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Rubbing or polishing a finished surface provides a feel and beauty to the finish beyond expectations. Furthermore, finishes subjected to this treatment yield benefits in “good will” and/or added revenues far beyond the necessary investments in time and cost. The benefit to cost ratio can be extremely high and rewarding.

The proper way to carry out such tasks will save time and aggravation. Using recommended tools and procedures can make such tasks a breeze. If you have never done such a procedure, experiment first on scrap pieces of wood before venturing to the actual project.

Here are some important points to remember before starting:

1. Allow the finish to cure sufficiently before proceeding. A soft or uncured finish will yield results below expectations such as poor clarity or haze. When polishing an uncured finish, a very high gloss may not be achieved since a hard foundation is not present. In fact, guitar finishers allow a coating to dry 30 days before polishing or rubbing.
2. Use products designed specifically for your type of finish. Most products are now suitable for both solvent-based and water-based finishes. Always consult label directions prior to use. Some products on the market may contain aggressive solvents where they may not work with water-based finishes.
3. When rubbing down to a satin finish, to preserve maximum clarity, always start with a gloss finish instead of satin. Satin finishes contain flattening agents and, when rubbed, effect clarity.
4. When polishing a surface, always use a gloss finish, unless a semi-gloss is desired. To achieve a “wet look” finish, always start with a high gloss finish. A satin or a semi-gloss finish will never yield a “wet look” no matter how extensively it is polished.
5. When rubbing or polishing, minimize the use of coats of sanding sealers. Sealers are soft by nature and will yield less than expected results. Use a sanding sealer sparingly - no more than two coats, then sand down to the bare wood or down enough without disturbing the stain underneath.
6. When working with pigmented (opaque) finishes, always clear coat with a couple of coats in the sheen of choice before rubbing or polishing. This will avoid rubbing or sanding through to the opaque finish, plus, will provide added depth and clarity.

**For updated information to this pamphlet  
and other informative tips, please visit us on the web  
@ [www.hoodfinishing.com](http://www.hoodfinishing.com)**

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## **RUBBING OUT A FINISH**

After a minimum cure of 24 hours for solvent based lacquers (72 hours for water-based and slow drying polyurethanes) dry sand with 400 no-load (no-fill) sandpaper until completely smooth. Follow with 4/0 steel wool or a fine scrubbing pad, also dry. Wipe with a clean cloth then proceed below to achieve desired sheen:

### **FLAT OR LOW SHEEN**

Rub back and forth with a folded fine grade cotton cloth until the desired sheen is achieved.

### **SATIN OR SEMI-GLOSS**

Apply **Country Woodcraft™ Finishing Wax** or **Liquid Polish** per label directions then buff lightly with a clean cotton cloth until the desired sheen is achieved.

### **HIGH SHEEN, SEMI-GLOSS OR GLOSS**

Apply Finishing Wax then buff with a buffing wheel until the desired sheen is achieved. If swirl marks develop, use **STEP-UP™ Liquid Polishing** compound per label directions to remove them.

### **HIGH GLOSS**

Apply **Race Glaze Polishing Compound** per label directions then buff with a buffing wheel to a high gloss. Follow with a **Race Glaze Gloss Highlighter** to achieve a “wet look” finish.

## **POLISHING TO A HIGH GLOSS FINISH**

After a minimum of 3-7 days cure time, wet sand the finish starting with 400 grit wet/dry sandpaper and our Rubbing Lubricant, mineral spirits or baby oil. Continue wet sanding progressing from 600 to 2500 grit, depending on the final look desired. In most cases, unless doing a fine piano or a guitar, wet sanding to 600 grit will suffice.

## **POLISHING TO A SATIN FINISH**

Follow above polishing instructions then rub back and forth with a clean cotton cloth to a low sheen satin or, apply **Country Woodcraft™ Finishing Wax** then buff with a cloth or buffing wheel to the desired sheen.

## **PASTE WAX FINISHING**

Rub-out or polish as instructed above. Apply **Country Woodcraft™ Finishing Wax** with a lint-free, cotton cloth or a cheese cloth covering the finished surface completely. Remove any excess. Let dry a few minutes then hand buff lightly to a satin lustre. To increase the sheen, substitute buffing wheel for hand buffing.

With water-based finishes, remove the excess upon application then buff immediately without letting the wax to dry

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**HYDROCOTE®  
RUBBING LUBRICANT**

Low viscosity lubricant designed for wet sanding and rubbing out of finishes. Replaces mineral spirits or rubbing oils that have a tendency to be sticky or greasy. Makes for easy clean up and can be used in conjunction with pumice, rotten stone or diatomaceous earth.

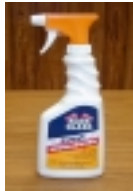


**RACE GLAZE  
POLISHING COMPOUND**

Polishes your finished surface to a high gloss or a wet look. Use in conjunction with a buffing wheel or a polishing cloth. Leaves no swirl marks.

**RACE GLAZE  
GLOSS HIGHLIGHTER**

Enhances the gloss of any finish to a "wet look" or, use it to give the furniture surface a "just polished" feel and look.



**COUNTRY WOODCRAFT™  
FINISHING WAX**

A durable, hard paste furniture finish that adds protection and lustre to a finished surface. Excellent for use over any of the HYDROCOTE® stains and finishes as well as solvent based stains and finishes. Formulated with imported carnuaba wax for added hardness and surface protection. Available in light color for light, tight grain woods; dark color for open grain or dark woods.



**COUNTRY WOODCRAFT™ LIQUID POLISH**

This easy to use liquid polish enhances the finish of any wooden furniture or surfaces.

**STEP-UP™ LIQUID  
POLISHING COMPOUND**

Provides a rich deep shine to any finished surface. Eliminates hair line swirls caused by machine buffing quickly and easily. Delivers a deep, clear *wet look* effect to any gloss finish. For best results, use after surface polishing and with a buffing wheel.



# A Guide To Rubbing-Out and Polishing Of Finishes Including Wax Finishing

For Water-Based  
and  
Solvent Based  
Systems

By  
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