** Cure It - Unlocking Oven Efficiency
 - C33:** **NEW!** Mastering Powder Coating: Selection Strategies and Evaluation Costs
 - C41:** **NEW!** Measure It - Coating Inspection Solutions
 - C42:** **NEW!** Funky Finishes: Unique Powder Coatings and Their Applications
 - C43:** Hide and Seek: Masking and Racking
 - C52:** Streamlining Processes: Zinc Phosphate and Lightweighting Challenges in Automotive Coating
 - C63:** Preventative Maintenance: The Untapped Profit Center
- Additional fees apply to attend Conference Sessions.

Event Partners



Join Us at AWFS Fair & FABTECH 2025 Two Shows, Double the Innovation!

Come see us at **AWFS 2025 in Las Vegas**, where the latest finishing technology takes center stage! We'll be showcasing our top equipment, cutting-edge solutions and connecting with industry professionals from around the country. Use code **TOT251** for free registration!

Dates: July 21-25 9-5
Location: Las Vegas Convention Center- West Hall
Booth: 1713

Then catch us at **FABTECH 2025 in Chicago**, where innovation meets industrial power. Stop by our booth to see our newest equipment in action and meet the team behind the tools.

Dates: September 8-11
Location: McCormick Place
Booth: D40351

Two cities. Two major shows. One unbeatable experience.

REGISTER

Meet the TFS Family

Sal Saucedo | Change Agent

You may know **Total Finishing**, but do you know the people behind the scenes? Meet Sal, a seasoned professional with over 30 years of experience in the coatings and wood manufacturing industry. He's been an integral part of the TFS team the past year and a half, where he's taken on project management from start to finish and mastered powder coating along side a strong and knowledgeable team. Get to know the man behind the mission in this month's Q&A!

Q: How long have you been with Total Finishing?

Sal: I'm a Change Agent at TFS. I've been with the company for a year and a half.

Q: Do you have any hobbies?

Sal: My favorite hobbies are music, swimming and fishing.

Q: What kind of interesting things would you like our customers to know about you?

Sal: I've been in the coatings and wood manufacturing industry for over 30 years, hands on. I learned powder coating here at TFS and count with a great team that has a lot of experience to back it up!

Q: Can you give customers an idea of how you help them and what they can expect from you?

Sal: I can manage projects from start to end. Follow through any type of systems solutions or supply projects. You can always count on support, information, and transparency to make your projects easy and productive as possible.



TFS Featured YouTube Video

Lock Eyes With The TFS Medusa Pump and Turn Your

Finish Into Glass!

COME WITH ME IF YOU WANT TO SPRAY!



Medusa Pump: All Power, No Drama (Snakes Not Included)

When it comes to finishing, you don't need another headache- you need the Medusa Pump. It's strong, reliable, and won't turn you to stone if you look at it wrong.

Built for heavy-duty performance with precision air control, Medusa delivers smooth, accurate spray patterns and keeps overspray to a minimum- so your workspace (and your coworkers) stay a whole lot cleaner. No magic tricks, just solid engineering that gets the job done.

Whether you're working on something massive or fine-tuning the details, the Medusa Pump is here to help you slay your spray.

Need one in your shop? Reach out and we'll hook you up (no snakes, we promise)

For more information visit TotalFinishing.com.

The Fun Stuff

Q: Why did the finishing technician break up with the primer?

A: Because they just weren't bonding.

The Total Finishing Family

TotalFinishing.com

TotalFinishingSupplies.com

TotalFinishingSystems.com

TotalFinishingSolutions.com



Total Finishing Solutions, LLC.

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