

WoodenBoat REVIEW

PRODUCTS • BOOKS • VIDEOS • STUFF



KAREN WALES

UNIWRAP MPI Anti-corrosion Paper

by Karen Wales

My home shop is seaside. Lucky though that is, my tools are constantly exposed to salt air. Recently, while going through my hand tools, I came upon two identical handsaws that I had purchased a few years ago, before a season of teaching woodworking classes. Little did I know that my shop had become an accidental laboratory, an optimum location for testing the effectiveness of UNIWRAP MPI anti-corrosion paper. This chemically treated paper, made by the Daubert Cromwell Company, is available in small parcels from Lie-Nielsen Toolworks, Inc., who also use the paper to wrap their fine hand tools.

At purchase, each of my two handsaws had been neatly bundled in the manufacturer's packaging boxes. Inside the respective boxes, each saw blade was wrapped in UNIWRAP MPI paper. I had used one of the

handsaws and then put it away in its box, but failed to rewrap it in the protective paper. I left the other one wrapped and undisturbed in its box. As mentioned, a significant period of time had lapsed before I examined these saws again (my having landed an office job), only to find that the saw blade that had been left in its UNIWRAP MPI wrapping remained in new condition while the one left bare in its box became pocked with corrosion blooms.

This paper works best in enclosed, protected spaces, such as a toolbox, indoors, guarded from windy conditions. Wind is a prime threat to the paper's effectiveness, since the chemical treatment can be blown off its surface. When used properly (wrapped around the metal parts of the tool), the volatile corrosion inhibitor (VCI) compounds vaporize from the surface of the paper. VCI molecules arrange themselves on the surface of the metal (either ferrous or non-ferrous) and create a barrier that stops corrosion in its tracks. The manufacturer recommends changing out the paper at least once per year, even though my results indicate that its effects can last well beyond that.

I wondered whether it might be a good idea to take a few sheets aboard my sailboat since it has an enclosed cabin. I learned that it would be fine to use in the tool drawer but to keep it away from the silver and cutlery drawer. Daubert Cromwell has other products that can protect silver, but UNIWRAP MPI should not be used to wrap any mouth-bound utensils.

It's hardly any effort at all to roll a block plane in a sheet of the paper or to fold a piece in order to sheathe a saw blade. I find UNIWRAP MPI paper to be a reasonable alternative to coating hand tools in oil, having never been a great oiler myself. I'm not arguing that it offers better protection than oiling—nor am I discouraging the use of toolbox desiccants and other products and practices known to extend the life and usefulness of metal tools. But add UNIWRAP MPI to your short list. It works.

UNIWRAP MPI anti-corrosion paper is available in packs of 10, 12" x 24" sheets for \$10 from Lie-Nielsen Toolworks, www.lie-nielsen.com. For more information on Daubert Cromwell products, visit www.daubertcromwell.com.

Karen Wales is WoodenBoat's associate editor.