

Wet Sanding

This sounds a bit of a contradiction, but I first came across it on a woodturning course.

How to do it

1. Sand your piece of work in the normal way to 400 grit.
2. Put wax or oil, whichever you prefer onto the work.
3. With 400 grit sand immediately at a slow speed. The dust will make a slurry with the wax or oil which then gets pushed into the grain like a grain filler. No dust is generated. If dust is created, then add more wax or oil.
4. Finish with a clean safety cloth with the same wax or oil.
5. Burnish with a clean safety cloth. It produces the smoothest finish I have come across.

Warning

You cannot do this on a wood that does not have a uniform colour, such as laburnum that has a light sapwood as the slurry will darken the light wood. Likewise with segmented work which uses different woods.

Bryan Cath