

These are some suggestions when finishing your door with Tung Oil.

#### Preparation

1. Many dents or mars can be removed with a hot iron and water. This can only be done before the door has been sealed with stain. Remove scratches with 100 grit sandpaper.
2. Sand the entire door with minimum 150 grit sandpaper. The medium grit sanding sponges work well on the curved stop and the raised panels.
3. If desired, you can follow with sanding with a 220 grit sandpaper.
4. If you want a super smooth surface - mist the door with water or rubbing alcohol to raise the grain. Then sand with 220 once it is dry.
5. Thoroughly vacuum to remove all dust. Follow with tack cloth.

#### Staining

1. Sanding will affect the color of your door. Also your door is composed of many pieces of wood that are not from the same tree. Hence, a raised panel may not accept stain the same as the adjoining piece of wood.
  - a. Sanding to 150 will result in a darker color and less grain will be evident. The stain will cover better and yield less color differences between the pieces of wood that make up your door. I finish most of my doors this way.
  - b. Sanding to 220 will result in a lighter color and the wood grain will show more. You may notice more color variation between the different pieces of wood that make up your door.
  - c. Sanding with 220 after raising the grain will result in a the stain being absorbed well by the softer wood but knots and swirls will not accept the stain. Do this if you are trying to accentuate the knots in your door.
2. Sanding sealers - DO NOT USE. They will cause poor adhesion of spar varnishes and poor penetration by oil finishes. Use sanding sealers for interior projects only.
3. Stain - I use Minwax brand Wood Finish (oil based) Stain. Do not use Gel Stains, Polyshades or Water Based Stains. Stay with the medium to dark colors. If you go too light - the natural pink color of the mahogany could result in your project developing an amber / orange color. It's okay to blend stains from the same manufacturer. One of my most popular colors is a 50:50 mix of Dark Walnut and Red mahogany.
4. Experiment on a scrap or the butt edge of the door.

#### Finishing - Tung Oil (Behr Brand Tung Oil Interior-Exterior with UV absorbers)

1. After the door has been sanded and cleaned, apply stain to the entire door. This includes the bottom and top of the door and even the areas where the glass will be installed. You can use a brush, sponge, paper towel or rag to apply. I prefer the staining sponges that you can buy at Lowes. Be careful to not hook any loose grain. After 20- 30 minutes - remove the excess with rags or paper (shop) towels. Occasionally you will encounter glue that has been spilled on the door. Stain will not penetrate glue but you only find that

- out after you have applied the stain. To work around this problem, rub the area with steel wool and stain until the area blends in with the rest of the door. You can also remove glue by lightly scraping the door with a steel putty knife held at a 60 degree angle.
2. Stain will also reveal sander swirls and other mars and imperfections. While the door is still wet with stain, I use 100 grit sandpaper and drag it lightly with the grain to camouflage the imperfection. If you are not aggressive, you can usually create enough “new grain” to cover small scratches.
  3. After a minimum of 2 hours - apply a second coat. This time use a 50:50 mixture of stain and Behr Tung Oil. After 30 minutes buff everything off the door with old rags or paper towels. I like old bath towels. Do not leave any oil on the surface as this will wrinkle after it dries. Allow to dry for 24 hours. (High humidity or low temperatures slow the drying process)
  4. Apply pure tung oil - wait 30 minutes - buff off excess. Wait 24 hours. Repeat as necessary. This is a penetrating finish so any tung oil left on the door will wrinkle.
  5. You may occasionally miss a spot and have a run. Tung oil can be easily skimmed off the door with a plastic scraper or credit card.
  6. After the door has dried for at least 2 days (depending on temperature and humidity) I lightly sand with 400 or 600 grit sand paper. This will smooth out the door. You can even wet sand the door using more tung oil. Apply a light coat of tung oil and buff dry.

After your door has been installed for 6 months - it will probably be ready for another tung oil treatment. Note, if the stain has faded - you can mix a little stain with the tung oil to bring back some of the color. Also, any scratches or rough spots can be buffed out with XXXX (superfine) steel wool or 400 grit sandpaper. You can even use the steel wool as your applicator. Just buff it well to remove all of the steel wool fibers which can rust and discolor the door.

#### Materials used

1. Plastic drop cloths covered with old bed sheets to absorb any spills and avoid your tracking them around the house.
2. Lowes Finish Factor Heavy Duty Vinyl Gloves (Green) cheap but heavier than latex and come in packs of 25
3. Staining pad - from Lowes
4. I use only Behr Tung Oil from Home Depot - note Teak Oil is not the same. It is a blend of tung oil, boiled linseed oil and polyurethane and has no UV stabilizers to protect your door's color from the sun.