



Wood Finishing: A Continuous Application Technique

Penetrating oil finishes and surface finishes such as polyurethane can be applied continuously with a wet/dry smoothing paper (such as silicon carbide or emery cloth) to achieve beautiful hand-rubbed results. This process is very successful because the heat from the friction of one's hand and the fine abrasive causes the finish to penetrate deeper and faster into the wood.

Once the wood has been smoothed with a medium sandpaper, smooth again with a 600 or finer grade of wet/dry smoothing paper. (Remember to always rub with the grain of the wood.) Then apply the finish with your hand or clean, fine smoothing paper. Rub the wood with the wet/dry smoothing paper. Apply more finish and continue with more rubbing with the smoothing paper. Repeat this until the wood finish feels like glass. Then buff the wood with a clean dry cloth, or allow the finished wood to dry.

A liquid wood wax can be applied as a final step. Or, a buffing with powdered pumice stone wrapped in a clean, soft cloth and dipped in boiled linseed oil will complete the finish.

Enjoy this finishing technique without the hassles of drying periods between coats of finish. However, one can stop and start again later as often as needed. With this process, finishes rarely become sticky. But if so, buff with a clean soft cloth until the wood is smooth and dry.

Almost all wood finishes can be used in this application process. Try your favorite product!

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Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Stanley R. Johnson, Director, Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, Iowa.