

Old Masters[®] Wood Graining

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1. INTRODUCTION

Woodgraining is the process of creating the warmth, richness, and beauty of real wood on any finish or surface.

Woodgraining has come a long way from the days when a skilled craftsman used a brush and/or bird feather dipped into secret formulas to simulate the look and beauty of wood. Now the Old Masters[®] method uses a serrated squeegee (the graining tool) and Wiping Stain to produce the grains and patterns of real wood. Whereas historically to get a realistic woodgrain pattern, a person had to be a craftsman with a gift in the arts - now with Old Masters[®], the average do-it-yourselfer can have good success and justifiable pride in his or her creations.

THE WOOD GRAINING PROCESS AN OVERVIEW

4 STEPS TO THE WARMTH & BEAUTY OF WOOD



- 1) Apply the Old Masters[®] Graining Base with a good quality natural bristle brush and allow to dry 24 hours.



- 2) Apply the first coat of Old Masters[®] Wiping Stain with a foam brush and let dry 12 hours.



- 3) Apply the second coat of Old Masters[®] Wiping Stain same as above, except while wet, rearrange with the Old Masters[®] graining tool, "feather" or "dry brush", and then let dry 12 hours.



- 4) Protect the finish with the Old Masters[®] Polyurethane, by applying it with a natural bristle brush and letting it dry 12 hours.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- 1) **Can I woodgrain?**
Yes, provided you can follow instructions. The Old Masters® system makes woodgraining simple, easy, and enjoyable to do; however, you must be patient and have a positive approach.
- 2) **What can I woodgrain?**
Basically anything that is smooth and flat and will let paint adhere to it. You can make metal, plastic, painted objects, masonite, most anything look like wood; metal file cabinets, kitchen cabinets, tables, bookcases, chests, vanities, wood or steel doors, paneling, dressers, desks, etc.
- 3) **Must I strip off the old paint or varnish?**
Removing the old finish is almost always best, but that may not be necessary. If the old finish is in good condition, it may be okay to woodgrain over it.
- 4) **What if I do not get the pattern of wood that I like, can I change it?**
Yes, as long as the stain is still wet. You can simply erase by rewiping the stain over the bad or disliked pattern, and use the tool again.
- 5) **Does the Graining Kit have everything I'll need?**
No. We have not included in the Kit things that are easy for you to get or items that you may already have, such as sandpaper, paint thinner, etc.
- 6) **How much area will the Graining Kit cover?**
Approximately 50 square feet (basically enough product to cover a medium size chest or both sides of a steel door).
- 7) **Can I buy just one item from the kit; such as another can of paint, stain, or another graining tool?**
Yes, Old Masters® is sold open stock as well as in kits and the items of the kit are available separately from most stocking dealers.
- 8) **How long will it take me to do a steel door?**
Actual work time for us to woodgrain a 9 panel steel door is approximately 5 hours. However, with no experience, it may take you 5 to 10 hours.
- 9) **Can I wood grain my door while it is still on the hinges?**
Yes, but you will find it easier to work with when it is lying flat.
- 10) **How long will the woodgrained finish last?**
Inside: the woodgrain finish will last many years. The finish is chip resistant and the protective coat of polyurethane gives it good durability which is very serviceable. It will stand up as well as stained or varnished woodwork.
Outside: when used outside, we recommend a quality **exterior polyurethane or spar varnish** with **Ultraviolet Absorbers (UVA)** to protect the woodgrained finish. The woodgraining will stand up as long as the clear coat that protects it.

11) **Can I touch up the finish?**

Yes, you can touch up the 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 your damage is severe, you might have to go back to the base paint, then stain, and follow up with polyurethane. Perfect touch ups, like all repairs, are hard to achieve.

12) **Is the tool the whole secret to woodgraining?**

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, for durability, chip resistance, and ease in graining. **The material you use for the actual graining is of utmost importance.** One that dries too fast is impossible to work with. Therefore, don't be tempted to use any stain. Also, many stains will not adhere to the surface properly. You must have a material that **stays open** (will not dry too fast) and **stays separated** (it must be pigmented enough to hold position) when the tool is pulled through it. The Old Masters® Wiping Stain has been especially formulated for staining wood and woodgraining. For woodgraining, it has the **slow drying** characteristics needed and **stays separated** when tooled, as well as excellent blending or feathering characteristics. (Accept no substitute to Old Masters®.)

13) **If I later want to remove the woodgraining, how do I do it?**

You can remove it as you would a paint - with paint remover.

4. CHECKLIST:

Items you will need -

- 1) **The contents of the Old Masters® Graining Kit, namely, Old Masters® Graining Base paint, Wiping Stain, Polyurethane Satin, graining tool, foam brush, tack rag, and instructions.**
- 2) 1½" to 2" Natural Bristle Paint Brush (we recommend a good brush).
- 3) Sandpaper - 2 sheets of medium grit sandpaper (120 to 150 grit) and 2 sheets of fine grit sandpaper (220 to 280 grit).
- 4) Artist brush - for touch up.
- 5) Masking tape - 1" - for lining off grains.
- 6) Paint thinner (mineral spirits) for brush clean up, wash, etc.
- 7) We would recommend a "test piece". A piece of material approximately 12" x 20" of a similar substance as your project. The purpose of this is two-fold: 1) to use as a practice board and 2) to assure your various steps are thoroughly dry.

5. BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- Please read and follow the instructions as printed on the cans and on the pages that follow.
- You are responsible for providing a good working environment (dust free, good lighting, conducive to good drying, etc.).
- Work in well ventilated area while applying paint and paint related products. Pay close attention to all cautions.
- Examine the item to be refinished or grained, making sure it is structurally sound. Make structural improvements before your base paint application. Remove glue spots or excessive caulk, etc., as well as fill in scratches, nail holes, etc. Always remove hardware prior to painting.

6. DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS

1) SURFACE PREPARATION

The surface to which the base paint is 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 a lot of coats of old paint or varnish on it, we recommend stripping it and starting from 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 base paint, sand the surface lightly and always sand the surface in the direction of the wood grain. (If you are uncertain as to the direction of the grain, see Helpful Hint No. 1, page 13.)

For the **average surfaces**, medium grit sandpaper is sufficient (120 to 150 grit). For **hard/slick surfaces**, you may wish to sand and use a conditioner called a Deglosser, which is a chemical that prepares a slick or glossy finish to receive paint. (Ask your paint dealer - he'll have a Deglosser suggestion for you.) The high gloss finish must have the gloss dulled or the woodgrain finish will chip easily.

2) APPLYING THE BASE PAINT

Please review the instructional information as printed on the **Graining Base label**. To this we would add the following:

Having prepared the surface, you are now ready to apply the Old Masters® Graining Base.

The direction you brush the base paint is important. As with the surface preparation and sanding, you must brush the

base paint in the direction of the wood grain. You should never have brush marks going in a different direction than the grain, because they will show through. If you are uncertain as to the grain direction, see Helpful Hint No. 1, page 13.

Apply the base paint with a good quality natural bristle brush. Try to keep brush marks at a minimum and cover your project as best you can. If your base coat does not cover perfectly, do not be too concerned, because the following steps will cover most imperfections. If the hide or coverage is really bad, you will need to give it a second coat of base paint.

Allow the base paint to dry thoroughly. Under normal conditions, 24 hours is adequate. However, drying time will vary according to temperature and humidity conditions.

Also, we encourage you to paint the "test piece" at this time. This will be useful later when practicing wood graining and when testing dry time on your project.



3) APPLYING THE 1ST COAT OF STAIN

Please review the instructional information as printed on the **Wiping Stain label**. To this we would add the following:

After the base paint has dried, lightly sand in the direction of the grain and wipe the surface clean with a rag dampened with mineral spirits, to make sure you have a smooth and dust free surface.



Apply Old Masters® Wiping Stain very lightly on your project using the foam brush enclosed. Do not dip the brush into the stain like you would paint. But rather just slightly touch the tip in the stain. The Old Masters® Wiping Stain is rich in pigment and quite thick - a little goes a long way and too much will just make it more difficult to get a good job. **Keep it light.** It will be your under coat, so shade or blend your color. Keep it smooth - not blotchy or with any heavy deposits of stain. Do not be concerned about light streaks or fine lines but don't allow lap marks. **Remember,** brush in the direction of the grain. To get good looking corners, see Helpful Hint No. 2, page 14.

Don't forget to put your first coat of stain on your test piece.

Allow this first coat of stain to dry thoroughly - (usually 12 hours under normal drying conditions).

4) APPLY THE 2ND COAT OF STAIN (The Tooled Coat)

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

You apply the second coat of stain with the foam brush just as before, except, now you spread the stain over one section at a time. While this section is still wet, use the graining tool on it before going on to the next section.



The Old Masters® graining tool is a simple device that allows the user to rearrange the stain into patterns that resemble woodgrain. It is relatively simple to use but is difficult to explain by the written word. Your patience and practice with the graining tool will make this all a lot easier.

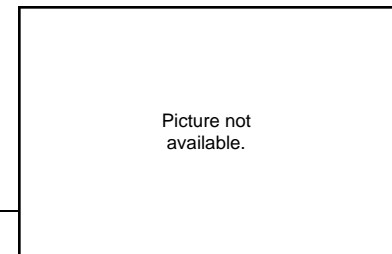
To use the tool: Hold it by its handle and place your index finger directly on the base of the head (where the handle and curved portion of the tool meet). To use the tool, press the face of the tool firmly against the surface of your project and slide it along in a straight, smooth motion.

The two basic secrets to the use of the tool are:

1) **Maintaining a good constant**

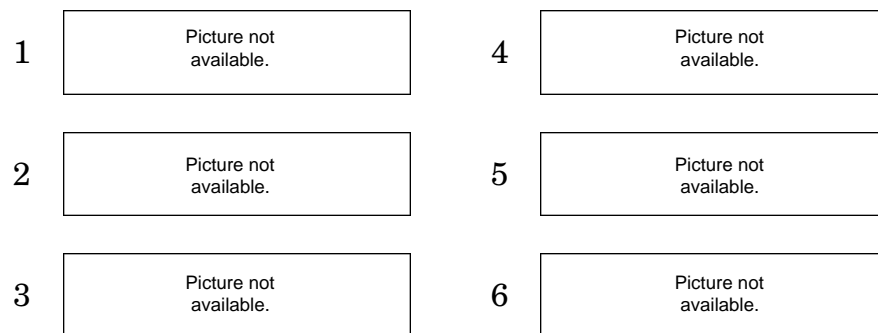
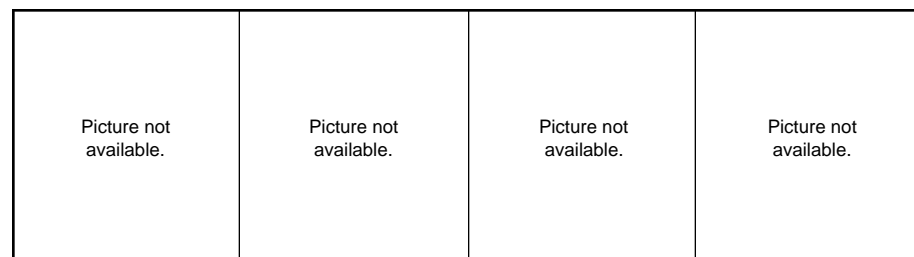
pressure. For the tool to work, it must have good, constant contact with the surface. Where the tool does not firmly touch, it can not rearrange the stain.

2) **Constant motion.** You can go slow or you can go fast, but you can not stop. You must move the tool across the surface in a smooth, uninterrupted motion.



Let's try it.

Spread a thin coat of stain over your "test or practice board" with our foam brush. Now let's try it. Just think of it as pressing firm - sliding along at a gentle speed. Use it like you would a squeegee on glass. Now try to slide 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.

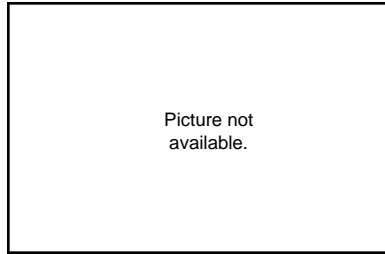
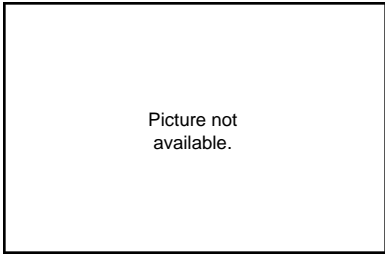


Note: Descriptions of these techniques on following page.

All basic designs (see page 9) may be created with just one tool. (No other tool is required for these and other wood patterns.)

- 1) Pull tool from top to bottom or 2) push tool from bottom to top, whichever is comfortable for you. Either method creates the same design.
- 3) Vein Grain - use comb edge of tool. Both Vein Grain and Quarter Sawed (5) are used between and around all “major patterns” (1,2,4,6, and others of your creation) to join and blend all designs, and to add realism to your simulated wood finish.
- 4) Knots are created with a rocking motion of the wrist as the tool moves across the surface. Beginning with the tool in its center, rock it to its bottom and back to its middle - one knot. By varying the length of the rocking motion, you create short, stubby knots or long, skinny knots.
- 5) Quarter Sawed - use notched edge of tool. See explanation for Vein Grain (3).
- 6) Heart Grain - use the face of the tool, creates major pattern.

The plastic handle of the tool may be snapped out to allow putting the head of the tool with the “notched edge” up or the “comb edge” up, giving you different size and shaped patterns. Keep practicing with the tool and checking out its various patterns. The most realistic imitations of wood will employ all faces and edges of the tool, in random sequences.

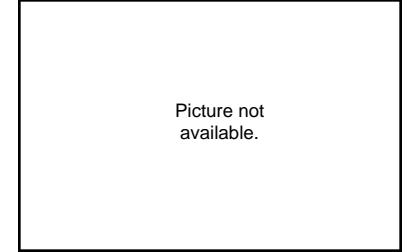
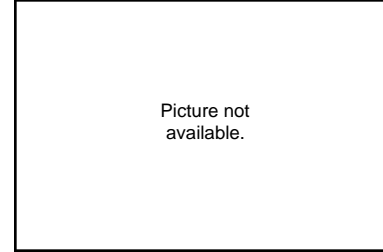


We encourage you to practice and get a feel for the Graining Tool. Do not try to duplicate a particular piece of wood or grain, but rather try to create realistic woodgrain patterns. Employ various wrist motions, using different combinations of design and feel free to use different objects, such as, cheese cloth, artist brush, paper towel, comb, rag, etc. By the mere nature of your project, you will practice. You will spread some stain, make a pattern, look at it, wipe it through, and do it again. That is fine.

The Old Masters® Wiping Stain gives you plenty of time to work, experiment, and complete the project to your satisfaction. If you get a pattern that is not acceptable, simply erase, rewipe the stain over the bad pattern, and use the tool again.

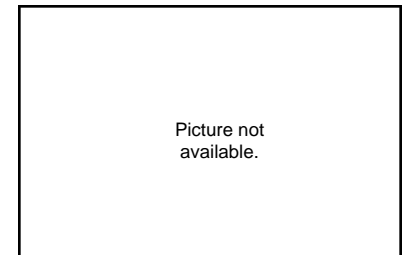
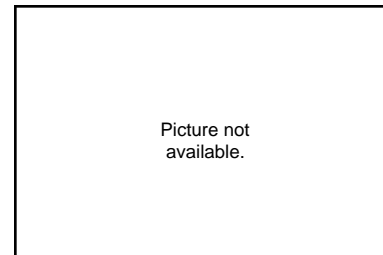
Note: for the tool to work properly, you should clean it after each grain pattern. However, it does not have to be perfectly clean, just wipe the ribs with a rag and you're ready. For end of the day clean up and storage, clean well with mineral spirits and dry with a clean rag.

Also, you will note the tool works extremely well on flat surfaces but what about those recessed portions where the tool cannot fit - or how can it do an area that is not flat - where the tool will not fit up next to a molding? These areas demand special attention but can be handled rather easily. Considering some alternatives:



1) Paint in the desired grain by hand.

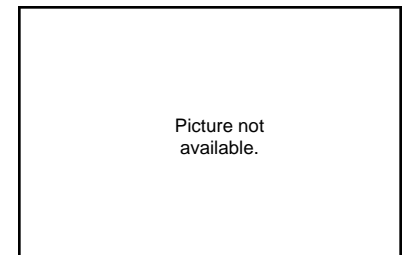
2) Darken the recess area or molding with the foam brush and create light and dark streaks.



3) Cut the tool down to make it fit into smaller areas.

When your woodgraining effort is completed, allow the stain to dry for approximately 15 to 20 minutes. Now using a soft, dry bristle brush, gently stroke (“dry brush”) the entire surface to blend the color, create jagged edges, soften the design and add an even more natural look to your simulated wood finish. We refer to this step as “feathering”.

Allow this 2nd coat of stain to dry thoroughly - usually 12 hours under normal drying conditions.



5) PROTECTIVE FINISH FINISHING COAT



Old Masters® Polyurethane is the perfect finishing touch for your woodgraining project. We have enclosed with each graining kit, the Old Masters® Satin Polyurethane, because we have found it to be the most practical finish and sheen for woodgraining projects.

For inside applications, we have found the Old Masters® Polyurethane to be an excellent, durable finish.

For outside applications and maximum life, we recommend an exterior polyurethane or spar varnish with Ultraviolet Absorbers (UVA).

After your second coat of stain has dried thoroughly, gently remove dust with the Old Masters® Tack Rag. (Do not use a rag dampened in mineral spirits - and do not sand at this point.)

Please review the instructional information as printed on the **Polyurethane label**. To this we would add the following:

Apply a smooth, even coat with a foam or good 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 previous coat, wipe away dust with the tack rag, and apply the second coat as described above.

To this second coat of polyurethane will generally be dry to touch within six hours after which you're ready to put your project in use. It will take approximately 36 hours before your polyurethane coat is completely cured and will provide you with maximum protection.

CONGRATULATIONS YOU DID IT!

7. HELPFUL HINTS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Helpful Hint No. 1 - Here are some rules to follow to determine what direction the grain should be going when you are finished.

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

General Rules & Illustrations

that will determine the proper grain direction

Generally the grain should run the length of the board.

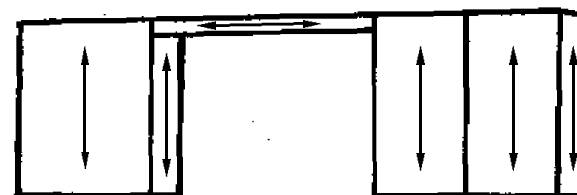
For Tops: Grain runs with the longest distance.

For Sides, Ends, Backs, and Fronts: Vertically

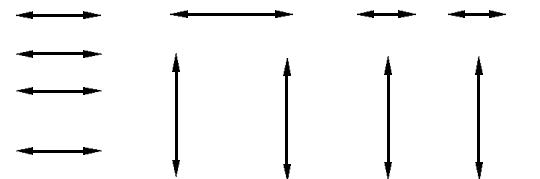
For Doors: Vertically

For Drawers: Horizontally

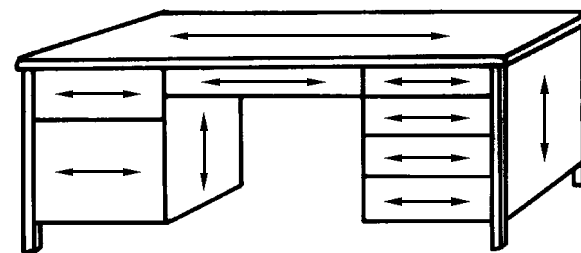
Upper Cabinet



Lower Cabinet



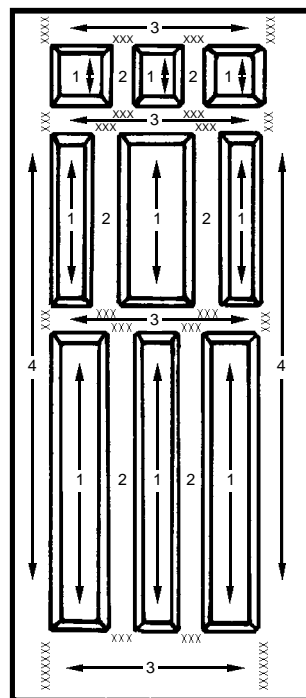
Desk



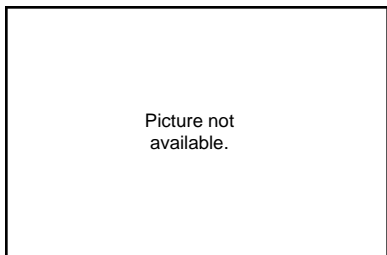
b) **If your project is metal or other than wood**, it is harder to determine proper grain direction. We would suggest the general rules above and the following (metal door) rules to determine proper grain direction.

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

The numbers in the illustration indicate sequence of graining and the checked lines indicate suggested use of tape (see Helpful Hint No. 2).



Helpful Hint No. 2 - How to solve the problem of joints - or cross grained corners.



To make it easier to get cross grained corners and joints, we suggest a light line with a pencil and then put masking tape on the line. After accomplishing your grain pattern, immediately and carefully, remove the masking tape. (Never leave tape on over night.)



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