# Hand Plane Wood Smoothing

This playbook provides a step-by-step guide on using hand planes to achieve a smooth finish in woodworking. It covers the selection, preparation, and proper technique for hand plane use.

### Step 1: Select Plane

Choose the appropriate type of hand plane for the task. Common types include jack planes for rough shaping, smoothing planes for finer work, and block planes for end grain.

### Step 2: Inspect Plane

Examine the plane for any damage or dullness in the blade. Ensure that the sole is flat and the blade is sharp and properly seated.

### Step 3: Set Up Workspace

Secure the workpiece in a stable position using clamps or a vice. Make sure the workspace is well-lit and free from obstructions.

### Step 4: Adjust Plane

Set the depth of the cut with the adjustment knob. Start with a very shallow cut to avoid gouging the wood.

### Step 5: Test Plane

Perform a few test strokes on a scrap piece of wood or an inconspicuous area to ensure the depth and alignment are correct.

### Step 6: Plane Wood

Hold the plane with both hands, applying downward pressure evenly. Begin with the toe of the plane on the wood, and push forward with long, overlapping strokes. Work along the grain when possible.

### Step 7: Inspect Smoothness

After several strokes, check the workpiece for smoothness and evenness by feeling with your hand or using a straightedge. Adjust the plane as necessary and continue until satisfied.

### Step 8: Finish Up

Once the wood surface is smooth, remove any remaining wood shavings. Lightly sand if required for an even smoother finish.

## General Notes

### Blade Care

Regularly hone and sharpen the plane blade to maintain a clean, sharp edge for the best results.

### Grain Direction

Pay attention to the direction of the wood grain. Planing against the grain can cause tearing and a rough finish.