

Indianapolis Rockler Festool Interest Group

IRFIG 2013_021613 Polishing Demo

Procedure demonstrated by Brian Sedgely, Trainer for Festool USA. Writeup by Roger Muller.

1. Started with a piece of Cherry-veneered plywood sprayed with satin polyurethane
2. Polished ½ of the side, left the other alone. Split with blue masking tape.
3. Started with Festool ETS 150/3 EQ sander WITH SUPERSOFT PAD, relatively slow speed

a. Start with Granat 1200, left-to-right-to-left; front-to-back-to -front, and finished with overlapping 6" to 8 " circles in the rotation of the pad

b. Sprayed lightly with water and wiped with paper towel

Observe the finish and time taken to get to this pointalways start high (i.e. 1200 as opposed to 800) and if you spending too much time drop down in grit range to a courser grit ...remember ...the sandpaper is the tool. In this case 1200 was insufficient and needed to move back to courser paper.

c. Stepped down to 800 Granat to flatten finish

d. Sprayed lightly with water and wiped with paper towel

e. Switched to Granat 1200, same movement sequence

f. Sprayed lightly with water and wiped with Side 1 of Microfiber cloth

g. Switched to Granat 1500, same movement sequence

h. Sprayed lightly with water and wiped with Side 2 of Microfiber cloth

4. Time to quit sandpaper. Changed machine to Festool RO 150 FEQ (Rotex) with almost any pad. The Polishing pad 496151 would be preferred since it is smaller and permits better fit with sheepskin and foam pads. Machine was set to ROTEX mode (coarse button), not in fine random orbit mode

a. Placed sheepskin on sander

b. Squirted Festool Polishing Compound MPA 5000 grit on sheepskin

c. With sander NOT running, rubbed sander over wood to “massage/distribute” the compound over the surface and into the sheepskin

d. Polished at slow speed using assorted movements (front-to-back, side-to-side and finishing with a circular pattern moving at random all over the piece)

- e. Sprayed lightly with water and wiped with Side 1 of a SECOND Microfiber cloth
- f. Oohed and Ahhed
- g. Placed orange sponge on sander and squirted Festool Polishing Compound MPA 8000 on foam pad.
- h. With sander NOT running, rubbed sander over wood to “massage” the compound over the surface and into the orange sponge.
- i. Polished at slow speed using assorted back and forth and side to side movements and finished with circular pattern moving all over. Overlapped very closely.
- j. Sprayed lightly with water and wiped off with Side 2 of a SECOND Microfiber cloth
- k. Accepted accolades and applause from audience!
- l. Wax with another sponge or by hand.

Things to remember:

- A. Do not cross-contaminate paper towels and microfiber cloths. They along with the residual material on them constitute an abrasive tool in their own right.
- B. Do not sand too aggressively and break through the finish
- C. Keep speed of sander low and thus reduce heat buildup
- D. You do not have to go all the way to the 8000 grit gloss, stopping at 5000 will give you a more “semi-gloss” style finish.
- E. High gloss finishes take maintenance by the furniture owner to keep fingerprints from showing, etc. Festool owners can continue to use the sheepskin and foam pads for routine polishing, waxing, etc.
- F. PRACTICE on samples before you take on your real project. This is no time to screw up!

Here is the result:



Notice the deep “mirror-like” reflections above the blue tape and the absence of these below the tape. Ignore the reflection of the fluorescent light on the lower left.

Pictures like this in a group environment in a hardware store do not do justice to the polishing. Controlled lighting in a studio environment would show an unbelievable depth and reflection.