

- Start with a firm support behind the paper and move to softer supports with finer grits
 - Firm support will allow the paper to cut the high points and not ride into valleys
 - Softer support will conform to the surface and give a smoother surface
- Know when to switch grits
 - Take a critical look at the surface – scratches are ok, but defects are not
 - Fix radial scratches, tear out, flat spots or grooves
 - Close your eyes and use you sense of touch
 - Use a technique called 'trace coating'
- Use all the grits
 - Remember – the first grit cleans the surface, the remaining grits remove previous grit scratch marks
 - Skipping grits means more (and longer) sanding
 - Use clean sandpaper
 - Know when to stop – usually between 180 to 400 depending on finish to be used
- Sanding Tools
 - Power sanding – angled variable speed drill,
 - Spinning (kinetic) bowl sanders
 - Foam padded Velcro sanding mandrels
 - Interface pads of various density (hardness)
 - sand paper disks & sheets
 - Typically Aluminum Oxide (AO) sandpaper – open coat, fractures
 - Normally not Silicon Carbide (SC) paper – black color and closed coat
 - Garnet – fractures quickly but wears out quickly
 - 3M sanding sheets
- Finishes
 - Criteria for choosing a finish
 - Type of wood
 - Project size
 - Durability
 - Drying Time
 - Desired sheen
 - Ease of application
 - Solvent or water based
 - Cleanup
 - Food Safe