

Where the Perfect Wood Finish Begins!



### Finishing Tip #3

#### Good Sanding Guidelines:

Almost any finishing project can't be considered "done" without sanding! However, often times, the most basic guidelines of sanding aren't followed. To help your project turn out beautifully, don't forget these steps.

- 1) Use the right grit of sandpaper. Generally, it is best to sand starting with the coarsest grit and moving to the finest grit. That's right, you have to sand more than once! A general guideline would be to start with 80, then 120, then 220. However, if you want a particularly refined finish, finer grits are available.
- 2) Go with the grain. For the best finish, it is important to follow the grain of the wood. By following the grain you minimize visible scratches on the surface as well as improve the overall finish.
- 3) There is no shame in using power tools when possible. If you do a lot of large projects, it might be worthwhile to invest in an orbital motion sander and/or a detail sander for corners and hard to reach spots. Or, you can always rent one if you don't do a lot of projects.
- 4) Sooner or later the inevitable happens: you have to put that power tool away and do some hand sanding! Be careful if you use only your fingers to back the sandpaper, you can leave finger grooves in the wood or create an uneven overall surface. Hand sanding helps you achieve a detailed finish that just isn't possible with a power sander. A better alternative to traditional hand sanding or wooden block backed sanding is the Zip Sander. The Zip Sander is designed to make hand sanding an easier and finger sparing activity. The unique handle fits into the hand, reducing fatigue and protecting your fingers. A hook-and-loop system, similar to what is found on power sanders, securely holds sandpaper in place while you're working and makes changing paper simple and easy.

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