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I have had many people ask me why isn't my paint sticking, or how do I prep this? Or do I have to sand? I have chalk paint. I'm told I don't have to sand. What's the prep. Well, I suggest that you completely prep starting out with cleaning and then you do your repairs and you may need to clean again and sand to get tooth,

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to get tooth means that you're taking off just enough of the surface of the, you know, everything has a top coat, everything. Unless it's a kind of paint that doesn't require a top coat, but even then it's going to have a shiny or a flat surface that would cause difficulties when painting over it because there's no tooth. Tooth means that it's just rough enough for the paint to grab.

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So I always suggest the cleaning, the repairing and cleaning again, sanding and wiping down to have it prepared for whatever it is you're going to do. If you're painting, you definitely want to take the shine up. If you're staining, you would have to remove the top coat completely or the paint completely and get down to the raw wood. Unless of course,

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you're using a gel stain, there are so many nuances to refinishing or redesigning a piece. So you need to learn those and you need to know what steps to take to be guaranteed that a piece is going to last. You know if this was a hundred years old, it's not, but if it were, I would want it to last another hundred years,

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so we need to do things and don't skip the steps. We need to do the things to prepare the surface correctly. Now, I've mentioned these flexible sandpapers before, but you can do the same with regular sandpaper. I just like this because it's flexible and it's reusable. I wrap, this is a 220, I wrap it around a sanding sponge.

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And then I just take it over the surface just to rough it up enough to give it tooth. Do it that way. Or you could do it like this. Now on some wood like mahogany, that kind of thing that tend to bleed because there's a lot of tannins in the wood. If you get rid of the complete top code or the complete paint or whatever it is,

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that's covering this, you might open yourself up to more bleeding. And that just means the tannins coming through your paint or your topcoat, and then you'll get kind of a yellowy look. So the basic steps of prep to make sure is, like I said, clean, repair, clean again, sand, but don't sand completely through the surface if it's a bleeder, just enough to rough it up and then you're going to wipe it down.

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Now, there is a point in some processes in some prep that you're going to want to either use STIX, which is a binding agent and or a primer, which will contain the bleed, which will keep the tannins from bleeding through each piece. You'll need to make that decision. And then if you do use primer, you decide whether you want to use an oil base or a water base.

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And if you know, it's a bleeder, make sure it's either the oil base or the, and or, or it has a base of shellac. Shellac will keep, hopefully, will keep it from bleeding though. Sometimes you need a couple three coats. You just need to learn your product and learn your wood. Learn your pieces and it takes practice.

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It takes information, but you can do that, especially if you're in the Blueprint, you have a step-by-step process. So what I'm doing is I'm just sanding with 220 very lightly, not down to the wood, and just taking off the shine. And that's one reason I really like the flat flexible sandpaper, like I said, because I can make it

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do what I want. So I'll just go over the whole piece that I plan on painting. And a couple of tips here for you. You see that there is a raised surface here. It's an applique. I have these nifty little doodads, they're contoured sanding, their rubber, contour sanders. Well, I don't know. I contour something or other, that you can wrap your sand paper or flexible sandpaper around to form what you need it to be,

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to fit into those spots. See how this one is small, it's concave or convex, you choose. You wrap your sandpaper, or flexible sandpaper around it. And it allows you to get into those nooks and crannies and sand. And there's different sizes, big and round or deep, all different sizes. I'll give you the link to find these. You can find them on Amazon and very easy to use to get in those tough spots to sand.

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I also will sand the doors, obviously go with the grain as you're standing, you'll see that you will create a white dust when you're sanding. That's how you know that you're roughing up the surface. But again, if it's a bleeder, like if it's a mahogany, don't sand all the way through because you increase the chances of the tannins coming through.

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Sometimes they don't come through the paint. Sometimes the tannins don't come through until you put your top coat and you're polycrylic on. So if you think it's a bleeder, then you're going to want to prime it to block those tannins. So I will get busy and I will finish sanding this and we will take the next step and I'll show you what I'm going to do next.

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We should just go right around and sand those nooks and crannies, the round part very easily. Sometimes the tools make a huge difference on how easy your project is. And it definitely eliminates frustration. I used to really dislike prep until I got the tools that made it easy. Then I don't mind it so much. I mean, I still would rather hire someone to do it for me,

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but I don't dislike it like I used to. I used to really put it off, but really it's just a cog in the wheel of getting your piece done. See how easy that was just going around, fitting right in those nooks and crannies. Then up here is very rounded. So I will take the larger one, the concave, and very easily just run it along here

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and take that shine off. We will finish this up and we'll come back and wipe it down and it will be ready for my next step.