

# HOGUE®

## WOOD GRIP REFINISHING KIT INSTRUCTIONS

Hogue highly recommends that you send your grip to us for refinishing. We will do it at no charge other than shipping.

Hogue assumes no liability for your work and will not be responsible for damage to your grip. Also, it is very important when using any power tools to be extremely careful and follow all accepted safety recommendations for the tool you are using. Always wear safety glasses. Any work as described below or with any power tools should only be undertaken by competent and experienced craftsmen. Please call (800) 438-4747 if you have any questions.

These instructions are only a general guide that are intended to help a user put a finish back on a grip that has been damaged, modified, or worn so that the polish on the wood needs to be renewed. Further damage to a grip will need more attention than is covered here. Also, if a simple re-polish is all that is necessary, and your grip does not require sanding, skip the first step and go to step 2.

Do not work the wood while the grips are on the gun. It is easy to permanently scratch the gun's metal finish that way!

- 1.** To properly buff a hardwood grip to a glossy shine, the wood must first be sanded entirely with at least a 220-grit sandpaper or finer. The finer the sanding, the easier the buffing. 600 grit or even steel wool can be used to make a super smooth finish. Always start with a sandpaper rough enough to remove the biggest scratches and then progressively work finer thoroughly covering the entire surface you are working on. Always use caution when sanding corners or edges; taking too much wood off a mating surface or frame strap can make an undesirable fit to your firearm. Power sanders can be used, but require much skill and can quickly ruin a grip if not done properly. Unless you are skilled in the use of power tools, finish the grip by hand using files, sandpaper, or other hand woodworking tools.
- 2.** After the entire outside surface of the grips are sanded smooth, you will want to use a power buffer to polish the grip. In the Hogue shop we use 6-8 inch diameter fully sewn muslin cloth buffing wheels powered by strong motors at high speed. With a set up like this, you can make short work of buffing a grip. A smaller, less powered buffing wheel can be used for just one or a few grips. It just takes a little longer that's all. Dremel tools can be equipped with small buffing wheels available at your local hardware store. A Dremel tool has a high RPM that works great to buff wood. A drill press with a mandrel and approx. a 3-4 inch buffing wheel can also be used. High spindle speed is the key. Using a hard sewn cloth buffing wheel, apply the red brown compound to the wheel sparingly by rubbing it onto the wheel while it is running. It is important to work with the rotation of the wheel. **NOT AGAINST IT!** Use safety glasses and hold onto the compound firmly; start slowly until you get the feel for it. After some buffing compound is applied to the wheel, buff the wood on the wheel firmly being cautious around the edges. If the wheel is allowed to "grab" the edge of the wood, it can pull the grip from your hands possibly even damaging it or injuring you. Again, work cautiously and work up slowly applying light pressure first then work the wood with more pressure. When you get the feeling for it, it is easy. After the wood is smooth and all the sandpaper scratches are buffed out, your grip should start to look pretty good. If you notice any big scratches at this point, you may want to sand some more and rebuff. It is not necessary to re-sand the entire surface unless the scratches are everywhere. After you buff, you will easily see each and every scratch.
- 3.** Now you need to buff the yellow hard Carnauba Wax onto the grip in the same manner as the buffing compound. Use a clean, loosely sewn soft buffing wheel for this step and apply the wax to the running wheel very sparingly! The soft wheel and wax will give the grip a very pleasing shine that will last a long time. Carnauba Wax is the hardest naturally occurring wax. Unless it gets scratched again, the grip can be maintained by rubbing with a soft cloth or on the leg of your jeans.

All of us here at Hogue hope you enjoy your grip for many years to come and sincerely appreciate your patronage.

### **HOGUE, INC.**

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