UNEEDA

The Ultimate Hand Sanding Guide

Intro

Welcome to Uneeda's **Ultimate Guide to Hand Sanding** for a perfect finished surface. We are excited to help you get the best sanding results possible, whether you're completely new to finishing / sanding or you've been at it for years. This guide is intended to create an overview (with links to references and further in depth discussions) of everything we have learned over the last six decades about how to get a perfect finish and to provide you with an in depth overview of all aspects of finish sanding - from the products available and how they work, to the proper techniques to get a consistently great finish and how to overcome common sanding problems. We hope you'll find the information helpful.

All about abrasives

Understanding the different types of abrasives and how to use them:

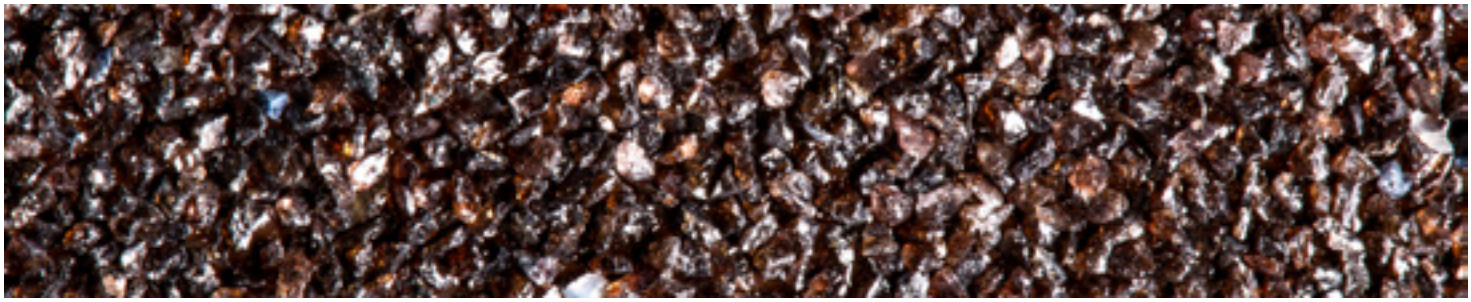
- **Grains, backings, coatings, etc**
- **Hook & loop vs PSA**
- **Grits**
- **What material are you sanding?**
- **What stage of the process?**

A quick look at our website, or a walk down the sandpaper aisle at your local hardware store, will reveal the main forms in which one might buy coated abrasives. With the myriad options, it can be easily overwhelming and hard to know where to start. That's why, in this guide - rather than start with specific products, we'll first learn about the components and how it will impact your results.

The first thing to know is about abrasive grains themselves - since each has a different composition, advantages, disadvantages and ultimately will affect the results you get on your work. For the same reason, next, it's important to consider the backing they are attached to, any specialized coatings that may have been applied. Once we understand this information, we will consider: what is our sanding application, what material are we sanding, what stage of the project (leveling/stock removal, preparation for finishing, finishing, etc), what tool we are using and so on. All these factors will come together in the process to influence what type of sandpaper product will be most relevant for us. Later we will discuss specific products Uneeda offers, based on this information, so that you will get a fuller picture of the options and what they can do for you.

Let's get started...

Understanding the components of coated abrasives



Abrasive Grains

There are several kinds of abrasive grains popular on the market these days - everything from natural minerals like emery and diamond to lab-designed synthetics like aluminum oxide or silicon carbide. Every grain on the market varies in terms of longevity, coarseness/aggressiveness, amount of friction required, friability, cost, ideal application, available grit sizes and coating and what formats of products they are available on, such as disks, sheets, or belts. In Uneeda's product line of sanding belts and hand sanding tools, and for the majority of our clientele in woodworking, solid surface finishing and automotive/metalworking, the most common grains we work with are:

- **ALUMINUM OXIDE**
- **SILICON CARBIDE**
- **CERAMIC**
- **ALUMINA ZIRCONIA**

All these grains are rated on the Mohs Hardness Scale. Harder grains are generally used on harder surfaces, such as metal/stone, for heavier stock removal or rust removal, while the others will be used more on wood and in finishing processes. An important aspect to consider with the grains is called friability. Friability refers to the ability for the grain to re-crack and form a new sharp cutting edge. Grains that are more friable will require less force to crack and will thus be less likely to become quickly dull. When a grain becomes dull, it's quite likely that the person doing the sanding will press harder with to sandpaper, thus causing the work surface to be improperly sanded - leading to poor results.

For these reasons, our most popular hand sanding products generally feature aluminum oxide, silicon carbide, or a mixture of the two.

ALUMINUM OXIDE

Comes in various colors/types: brown, white and pink. In general it is available from 24 grit through 2500 grit (very coarse to very fine), and is quite friable with little pressure. This makes it great for most applications on wood, fiberglass, softer metals and finishing. It generally comes on any backing type that we offer.

SILICON CARBIDE

Silicon carbide is available from 60 grit up to 2500 grit. While silicon carbide tends to wear quicker than aluminum oxide, it is also sharper and more friable, therefore it is still a long-lasting product. Since it is a harder grain, it is ideal for uses on harder materials, rougher surfaces, and for polishing, due to its hardness and sharpness. It is best for metals (particularly harder metals) and is the only grain that can be used on glass, stone and marble. Silicon carbide is also effective on MDF and cork. Silicon carbide is frequently used in wet sanding applications, such as polishing stone and marble, as well as automotive polishing applications. In coarser grits, this abrasive is good for removing rust, deburring metal and glass, refinishing wood flooring (cutting through/removing old finish). Silicon carbide can also be used to sand between finishing coats in woodworking projects.

It is very common in woodworking applications to start out using aluminum oxide for rough sanding of raw wood, and switch to silicon carbide when in the finishing stages of the same project.

For a more in depth discussions of these two grains, as well as the others, click on the links below and check out the following articles on our website:

- **Decoding Coated Abrasives: A Guide to Selecting the Ideal Sandpaper for Your Needs – Part 1**
- **Abrasive Grains: Everything You Need to Know to Choose the Right One**
- **Aluminum Oxide vs Silicon Carbide**

Backings

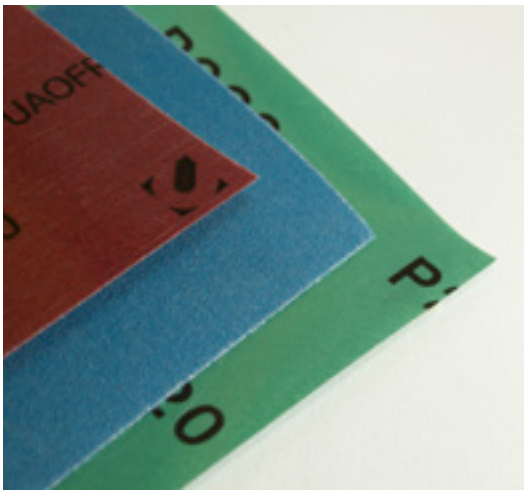
Coated abrasives, the technical term for sandpaper, can come on various "backing" types - including paper, cloth, film, mesh/net and foam. Each backing type comes in various formats from belts to hand sanding sheets, sponges or disks, each offering advantages and disadvantages and being more suited to certain types of applications. We will not focus on cloth-backed products here since most of the cloth backed products come in belt format, and therefore are not as relevant in hand sanding or finishing.

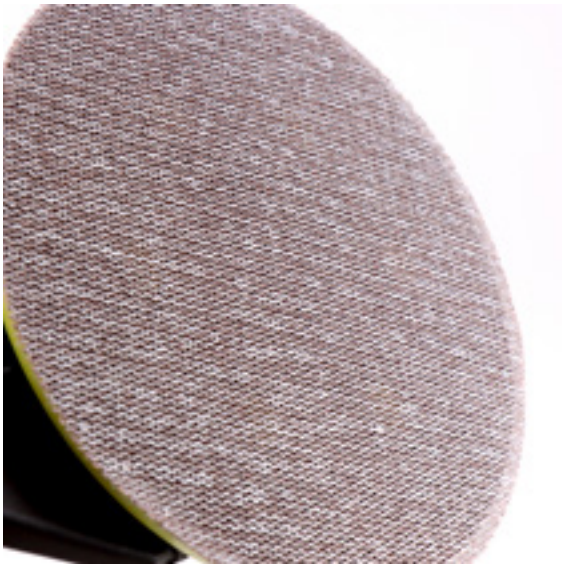
PAPER

Paper backed abrasives offer a great solution for many applications. Paper is often the most affordable backing type, and depending on the weight, can be a very versatile option. Paper is flat, unlike cloth or foam, meaning it will provide a good substrate for finishing applications. Lighter paper weights will be more flexible and heavier weights, more sturdy. Unless treated with a special coating, most paper sheets/discs are not waterproof, and therefore, are not suitable for wet sanding applications. Although it can be a good option, paper is always at risk of tearing or getting damaged on the edges, meaning that it may not last as long as other backing types - especially if used for edge sanding or inside of corners, where the side of the sander may get beat up.

FILM

Film - or plastic type backing - has become very popular over the last few years. It is generally seen as superior to paper, as it is not tearable, offers an extremely flat surface, is waterproof and is flexible, so it can bend to match contoured surfaces, especially when paired with certain accessories, like an interface pad or pad saver. The main disadvantage to film compared to paper is price point. Film tends to be more expensive than paper - however, Uneeda's Filmtek product offers an economical film-based solution, coming in at a similar price to other high-end paper sheets/discs.





MESH/NET

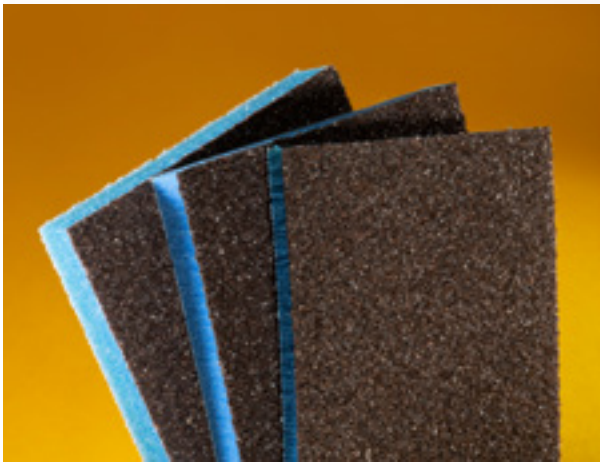
This unique backing option is ideal if you need heavy dust extraction capabilities. While the other materials are available with various hole patterns for dust extraction, on net-based products, the abrasive grains are coated to a surface naturally not solid. One of the most important things to know in sanding is that heat is the enemy of sanding, Heat and friction cause many issues which can ultimately be seen in the final result via blotchy finishes or other visual defects. Thanks to the nature of mesh or screen style products, the main benefit is a cooler sanding experience with minimal loading and maximum dust extraction. This material tends to be a more expensive solution, making it slightly less common.

FOAM

Foam products, also known as abrasive sponges, are designed to be used with orbital sanders. Foam products generally come in two different densities: open and closed-cell.

Open cell is the lighter, squishier type of foam which is great of contour sanding, as the grain recedes into the foam to match the shape of the workpiece. However, this recession means that the cut will not be as aggressive - this can be a benefit in finishing applications.

Closed-cell foam is a thicker/denser material. It still has some give, but will not change shape as easily as open-cell. Closed cell, or hard density, foam products are more suited to flat sanding or edge sanding, as the thickness can act as a shock absorber on a sander, while also having enough softness to wrap a corner without flattening it.



BACKING	PROS	CONS
PAPER	Most economical Wide range of options Great finish	Tears more easily Lasts less long than other backings
FILM	Best finishing quality Tear resistant Lasts longer than paper	More expensive than paper
MESH/NET	Maximum dust extraction Quick & easy to apply to backup pad Cooler sanding / less loading	Very expensive Tears easily
FOAM	Best for sanding profiles Lasts the longest Tear resistant	Not well suited for raw wood Most expensive option

When considering what backing type will suit your needs, it's very important to consider the application - especially: the stage of sanding and the type of workpiece. Consider which aspects will be most important: maximum cut rate, flat vs contoured surfaces, finish sanding - light cut to prepare the surface to receive finish, will you need the product to be waterproof, or otherwise.

For additional information about backings, check out the following articles on the Uneeda website:

- **Paper, cloth, film or foam? Choose the right backing to get the job done**
- **Decoding Coated Abrasives: A Guide to Selecting the Ideal Sandpaper for Your Needs – Part 2**

ALL ABOUT HAND SANDERS

When looking at sanding tools for hand sanding applications, there are several important things to consider before making a purchase: air vs electric, size/form-factor, sanding pattern (orbital, random-orbital or "jitterbug"), dust-extraction options, price point/cost over time and maintenance issues. In this section, we will look at all these factors to give you an overview of how to make the best choice for your own sanding practice.

Power mode: air vs electric

The first thing to consider when looking at hand sanders is whether a pneumatic (air powered) or electric sander will better meet your needs. There are some advantages and disadvantages to either option.

Firstly, air sanders will often be less expensive at point of sale, however it's necessary to have an air compressor that produces the appropriate PSI to run the number of sanders at the correct speed to create good results. If you mainly sand in the shop and the shop has sufficient air supply, plus you implement a proper sander maintenance schedule, air sanders may be a good and cost-effective option. On the other hand, if you plan to take the sanders onto job sites frequently and don't have a portable compressor, or your in-shop compressor won't provide sufficient PSI, electric sanders may be a more cost-effective and better solution long-term - avoiding the need to purchase new or additional compressors.

Both electric and air sanders will get the job done and offer similar technical specifications in terms of size, orbit pattern and so on, but it's a matter of which will work better based on your particular needs and what capacity do you have for your compressors.

Pneumatic sanders

Uneeda's pneumatic sanders feature a lightweight, aluminum body which helps reduce the vibrations and keep the sander light and cool during sanding. The sanders come in a variety of sizes, and all require 90 PSI to run properly at 10 to 12,000 RPMs.

The air sanders are available in a 3/16" or 3/32" orbit and with or without dust extraction. The 3/16" sanders will be more aggressive, while the 3/32" will be a tighter orbit that will be better in finishing applications.

Air sanders will require a proper maintenance schedule including lubrication of the internal components, keeping the filter cap clean and intact, and replacing backup pads when necessary. The air sanders are typically less expensive per unit, but if you don't have the proper air setup or maintenance routines, they can end up costing more and need to be replaced more often.

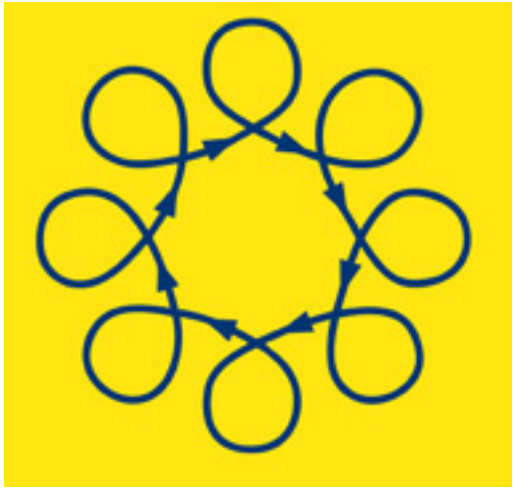
Electric sanders

Uneeda's electric sanders offer a high-end solution that features a DC driven, brushless motor that even has a built in fan blade that will rotate at the same RPMs of the sander, keeping the center-nut and internal components cooler. These sanders offer variable speeds from 4,000-10,000 RPMs and both 3/16" or 3/32" orbits.

These sanders don't require regular maintenance like the air sanders, though backup pads do wear out and need replacing from time to time. Since the electrical components are built into the handle, it is sometimes possible for the sander to overheat and shut down - which is easy enough to resolve by unplugging and recalibrating. The units tend to come at a higher initial cost, but as they are long-lasting and don't require compressors to run, they can have a lower life-time cost. Another benefit is that they are highly portable, since they can be plugged in anywhere, you can bring them to job sites without a compressor. All Uneeda's electric sanders are available with or without dust extraction.

Shapes & orbits

Uneeda's sanders - regardless of air or electric - are all available in various shapes and orbits. All round sanders are available with 3/16" or 3/32" orbits. Uneeda offers both random orbit and standard orbital sanders. All of our disc sanders, whether 3", 5" or 6" feature a random-orbital pattern - meaning that there is simultaneously a round pattern and a random pattern. This helps to reduce the effect of swirls on the workpiece.



Random orbits sanding pattern

The rectangular sanders, available in 3x4" and 3-⅔ x 7" are both orbital sanders, meaning that they are not in a random pattern. Both of these options are different from the economy sanders you could find in a hardware store, which are considered "jitterbug" sanders - meaning they simply vibrate back and forth, without any sort of orbit or pattern. Though an orbital sander or orbital sander can still cause swirls when used improperly, it is still superior to a jitterbug sander because you will get better sanding results when used with proper technique and it will protect your hands more from the vibrations.

What size sander you need will depend heavily on the sanding applications - and in some cases, it's beneficial to have multiple hand sanders. A 3x4 sander is the best option for sanding cabinets and furniture. However, if you're sanding large flat surfaces, a 6" sander might better meet your needs, offering a larger footprint, speeding up the sanding process.

Sander speeds

Sander speed is an important consideration when optimizing the sanding process. We don't necessarily want to run the sander as fast as it will go, nor do we want to run it too slowly. Both of those can have detrimental effects on the final results - especially when using improper sanding technique and applying too much pressure.

While it may be tempting to run the sander at max speed, to get the job done faster, it can also generate too much heat, which can cause issues like loading, leading to a bad, uneven finish and lower lifespan of your abrasives. Not to mention, if your sander gets too hot, the built-in protection would kick in to automatically power off the tool (for electric sanders), thereby preventing overheating of the internal components. While this is a safety feature designed to optimize the life of the tool, it can be incredibly frustrating while in the process of sanding, as it can completely interrupt your flow and productivity - thereby defeating the purpose of sanding at higher speeds. On the other hand, sanding too slowly can cause swirls in the wood's surface.

Higher sanding speeds can provide a more aggressive and quicker sanding job - meaning that higher speeds would be suitable for rough sanding applications, such as stock removal, stripping paint or rust, and more. Higher sanding speeds can also be appropriate for finishing applications, however it's very important to follow proper technique to avoid oversanding and cut-through.

While it may seem counterintuitive to sand at slower speeds, especially since most people want to get sanding done more quickly, it may be a wise choice to choose a lower RPM in certain circumstances.

For instance, using a lower speed could be helpful when doing projects that require a finer attention to detail, such as sanding thin materials like veneers, where over-sanding/sanding-through can quickly become a problem. Additionally, using the slower speeds could be helpful on finishing applications, such as sanding between coats of finish – particularly for stain/lacquer and sealer, where it's important to not sand through the coating. Further, when sanding ornate edges, curves and profiles, a lower speed could be helpful to avoid flat-spotting or changing the shape of the piece.

In addition to these fine sanding applications, where it will be easier to control the sander at lower speeds, when sanding materials prone to melting, such as polyester, plastic or film, using a lower speed can be helpful to reduce heat, thereby preventing clogging.

Dust collection

Sanding without dust extraction

Sanding with dust extraction

Dust isn't just an annoying byproduct of sanding – it can actually cause negative impacts to your health, your work piece and your environment, while also causing you to burn through your sandpaper faster than necessary.

For these and other reasons, it's extremely important to consider dust collection/removal as part of designing/optimizing your sanding process. All of Uneeda's hand sanders have the option to connect to a shop vac for dust collection. Each sander has different options for hole patterns on the backup pad, and can connect to the EKASAND Series 2 Dust Extractor - or whichever shop vac you are currently using. For more information about the Ekasand vacuum, skip to the section in the guide about accessories.

For additional information about dust extraction, check out the following article on the Uneeda website:

Sanding Dust Be Gone: 10 Tips to Minimize Dust, Loading and Static While Sanding

Maintenance on air sanders

When using pneumatic sanders, a proper maintenance routine is key to keep the sander running optimally. The most important aspect of that is to make sure to oil the internal components routinely. Adding this lubrication helps to keep the sander running smoothly. Additionally, many people can be tempted to remove the filter cap from the back of the sander, in the hopes that it will keep the RPMs up - however, doing this can cause serious problems with the sander - as it invites dust to get in and will create issues in the long run.

Finally, it's important to keep your backup pads fresh and maintained. If using PSA sandpaper, it's important to make sure to keep the backup pad as clean as possible after removing each disk/sheet, as the residue from previous adhesive can cause defects in the surface of your workpiece.

For additional or more specific details about Uneeda's sanders check out the following links:

- Pneumatic Versus Electric Random Orbital Sanders: 4 Things to Consider When Making the Choice
- Get the Most Out Of Your Random Orbital Sander with Sherry Jessen, Webinar Replay
- Electric Sander Speeds 101
- No Pressure! 5 Simple Tips to Keep Your Air Sanders Running Smoothly
- Ekasand E-Series Electric Sanders

Most common sander sizes

SANDER SIZE	PROS	CONS
3"	Ideal for sanding hard to reach areas & curved surfaces Preferred size for woodturning	Limited to sanding small surfaces
3" x 4"	Most versatile sander Ideal for sanding cabinets, furnitures and all profiles	Not ideal to sand large surfaces
5"	Most commonly used sander Great for sanding flat surfaces & edges	Not well suited to sand profiles and surfaces with square corners
6"	Ideal for sanding large flat surfaces	Bulky and only suited for sanding large flat surfaces

Following proper sanding techniques

One of the most important parts of getting great results from your sanding is of course, following proper sanding techniques. In this section, we'll share all of our most important tips for getting a perfect finish - including, grit sequence, proper sander technique, when to hand sand versus using a sander, techniques for manual hand sanding, proper lighting and how to remove/mask swirls.

Grit sequence

Grit sequence refers to the process of moving through various grain sizes from coarser to finer in the sanding process. Every grain size is designed to remove a certain amount of material from the work piece and in the FEPA standard, in which grit is denoted by the letter P and then a number (e.g. P100), where coarser, or larger grains, have a lower number and finer, or smaller grains, have a higher number.

Never skip more than one grit!

When it comes to determining a grit sequence, the golden rule for sanding is to never skip more than one grit number. This is because each sanding pass creates peaks and valleys on the work surface. A courser grit will create a deeper scratch - deeper valleys. When we skip more than one grit, the finer tool will only remove the peak of the previous pass, creating an uneven scratch pattern, leading to an uneven or blotchy finish.

How can I determine the right grit sequence?

Determining the right grit sequence is highly dependent on your application and can require experimentation to find the ideal process for you. That being said, choosing the right grit to start will be based on the stage of your project, for example if you need heavier stock removal, such as for leveling or removing paint, rust or prior stain, or if you are only doing finish sanding, prepping for stain or paint, or between layers of finish.

When evaluating the application to determine your grit sequence, start by asking yourself the following questions:

- **What stage am I at in the sanding process – calibration, leveling, shaping, preparation for finish, between coats of finish, scuff sanding, fine sanding or polishing – and what am I trying to accomplish?**
- **How much material do I need to remove on one side of the work piece?**
- **What tool(s) will I be using, or will it be hand sanding?**
- **Which grit do I want to finish with?**
- **What material am I sanding, and is it hard or soft? Is it very resinous, like pine?**

Proper setup/best practices for sanding

Before we begin to sand, it's important to have our workstation set up properly to help us achieve better results.

Lighting the surface from the side

When it comes to lighting your space for sanding, make sure to have a light on the side of the workpiece, rather than above. When the light comes from the side, any uneven areas on the surface will cast a shadow, allowing you to see where you've sanded and where you haven't, or whether there are problem areas, such as swirls or other marks.

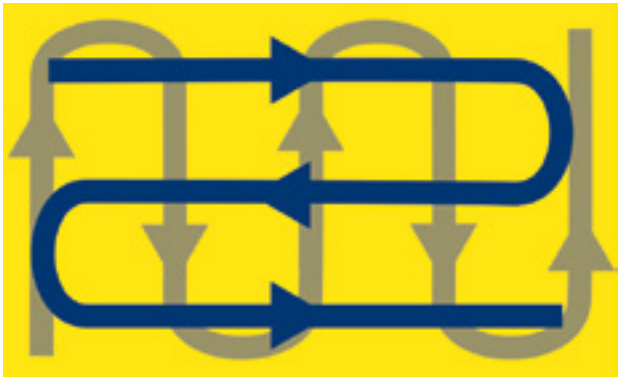
Properly prepare your surface for sanding/wiping it off after

Before sanding, make sure to wipe clean the work surface and the surface to be sanded. This will allow the sander or sandpaper to cut directly onto the workpiece, rather than sanding extra dust into your project and creating an uneven surface. Remember to wipe the surface after sanding as well, to clear any sanding debris that may have been created during sanding.

Avoid using worn-out abrasives/ backup-pads

The best way to achieve a good finish is to make sure you are using quality abrasives on a functional backup pad. When using worn-out abrasives, the grains are dull, which means they will not be effective at cutting. Also, using old abrasives may mean you are using a disc/sheet that is already loaded with dust, which means you will be scratching debris into your surface. Lastly, using a worn out backup pad means your sandpaper will not be fixed to a flat surface. This means you will not have an even cut. All of these issues will lead to blotchy, uneven finishes.

Sanding Technique with sander



Sand in the right pattern

Is there a proper sanding pattern? Does it matter whether I go with or against the grain? Actually, this all will matter for getting a great finish. When we're sanding, we never want to just do one pass, we want to cover our tracks, to make sure that our pattern doesn't show up in the end result. There are two important factors when it comes to doing this properly:

1. First stand with the grain of the wood, then against. The orientation would be up and down, side to side.

2. Go in a straight line, all the way across, not stopping in the middle. On the way back, partially cover your previous path.

Keep the sander flat to the surface

Sometimes a workpiece has deep cut or chatter marks and it can be tempting to tilt the sander to try to sand them out. Unfortunately, using the sander in this manner will lead to trouble when it comes to the finish, as you're creating an uneven surface - or a dip/ditch in the wood - by sanding more in one area than another. This will become visibly obvious in the finish. Avoid this issue by keeping the sander flat and starting your sanding at a coarser grit to remove those marks, then you'll end with an even finish.

Let the weight of the sander do the work, maintaining even pressure

Sanding with the right pressure is key for getting good results. While it can be tempting to press down harder with the sander, doing so can cause issues like swirls, cut-through, uneven sanding and other problems, such as excess heat and loading.

The rule of thumb for "how much pressure" is to let gravity, or the weight of the sander, and the abrasives, do the work. Each grit is designed to remove a certain amount of material, so if you need to remove more, use a coarser grit, rather than pressing harder. When sanding properly, the sander should move across the surface with ease, as if it was gliding - rather than skipping or catching as would happen with too much/too little pressure.

Dealing swirl marks

Swirl marks are by far one of the most common and frustrating issues that come up in hand sanding with orbital sanders.

There are some things we can do to prevent - such as sanding with the proper PSI and RPMs, using hook and loop sheets/discs instead of PSA, using fresh abrasives, using an interface pad on the 3x4 sander when sanding with conventional abrasives, and not pressing too hard with the sander. Further, avoid over-sanding.

However, if we do wind up with swirls on the surface, we have 2 options to manage. The first, most tedious option would be to sand through the grits again. Alternatively, we can use a non-woven abrasive product like Uneelon pads to mask the swirls enough that they will not show in the finish.

Use non-woven sanding pads like these Uneelon pads to get rid of swirl marks

Applications by grit number

When it comes to choosing your grit sequence, much will be determined by what stage you are at on your project. Following is a general list of applications based on grit. This is merely a guideline - everything requires testing based on the particulars of your application and needs.

GRIT NUMBER	APPLICATIONS
P40-60	Remove severe defects in the wood Stripping paints and finishes Calibrating rough lumber
P80	Starting grit for hardwoods Remove shallow scratches Remove saw blade burns
P120	Starting grit for softwoods Still considered a stock removal grit
P150/180	Raised wood grain fibers Surface irregularities Prep for wood stain Prep for latex & acrylics Prep for polyurethane & enamel paints
P220/240	Begin surface finishing Prep for wood stain Often last grit before stain or paint
P320	Sanding between coats Wet sanding Often starting grit for raw MDF sanding
P400	Sanding between coats Final surface finishing grit Smoothing top coats Prep for finishing oils
P600+	Prep for polishing Metals, plastics, polyester finishes and solid surface Fine wet sanding

Quick tips by material/application

Solid wood

- On raw wood, start with P100 or coarser - especially when using a belt sander
- Do not remove too much with the last belts (to avoid wavy surface) if using a belt sander
- To prepare for finishing, it's necessary to "open" the grain, to make it more receptive to the finish - especially if the wood has been sitting for a while.

Veneer

- Start your sanding at P120/150
- Remove 0,15 -0,2mm to obtain best surface
- For white/raw wood, do not use finer grit than P240, as going finer may cause issues with the wood accepting stain.

MDF for painting

- Use sanding belt or sander disc with grains of silicon carbide. Important on the last sanding belt
- Use grit P240/280 on the last belt for best finish
-

Lacquer

- Do not use too high sanding pressure and belt speed
- Use a soft pad or contact roller
- Check that the graphite is not damaged
- When sanding hard lacquers a product with grains of aluminum oxide is recommended because this grain type will cut the hard surface more easily.

Useful sanding accessories

3×4 electric orbital sanders have become quite popular for various flat sanding applications, from sanding cabinet doors to drawer boxes, or other parts with 90-degree corners, to objects with tight spaces, such as louvered doors or shutters.

While these sanders are great little machines, especially paired with foam abrasives, like Ekasilk Plus, for finishing applications, using them with traditional coated abrasives prior to finishing can leave operators frustrated, if not paired with the proper accessories. This is because the sheet sanders do not have a random orbit pattern, which can cause the sander to 'skip' and 'catch' across the surface of your work piece, leading to undesirable sanding marks. However, with the help of certain accessories, these sanders can be optimized for ease of sanding profiles, curved surfaces and tight spaces with standard coated abrasives sheets. Let's look at some accessories to have on hand.

Pad saver

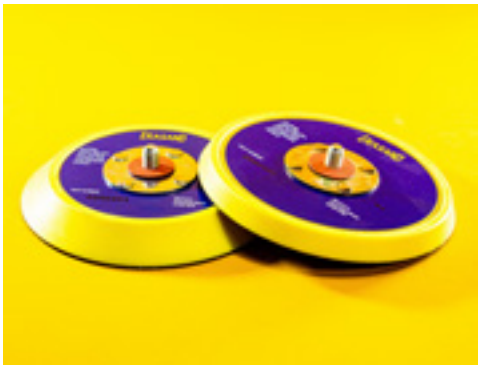
The pad saver is a thin piece of fabric with hook and loop attachment mechanisms on each side. This accessory goes between the standard backup pad and the sheet of sandpaper. Not only does it help to preserve the hooks on your backup pad, making it last longer, it also works to absorb some of the vibrations from the sander.
Using a pad saver can help to prevent swirls when sanding flat surfaces with the 3×4" sander. This is particularly helpful when you are sanding with standard coated abrasives to level and shape, remove knife marks, or perform other sanding tasks prior to finishing.

Soft Density Interface Pad

A soft-density interface pad is a product made of light-weight, open-cell foam, with hook and loop attachments, that provides a very soft cushion for your abrasives. This piece is used between the sanding sheet and the backup pad. It can be used when sanding curves and other profiles in similar applications to the pad saver, prior to finishing. The give of the foam allows the abrasive to conform to the shape of your work piece, whether that is a curved crown molding, newel post, deep cove, chair leg or seat, or other item.

Hard Density Interface Pad

The hard density interface pad is a foam-based product that is utilized between the abrasive and the backup pad. This version is made of a closed-cell foam that provides a sturdy backing, with slight flexibility. This product allows the operator to offset the sandpaper sheet from the main backup pad. This technique allows the user to reach tight spaces, such as those between louvers on a shutter or even in spaces like a windowsill or door where it might otherwise be difficult to fit a sander.



Spare backup pad

Backup pads are consumable items and will eventually need to be replaced – whether to edge wear or damage and wearing out of the j-hooks that hold the sandpaper or other accessories. We recommend keeping a spare backup pad on hand for when this occurs, so you can simply change the pad when the time comes, rather than lose production time ordering a new one.

Conclusion

Whether you are brand new to woodworking and sanding, or you've been at it a while, we hope you've learned something new and that this guide will help you improve your sanding process and results.

If have any specific questions about sanding or need more information on some of the products you have seen in this guide, please send us an email at sales@uneeda.com or simply visit our website to learn more about us.

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