

WOOD GRAINING

Made Easy.



**FROM THIS
PLAIN STEEL DOOR**

**TO THIS
WOOD GRAINED DOOR**

INTRODUCTION



Wood · Graining \ *woo d*-greyn-ing \ **n:** the process of creating the warmth, richness and beauty of wood on any surface 2: a material or finish that imitates the natural grain of wood in pattern, color, and sometimes texture.

Traditionally, wood graining has been reserved for skilled craftsman and fine artisans. They intricately used brushes or bird feathers dipped in secret formulas to simulate the look and beauty of wood. Now, Old Masters provides the Wood Graining Tool, a serrated squeegee, and specially pigmented stain to produce the realistic grains and patterns of real wood. With a little practice, any average do-it-yourselfer can have great results. The purpose of this guide is to explain the basics of the Old Masters wood graining system and many helpful tips. These tips should help you avoid the normal pitfalls a beginner to wood graining might encounter.

As with any Old Masters project or product, the Old Masters team is just a phone call away at 1-800-747-3436.

WOOD GRAINING OVERVIEW

The wood graining process has about four simple steps to create the warmth and beauty of wood:



Apply an even coat of Old Masters Graining Base with a quality natural bristle brush. Allow graining base to dry for 24 hours.



Apply a thin, even coat of Old Masters Gel or Wiping Stain with a foam brush and allow it to dry 12 hours. We recommend Old Masters Gel Stain for most wood graining projects.



Apply a second thin, even coat of Old Masters stain with a foam brush. While the stain is still wet, use the Old Masters Wood Graining Tool to rearrange the stain in your preferred pattern (techniques discussed later). Use a feather or dry brush for additional effects. This stain coat should dry for 12 hours.



The final step in the wood graining process and in most wood working projects is the application of a clear finish that will protect and beautify the completed project. For interior projects, we suggest Old Masters Polyurethane or Water-Based Polyurethane. For Exterior projects we suggest Old Masters Spar-Marine Varnish or Water-Based Spar-Urethane. Allow an extra 48 hours of drying before the application of water-based clear finishes. Apply the clear finish with a natural bristle brush and allow 12 hours to dry.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Here are some common questions and answers to assist you with wood graining projects.

1. What can I wood grain?

Nearly any smooth, flat surface in which paint can adhere to can be wood grained. Various surfaces including metal, plastic, painted objects or masonite can be wood grained. You can make almost any object look like wood including metal file cabinets, kitchen cabinets, tables, bookcases, chests, vanities, wood or steel doors, paneling, dressers, desks and more.

2. Must I strip off the old paint or varnish?

Removing the old finish is almost always best, but it may not be necessary on your project. If the old finish is in good condition, it may be possible to wood grain over it.

3. What if I don't get the wood grain pattern I desire, can I change it?

Yes, as long as the stain is still wet. You can simply erase by rewiping the stain over the pattern you don't like and use the tool again.

4. How much area will the Graining Kit cover?

Approximately 50 square feet (essentially enough product to cover a medium sized chest or both sides of a standard steel door).

5. How long will it take to do a steel door?

Actual work time for our professionals to wood grain a 9 panel steel door is approximately 5 hours. However, with little to no experience, it may take you 5 to 10 hours.

6. Can I wood grain my door while it is still on the hinges?

Yes, but you will find it much easier to work with when it is lying flat.

7. Can I touch up the finish?

Yes, you can touch up scratches and imperfections as you can on most finishes. Most often chips and scratches can be hidden by dabbing stain on the damaged area with an artist brush. If the damage is severe it may be a good idea to go back to the base paint, then stain and follow up with polyurethane. Perfect touch ups, like most finish repairs, are hard to achieve.

8. Is the tool the entire secret to wood graining?

No, there is more to the graining process than just the tool. Why? First, to arrive at your intended color, it is important that you use the right colored components. Secondly, although you have some latitude with regards to the base coat, we would encourage you to use an alkyd eggshell enamel base paint, like Old Masters Graining Base, for durability, chip resistance and ease in graining. The stain you use for the actual graining is of utmost importance. The Old Masters Wiping and Gel Stain is specially formulated for staining wood and wood graining. For wood graining it has the slow drying characteristics needed and stays separated when tooled, as well as excellent blending and feathering characteristics.

9. How do I remove the wood graining?

The wood grain can be removed as you would remove any paint; with a paint remover. Old Masters offers several paint removers. See our website (www.oldmasters.biz) or product guide for more information.

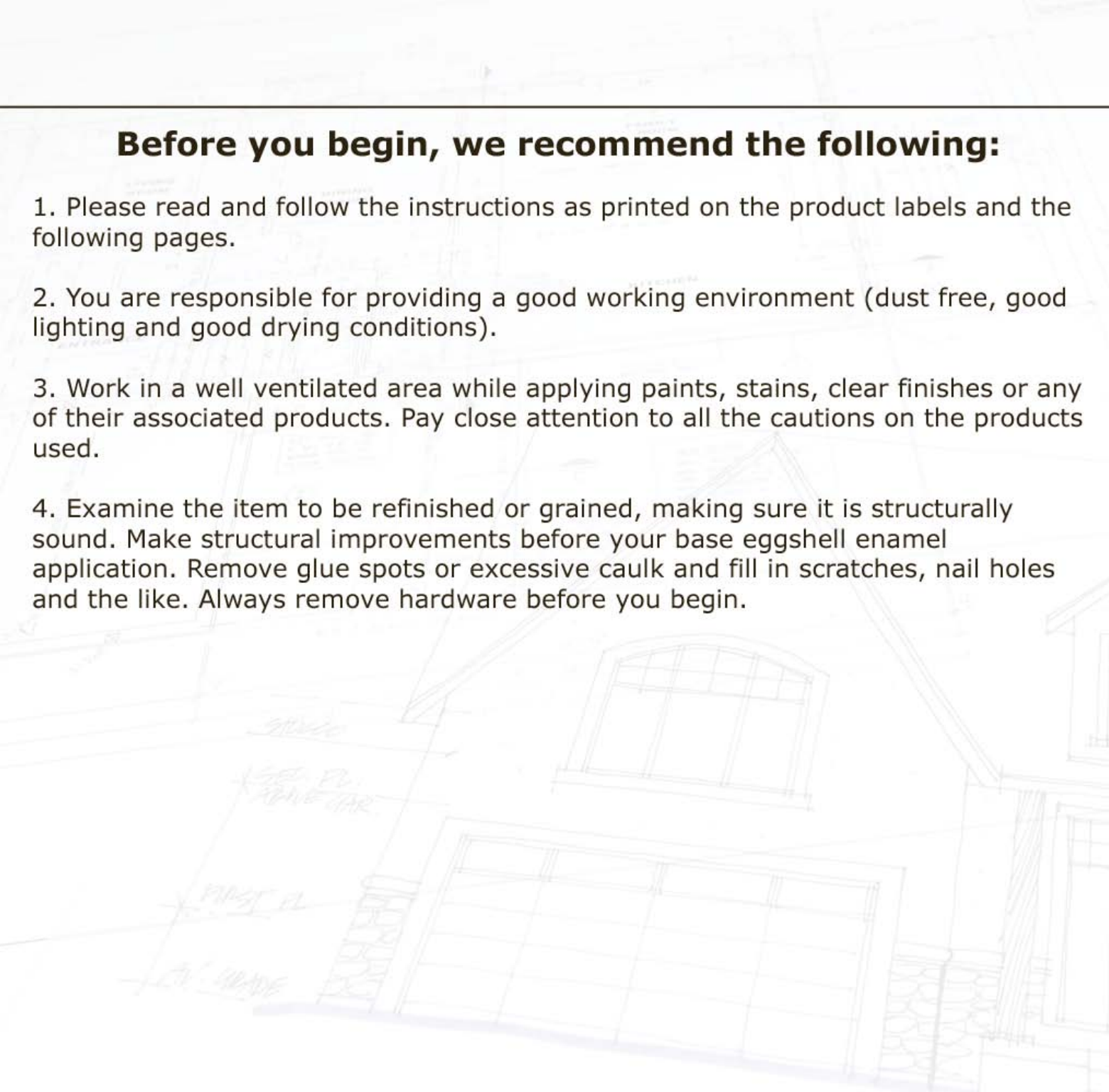
BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Before you begin, please check to ensure you have the following tools and materials:

1. Old Masters Wood graining Kit. (Or, if you prefer, the open stock contents: Old Masters Graining Base, Old Masters Gel Stain, Old Masters Polyurethane Satin Finish, Old Masters Graining Tool, foam brush, tack rag and instruction book.)
2. 1 1/2" to 2" Natural Bristle paint brush, the higher quality brush, the better the finished product.
3. Sandpaper—2 sheets of medium grit sandpaper (120-150 grit) 2 sheets of fine grit sandpaper (220-280 grit).
4. Masking tape—1" for lining off grains.
5. Paint Thinner (or Mineral Spirits) for brush cleanup and washing etc.
6. We recommend using a "test piece"; a piece of material approximately 12 inches by 20 inches of a similar substance to your project. The purpose of this is twofold: to use as a practice board and to assure your various steps are thoroughly dry.

Before you begin, we recommend the following:

1. Please read and follow the instructions as printed on the product labels and the following pages.
2. You are responsible for providing a good working environment (dust free, good lighting and good drying conditions).
3. Work in a well ventilated area while applying paints, stains, clear finishes or any of their associated products. Pay close attention to all the cautions on the products used.
4. Examine the item to be refinished or grained, making sure it is structurally sound. Make structural improvements before your base eggshell enamel application. Remove glue spots or excessive caulk and fill in scratches, nail holes and the like. Always remove hardware before you begin.



STEP ONE

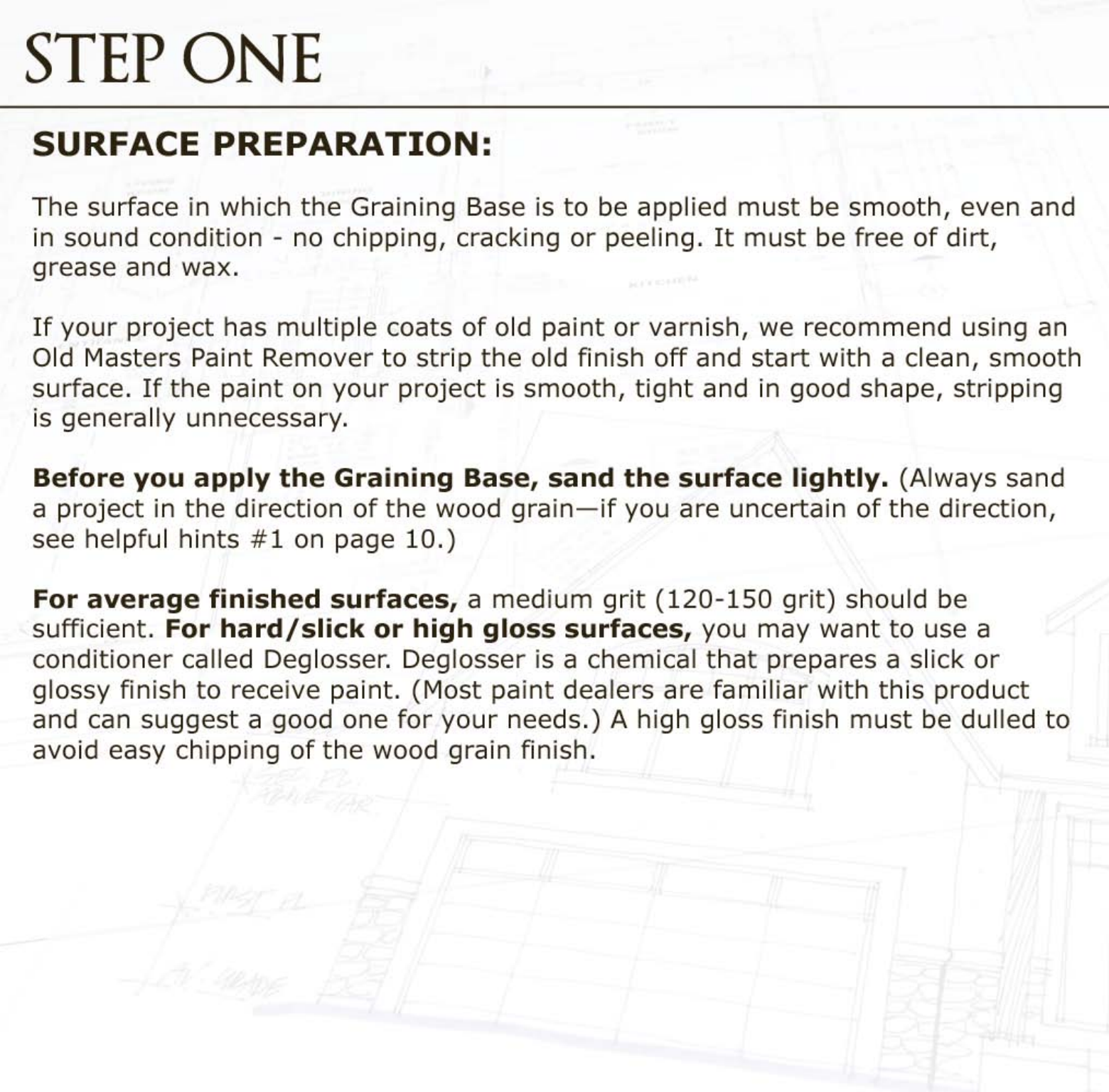
SURFACE PREPARATION:

The surface in which the Graining Base is to be applied must be smooth, even and in sound condition - no chipping, cracking or peeling. It must be free of dirt, grease and wax.

If your project has multiple coats of old paint or varnish, we recommend using an Old Masters Paint Remover to strip the old finish off and start with a clean, smooth surface. If the paint on your project is smooth, tight and in good shape, stripping is generally unnecessary.

Before you apply the Graining Base, sand the surface lightly. (Always sand a project in the direction of the wood grain—if you are uncertain of the direction, see helpful hints #1 on page 10.)

For average finished surfaces, a medium grit (120-150 grit) should be sufficient. **For hard/slick or high gloss surfaces,** you may want to use a conditioner called Deglosser. Deglosser is a chemical that prepares a slick or glossy finish to receive paint. (Most paint dealers are familiar with this product and can suggest a good one for your needs.) A high gloss finish must be dulled to avoid easy chipping of the wood grain finish.



STEP TWO

APPLYING THE GRAINING BASE:

Before you start applying the Graining Base or any base paint, read the instructions found on the label. In addition:

Having properly prepared the surface, you are now ready to apply the Old Masters Graining Base. **A fine wood graining finish requires that you apply the Graining Base by brushing in the direction of the grain.** Brush marks going in different directions will show through the grain and lessen the effect. (If you are uncertain of the direction, see helpful hints #1 on page 10.)

Apply the Graining Base with a good quality natural bristle brush. Try to minimize brush marks and coat the project as best as possible. If the base coat does not cover perfectly, don't be overly concerned because the following steps will cover most imperfections. If the coverage is very bad, such as on a dark substrate, a second coat of Graining Base is advised.

Allow the Graining Base coat to dry thoroughly. Under normal drying conditions, 24 hours should be adequate. However, temperature and humidity will cause drying times to vary.

We advise that you paint your test piece at the same time. This piece will prove helpful later for testing dry times on your project and also provide good practice in working with the Old Masters Wood Graining Tool.



STEP THREE

APPLYING STAIN COAT ONE:

Before applying the Gel or Wiping Stain, be sure to read the instructions and cautions on the Gel or Wiping Stain label. In addition:

After the Graining Base is fully dried, lightly sand in the direction of the grain (and brush strokes) and wipe the surface clean with a tack rag and then follow with a rag dampened with mineral spirits. **Ensure there is a smooth and dust free surface before staining.**

Apply Old Masters Gel or Wiping Stain very lightly on your project, using a foam brush. Don't dip the brush into the stain like you would paint, but rather, lightly touch the tip of the brush to the stain. This stain is thick and rich in pigment, therefore, a little goes a long way and too much will make it more difficult to get a thin coat. **Keep the first coat light.** It will be your undercoat for your wood graining, so shade or blend it to your desired background color. Ideally, you want this coat to be very smooth, free of blotchy stain deposits. Light streaks or fine lines shouldn't concern you, but don't allow lap marks. **Like with the sanding and Graining Base, brush on the Gel and Wiping Stain in the direction of the grain.** For better looking corners, see helpful hints #2 on page 10. Allow this stain coat to dry thoroughly, usually 12 hours under ideal drying conditions. (Don't forget to apply the first coat of stain to your test piece as well.)



STEP FOUR

APPLYING STAIN COAT TWO:

After the first stain coat is completely dry, you are ready to apply your second coat of stain and the use of the Old Masters Wood Graining Tool.

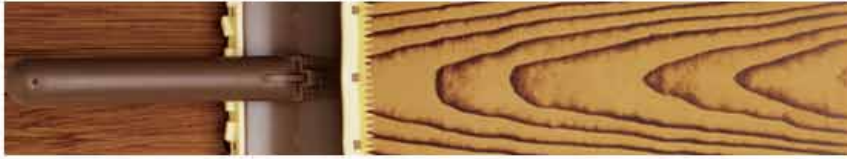
Apply a thin, second coat of Gel or Wiping Stain over one section of the project at a time. Continue to use a foam brush for this coat, as you did for the first. In between sections, while the stain is still wet, use the Wood graining Tool to create the desired pattern.

The Old Masters Wood graining Tool is a simple device that allows the user to rearrange the stain into patterns that resemble wood grain. It is relatively simple to use, but it is difficult to explain in writing. Your patience and practice with the Graining Tool will make the whole process much easier. The following pages describe in depth how to use the tool.

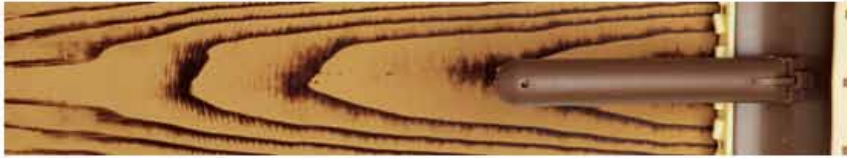


WOOD GRAINING TOOL

All the basic designs shown below can be created with the Wood graining Tool.



1. Pull the Tool from top to bottom.



2. Push the Tool from bottom to top.



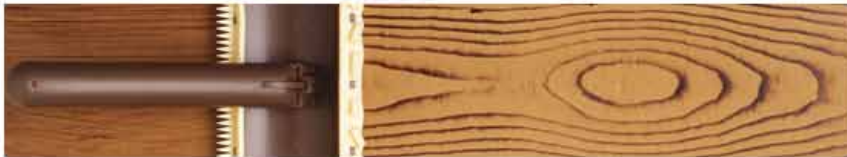
3. Vein Grain is achieved by using the comb edge of the tool. Vein Grain is usually used between and around the major patterns to

join and blend the designs into a realistic looking simulated wood finish.



4. Quarter Sawed Grain is achieved by using the notched top edge of the Tool, basically flip the tool over. Much like Vein

Grain (3) is a secondary pattern for blending.



5. Create knots using a rocking motion of your wrist as you move the tool. Beginning with the tool on the center of the curved part, rock it to the bottom and then back to the center and you've created a knot. By varying the length of time you spend in the rocking motion while moving, you'll create short, stubby knots or long, skinny knots.



6. Use the face of the Tool to create Heart Grain, a major pattern.

How to use the Tool: Hold it by its handle and place your index finger directly on the base of the head (where the handle and curved portion of the tool meet). Press the face of the tool firmly against the surface of your project and slide it along in a straight, smooth motion.

Try it out on your test piece.

Spread a thin coat of Gel Stain over your test piece with a foam brush.

Now try it out. Press firmly and slide it along at a gentle speed. Think of the motion similar to how you would drag a squeegee on glass. On your second pass, try sliding it and roll it just a little. Just one tool, but all kinds of patterns. By changing the pivoting point on the tool, you change the pattern.



WOOD GRAINING FEATHERING

Two important secrets for using the Wood Graining Tool include:

- 1. Maintain good, constant pressure.** For the Tool to work effectively, it must have constant contact with the surface of the project. Obviously, if the tool does not touch firmly, it cannot rearrange the stain.
- 2. Keep the Tool in constant motion.** You can go slow, or you can go fast, but you cannot stop. The tool must move across the surface in a smooth and uninterrupted motion.

When your wood graining effort is completed, allow the stain to dry for no more than 15 to 20 minutes. Then, using a soft dry bristle brush, gently stroke (dry brush) the entire surface to blend the color, create jagged edges, soften design and add an even more natural look to your simulated wood finish. This step is often referred to as "feathering".

Allow the second coat or wood graining coat to dry thoroughly after feathering. Ideal drying conditions (temperature and humidity) will yield a drying time of about 12 hours.



STEP FIVE

FINISH WITH A CLEAR PROTECTIVE COATING:

Old Masters clear finishes are the perfect finish for any wood graining project. We suggest using a satin sheen.

For interior applications, we have found **Old Masters Polyurethane** or **Water-Based Polyurethane** to be an excellent, durable finish. **For exterior applications,** we suggest **Old Masters Spar-Marine Varnish** or **Water-Based Spar-Urethane** because of its excellent durability and Ultraviolet Absorbers (UVA).

After your second coat of stain has dried thoroughly, **gently remove any dust with a tack rag. (Do not use a rag dampened in mineral spirits and do not sand at this point.)** Be sure to review the instructional information and cautions printed on your clear finish can label. **Apply the clear finish in a smooth, even coat with a foam or good-quality natural bristle brush.** Avoid excessive brushing and be careful not to have runs or drips. **Allow this coat to dry six hours or more depending on humidity and drying conditions. Gently sand or steel wool first clear finish coat, wipe away dust with a tack rag and apply a second coat as applied above.**

The second coat of clear finish should be fully dry to touch in about six hours, depending on drying conditions. It will take about 36 hours before your polyurethane coat is completely cured and will provide maximum protection. For exterior applications, three coats of clear finish is usually recommended for maximum protection. Avoid heavy use until the finish is fully cured.



HELPFUL HINTS/ILLUSTRATIONS

HELPFUL HINT 1:

This section includes some helpful rules to follow to determine what direction the grain should be going when your project is finished.

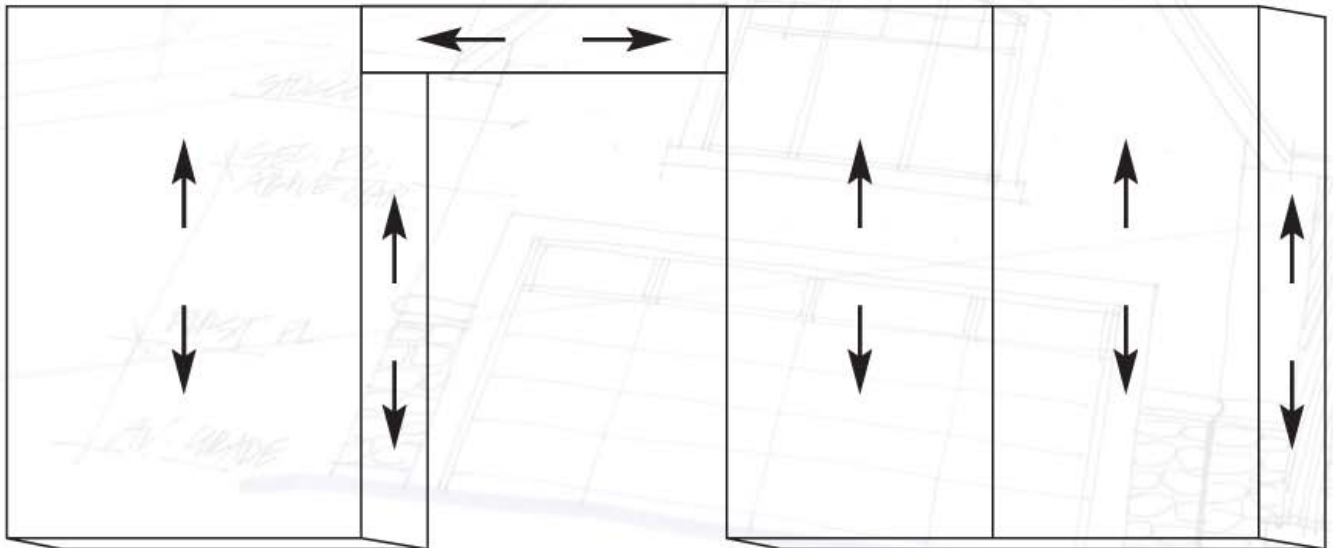
1. If your project is wood, always sand, paint and faux wood grain in the direction of existing grain.

General Rules & Illustrations

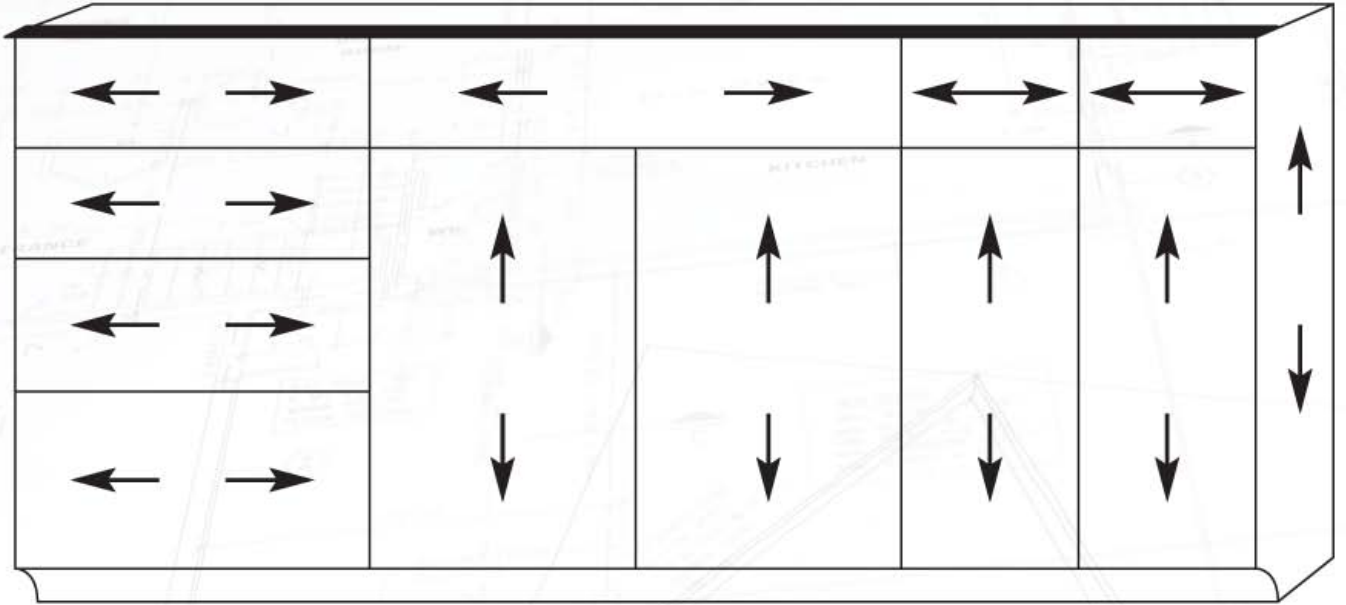
(to help determine the proper grain direction)

- Generally the grain should run the length of the board.
- For Tops: Grain usually runs with the longest distance.
- For Sides, Ends, Backs and Fronts: Grain usually runs vertically.
- For Doors: Grain usually runs vertically.
- For Drawers: Grain usually runs horizontally.

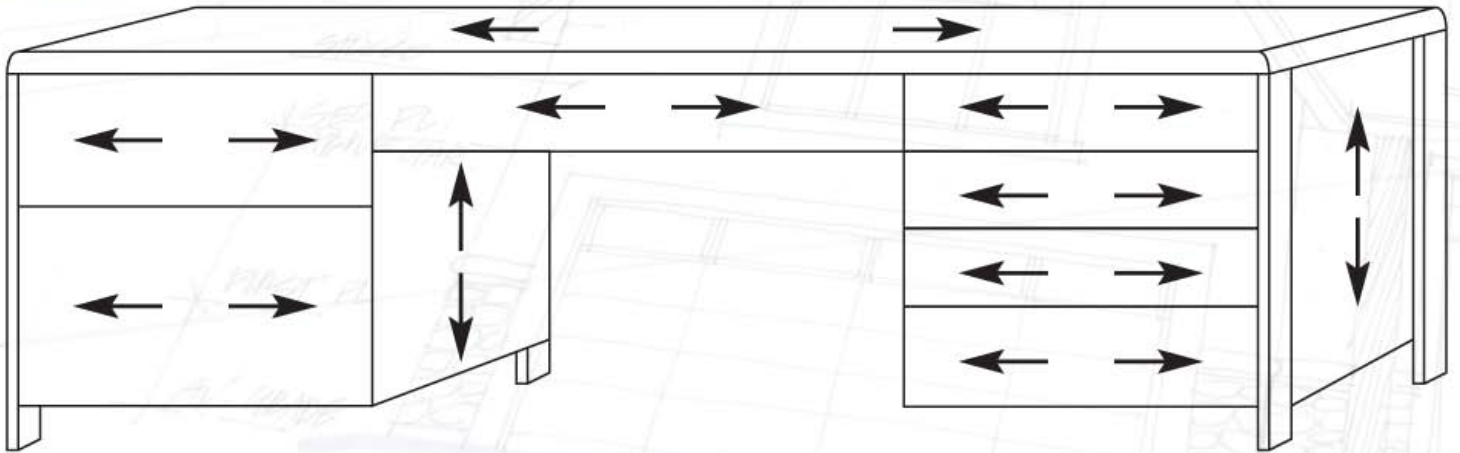
UPPER CABINET



LOWER CABINET



DESK



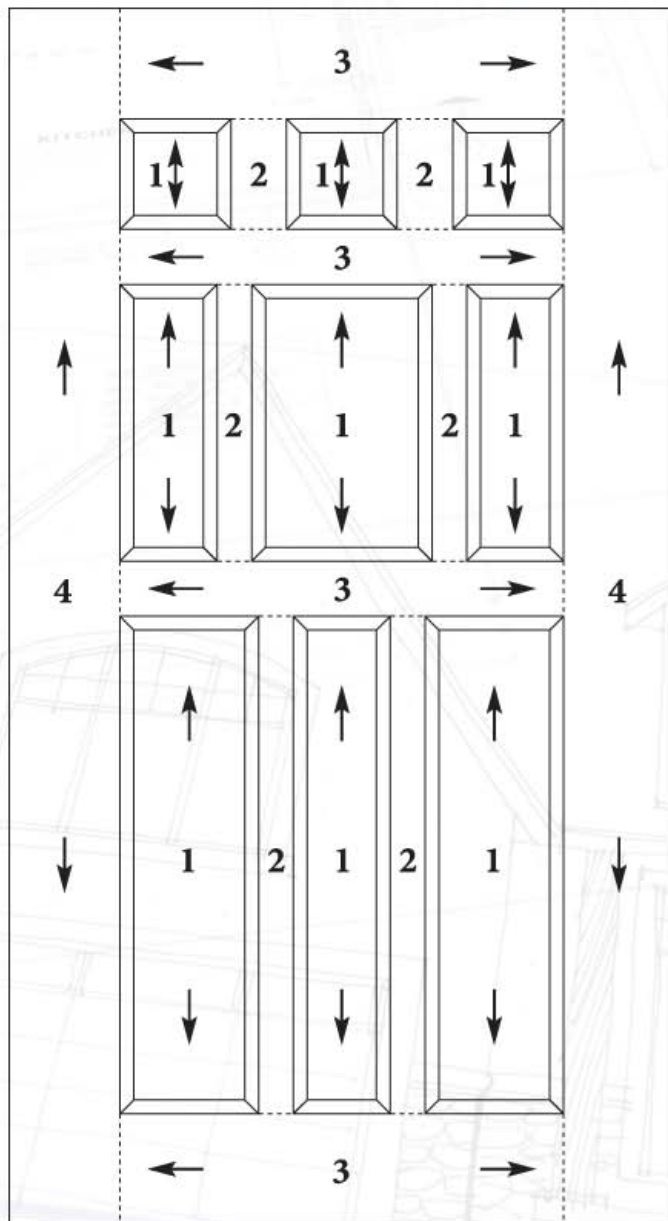
HELPFUL HINTS/ILLUSTRATIONS

HELPFUL HINT 1 (continued):

2. If your project is metal or another material (other than wood) it can be more difficult to determine the proper grain direction. We suggest the following basic rules mentioned earlier and the following rules that are more specific to metal doors to determine proper grain direction:

- The two boards running vertically on the far left and the far right always run the full length of the door.
- The boards running horizontally in the door will always reach from one outside vertical board to the other outside vertical board.
- All other boards and panels will run vertically between the horizontal boards.

The numbers in the illustration indicate an ideal sequence for wood graining and the dotted lines suggest the places to use tape. (See helpful hint number two later for more details.)



METAL DOOR

HELPFUL HINT 2:

For doors and some other wood graining projects, a solution for joints or cross-grained corners is needed.



To make it easier to get cross grain corners and joints, we suggest a light line with a pencil and then stick masking tape along the line. After this taping, immediately and carefully grain your pattern using the Wood graining Tool up to and onto the tape. Carefully remove the tape when you are happy with the pattern. **Never leave the tape on overnight.**

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YOUR PROJECT IS COMPLETE! FOR QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, PLEASE CALL 800.747.3436.