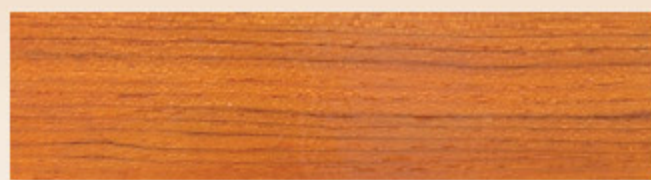


# One-part Topside-Varnish Test Field Grows

*Three products added to lineup for a total of 22 one-part test panels.*

In the August 2007 issue, we launched our search for the ideal exterior wood coating with an introduction of the 18 one-part varnishes included in the test. Since then, we've added to the fray three more one-part products: Coelan (with and without primer) from Premapro, Crab Coat by CrystaLac, and HMG's Coma Berenice. These were applied and rated following the same protocol as the original one-part contestants, and they have been hung outdoors to face the Florida weather along with their counterparts.



Coelan with primer



Coelan without primer



Crab Coat



HMG Coma Berenice

## COELAN BOAT COATING

Coelan, a German company represented in the U.S. by Premapro, has been producing coatings of all kinds for more than 50 years. *PS* tested its Coelan Boat Coating, a clear, flexible polyurethane that ships with a primer and thinner. The primer comes in three pigments: red for hard woods like oak and mahogany; yellow for teak and soft woods like pine, fir, and birch; and brown for older, dark hardwood surfaces.

We prepped one teak test panel with the yellow primer before applying the Boat Coating, and then coated a second test panel with only the Boat Coating (see panel photos above) to see whether the primer affects durability and color. The primed panel was darker than the Boat Coating-only panel, but the color was a warm mahogany, and the finish was not muddy at all.

Coelan recommends priming bare wood, but previously varnished surfaces need only be sanded to raise the grain. The company calls for two coats of primer and three to five coats of varnish. Recoat time is about four hours, and sanding needs only to be done after the initial grain raising or to combat flaws. The Boat Coating can be sprayed or brushed, but it can only be used above the waterline. It can be applied to other substrates as well—steel, aluminum, rubber, and polyester—and can be colored to fit your taste. Like most coatings these days, its formula contains UV inhibitors, but Coelan also claims resistance to solvents, alcohol, fuel, and cleaning agents. Stay tuned to our tests reports to see if *PS* reaches the same conclusion.

The panel coated with Coelan and the yellow primer rated Good for application and Excellent for initial gloss, while the panel with just the Coelan Boat Coating notched two Good ratings. It's available from Premapro at \$10.25 per quart or \$144 per kit (thinner, primer, and finish).

## CRABCOAT MARINE FINISH

CrabCoat is a relatively new coating manufactured by CrystaLac (Becker Labs), a family-owned and operated business that until recently sold coatings only to professional furniture-makers.

Testers found that of the three latecomers to our one-part comparison, the CrabCoat was the easiest and smoothest to apply. It can be sprayed or brushed on, and because of its low VOC-count, it is OK to use belowdecks and below the waterline. It also allows for water cleanup. Following CrystaLac's instruction, testers applied four coats of CrabCoat to the panel, sanding between coats and allowing a three- to four-hour recoat time.

The CrabCoat earned an Excellent for application, but was held back by its Fair rating for original gloss. CrabCoat is available from Becker Labs for \$45 per quart.

## HMG COMA BERENICE

The UK-based HMG Paints has been in the business for more than 70 years. For brightwork applications, HMG recommends its Coma Berenice. This flexible polyurethane can be sprayed or brushed on, and can be applied above and belowdecks.

Following instructions, testers put on five coats of the Coma, allowing for a six-hour recoat time and sanding between coats.

The Coma rated Excellent for its high-gloss finish and Good for ease of application. We found the Coma online at [www.new-found.com](http://www.new-found.com) for \$30 per liter.

## CONCLUSION

At this stage in the game, we'd recommend any of these three products. As far as ease of application and price, they compare favorably to the original 18 one-parts in the test. All 22 panels have been mounted on the test rack outdoors and are facing the South Florida weather for our longterm durability and gloss test. Stay tuned for regular updates on the coatings test.

## CONTACTS

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**BECKER LABS (CRAB COAT)**, 423/727-6425, [crystalac.com](http://crystalac.com)  
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