



*FINISHING  
YOUR  
NEWLY MADE  
TRUE GESSO  
PANEL*

**1. Sand with 120 or 180 grit sandpaper to remove all brushstrokes.**

- Use a sanding block.
- Don't be shy....bear down hard on the panel, keeping the sandpaper and block flat.
- Sand all edges as well, giving them a chamfer (45° angle) so they will not catch or chip.
- Check panel in raking light to make sure all brushstrokes are gone.  
(Raking light is when you tilt your panel back and forth until the light rakes across the surface, creating shadows that reveal brush marks and other imperfections. Circle these marks with a pencil and re-sand until they are no longer visible in raking light).
- Once the brushstrokes have been sanded smooth, in raking light you should see only the slight sanding marks left behind by the sandpaper.
- Don't wait until later stages to remove brush marks; it is much easier to do so at this stage, with the coarse sandpaper.

**2. When *all* brushstrokes are sanded out, switch to 220 or so grit.**

- Use this grit to remove the sanding marks left by the previous, coarser grit.
- Again, check in raking light for imperfections; note them with a pencil; sand until smooth.

**3. Switch to 400 or 600 grit, and sand smooth.**

**4. Dip your fingers in clean water and rub the surface of your panel with them.** This loosens and re-distributes the gesso, smoothing out any marks left by the previous sanding.

**5. Let dry for 10 to 20 minutes** (until the surface is perfectly dry).

**6. Final sand with 600 or higher grit sandpaper.**

◆ Steps 4-6 may be repeated once or twice to achieve greater smoothness; however don't disturb the surface with too much wet sanding, as it may lead to cracking.

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