



Grand Stand Unfinished Kit Assembly & Finishing Guide

Assembly:

In addition to the instructions included with the kit, consider the following:

- To more easily align the pre-drilled screw holes between the wood components, thread the screws through the holes in the first piece of wood until the tip of each screw just pokes through the other side. Once all the tips are through, match them to the holes in the other wood piece. Tighten from end to end or the center out.
- Although the tightened screws are alone sufficient, for extra strength add a thin bead of wood glue along the back (grooved) side of the clip strip lengthwise between the three holes. But only use a small amount of glue in a single line along the center. Using too much glue may cause it to ooze out and/or clog the outside ends of the grooves where the Knuckle Clips need to be inserted. Always wipe any excess glue off the outer surfaces.

Finishing:

The range of finishing styles is limited only by imagination and taste, and the time allotted for the project. But, here are a few suggestions to consider. **(Always heed the warnings and follow the directions on the labels of the products you use and be mindful of product odors and ventilation needs.)**

- Oil based stains and polyurethanes provide the best finish. But, they are the most time consuming because of the drying time between steps. Stains are generally brushed on, left to soak in for a while, wiped off with a rag and then left to dry, usually overnight. Then the polyurethane finish is usually brushed on, left to dry for several hours and sanded between the needed two to three coats. An alternate option to save some time is using a combined stain/polyurethane finish.
- Water based stains and polyurethanes require the same process as above, but will dry much quicker. The process could be completed in several hours (and odors are minimal).
- As for the clear finish itself, the quickest process is the “fast-drying” clear coat sprays (which should be done outdoors), with light sanding between coats.
- If you want to paint your Grand Stand, try acrylic paints from a hobby shop or arts and crafts store. The paint can be finished off with clear coats for added luster and protection. And, the paints clean up with water.
- To add some richness to the wood or color variety without investing a lot of time, rub on water-based stain or thinned-out paint, let it dry 10 minutes or so and then finish with two to three light coats of the clear spray.
- If you like the clean look of the natural poplar wood, then simply apply two or three clear coats of oil or water based polyurethane or fast-drying spray.
- For best results, always sand lightly between coats and remove any sanding dust before the next coat.

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