

Restoring a Writing Bureau

Step by step.

Assessment

- Check over the item and assess the damage.
- Structural repairs should be carried out first.
- Veneers, replacement parts etc.
- Finish.

Assessment

- The Bureau was made in 1992, 31 years old.
- Made from a mix of solid mahogany and mahogany veneered plywood and chipboard.
- Mainly surface wear and tear.
- Some surface damage.



Assessment

Superficial scratches,
dents and staining.



Inspection and Treatment

- The bureau has been in use in the family home so no signs of mould or evidence of fresh woodworm holes.
- As adult beetles cannot bore into wood they often lay their eggs in old exit holes and loose joints, always check inside, back and underneath.
- There were a number of areas where the surface had been damaged, emulsion paint, residue from stickers, a sticky substance, some minor scratches and dents.

Dismantling of Sections

- Carefully remove the different sections to make working on the parts easier.
- Remove Pigeonhole section.
- Remove all drawers.
- Separate top and bottom.
- Remove writing flap.

Dismantling of Sections



The Writing Flap



Dents and Scratches



Bottom drawer had some dents and scratches how would this be treated?

Pigeon Hole Section

Remove sticker residue.

Treatment of ink staining.

Any ideas on how to carry out these repairs without resorting back to sanding off patina?



Pigeon Hole Section



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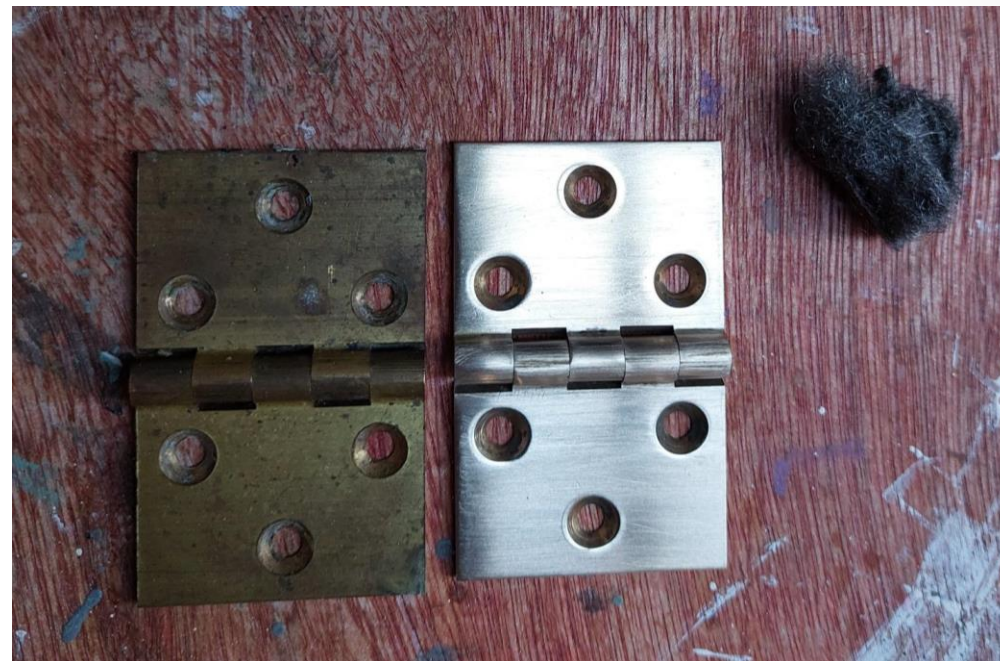
Pigeon Hole Section Before and After



Restoring Brassware



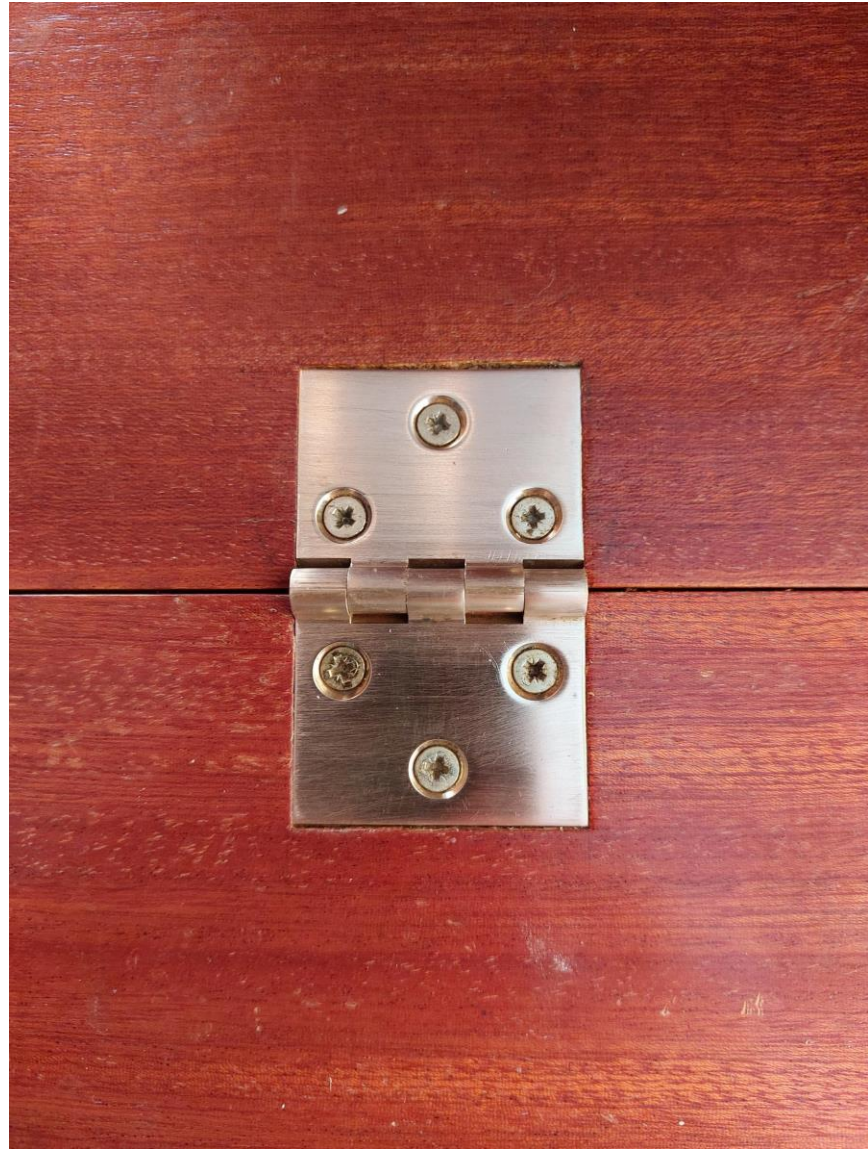
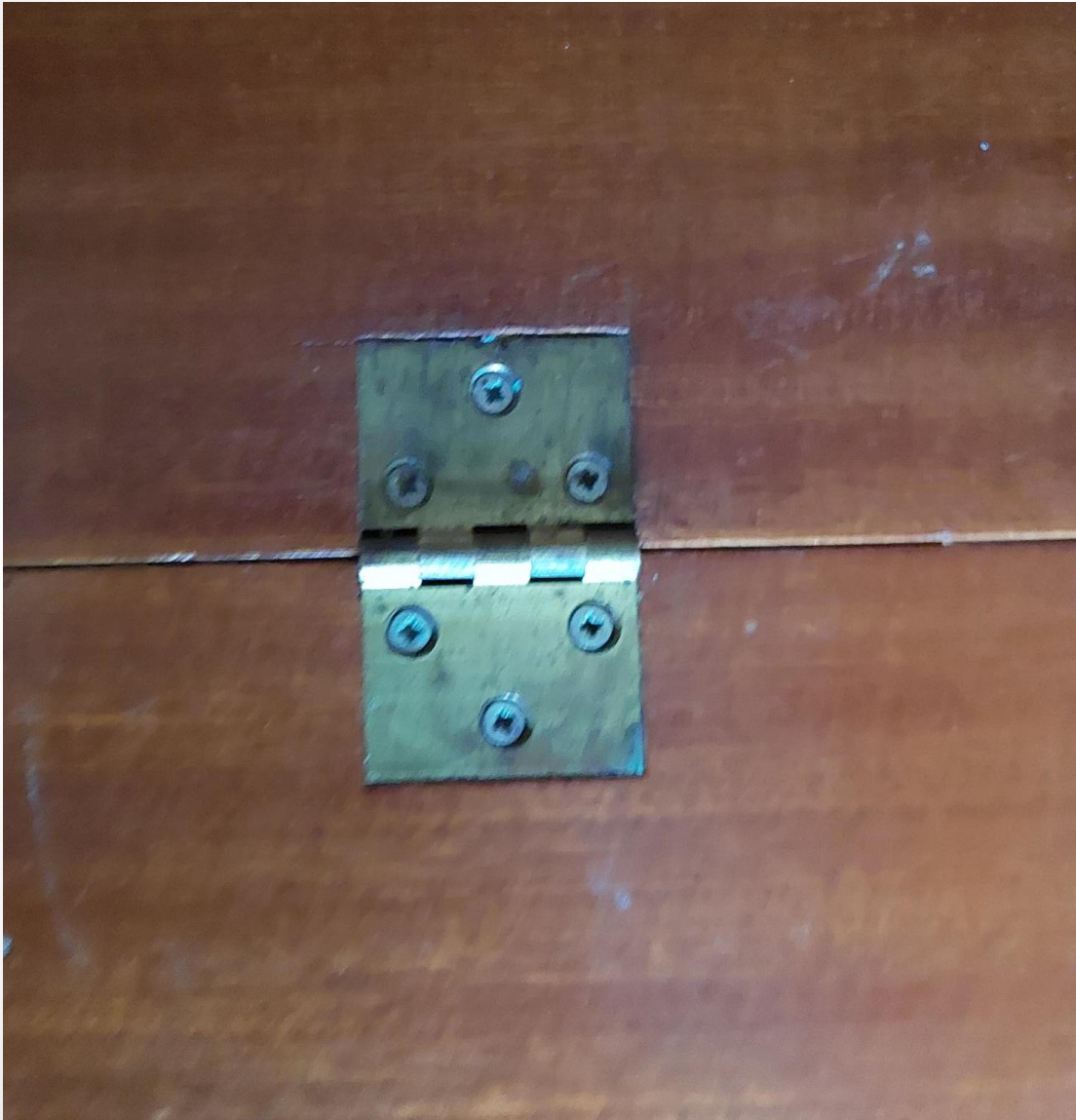
Polish with fine steel wool



Before and after

Sand with fine sandpaper





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French Polished Surfaces

- The patina builds up from years of dust and polishing causing the surface to appear darker than it is.
- Reviver used is
 - 1/3 French Polish
 - 1/3 linseed Oil
 - 1/3 Methylated Spirits



Carved panel before and after applying a reviver coat

Different Finished Surfaces

- If you want to revive the finish without stripping back or sanding and refinishing you can use any penetrating liquid wax. [Click on image.](#)

