

Equipment Required

You will need to hire the following equipment:

- Drum Sander for sanding the main floor area
- Edge Sander for sanding right up to the skirting boards and any hard to reach areas
- Orbital Sander for removing any sanding marks left by the Drum or Edge Sander prior to coating the floor and in between coats to get a perfect finish. The Orbital Sander is also ideal for sanding a deck or parquet floors.

You will need to purchase the following equipment:

- Sanding belts for the drum sander including disposable dust bags
- Sanding discs for the edge sander including disposable dust bags
- Sanding sheets for the orbital sander including disposable dust bags
- A hand scraper or sanding block to get right into the corners
- A nail punch and hammer
- Timber putty and putty knife
- Masking tape and drop sheets
- Floor coatings and applicators
- Safety equipment including safety glasses, dust mask and hearing protection

Safe Operation

- ⚠ **NEVER** operate the machine without an abrasive belt fitted to the Drum or without the Drum guard secured.
- ⚠ **ALWAYS** ensure the Drum sander handle is tight by pulling back on it.
- ⚠ **NEVER** install an abrasive belt or disc until the machine is disconnected from the power supply.
- ⚠ **NEVER** leave the machine unattended with dust in the dust bag. Dust left in a dust bag can be subject to combustion and cause a fire.
- ⚠ **NEVER** allow the power cable to come into contact with the sanding machine. Place the power cable over your left shoulder to keep it away from the machine.
- ⚠ **NEVER** start the machine until you have a firm grip of the control handles and tipped the machine back onto its rear wheels so that the sanding drum or disc is NOT in contact with the floor.
- ⚠ **NEVER** operate the machines without the correct safety equipment.
- ⚠ **NEVER** re-use a disposable dust bag. Once full dispose of it into a suitable container and dampen the dust bag down with water.

Please note: Information in this brochure is Hiretech's opinion and we don't warrant the accuracy or completeness of that information. Hiretech excludes all liability in relation to the statements in this brochure.

D.I.Y. How to sand timber floors



Step 1

HT8-2 FLOORSANDER

Is designed for use on main floor area that requires rapid sanding and levelling on all wood floors.



Step 2

HT7-2 EDGE FLOORSANDER

Is designed to sand right to edge of main floor area, stair treads and other small areas.



Step 3

HTF-2 ORBITAL SUPER SANDER

Is designed for finish sanding prior to applying floor finish; sanding between coats, decking, floating floors and parquet.

Preparing the floor for sanding

Before beginning to sand the floor, check the entire surface for any exposed nail heads or staples from carpet. Either of these can easily damage the sanding belt and sanding drum and cause the machine to be in-operable. **Ensure nails are punched well below the surface.**



Remove any glue or sticky material from the floor with a scraper prior to sanding otherwise the sanding belt will become clogged quickly. Fill all nail holes, nicks or dents with timber putty.

TIP: Mix the saw dust from the dust bag in with the putty to match the correct floor colour.

Fasten or replace any timber boards that are moving or damaged as these can damage the machine. Remove all furniture and hardware attached to the floor. Cover all window shades or curtains before sanding.

HIRETECH[®]
The Floor Sander Specialists

Ph: 02 9625 9337
Mob: 0417 256 920
Email: sales@hiretech.com.au
www.hiretech.com.au

SANDING PROCESS

Step 1: Drum Floor Sander

Always use the Drum Sander first as this machine will sand the main floor area prior to using the edge sander for corners and skirting boards. Check across the floor with a straight edge or ruler to see if the floor boards are 'Cupped' or un even (see image). If this is the case you will need to sand diagonally at a 45 degree angle to level the floor before sanding with the grain.

Always start sanding with a fine grit belt (80 or 120 grit). If you find you need to remove more timber you can always fit a coarse belt (24 or 40 grit).



TIP: If starting with a 24 or 40 grit belt, never skip a grade in the sanding process, you must use all grits available before finishing with a 120 grit belt.

To install the abrasive belt on the Drum Sander, grab the handles and tip the machine on its left side to expose the Drum guard clip, open the clip and guard. Inspect the sanding drum for any damage such as chunks of rubber missing or extremely uneven wear across the surface. **(NOTE)** A damaged Drum will not sand properly and cause a poor finish on the floor. Install abrasive belt ensuring it covers the Drum completely.

Ensure you have closed and secured the guard properly and tip the machine back onto its wheels.

TIP: Always start on the right hand side of the room as this will allow you to operate the Drum Sander closer to the skirting boards and minimise edging. (Unless you are making a 45 degree angled cut on uneven floors)

Tip the machine back onto its rear wheels. Start the machine by pressing the ON/OFF switch firmly to the 'I' position. Now move the floor sander slowly forward and at the same time release the pressure on the control handles to gently lower it so that the drum comes into contact with the floor.

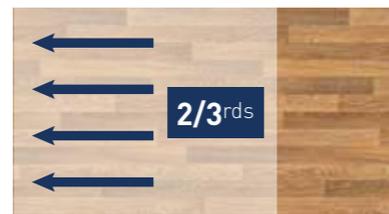
TIP: Change the sanding belt regularly as a clogged or worn sanding belt will damage your floor and can damage the sanding drum.

Guide the floor sander in a straight line at a slow walking pace. Do not force or hold the floor sander back. Allow the machine to do the work and always move at an even pace.

At the end of the pass while still moving forward tilt the floor sander back so that the sanding drum comes clear of the floor. Now moving backwards lower the floor sander again and pull it backwards over the area just sanded moving at a steady even pace. At the end of the sanding pass and while still moving backwards tilt the floor sander back so once again the sanding drum comes clear of the floor.

Move the machine over so that it overlaps the area just sanded by 5cm and start to sand the next pass until completed.

When two thirds of the floor is sanded, turn the floor sander around starting on the right hand wall again and sand the remaining third the same way (see diagram)



WARNING - Never bounce the sanding drum or dwell in one place as this will sand dips and hollows in the floor.

Step 2: Edge Floor Sander

The Edge Sander is used for sanding along the edges of the floor and the areas that could not be reached with the Drum sander. Start the edger with the disc off the floor and then lower the disc to the floor as you move. Work progressively using a sweeping motion from side to side.



TIP: You must hold your thumb on the switch to operate. If you release pressure on the switch it will automatically return to the OFF position.

To replace the sanding disc, disconnect from the power supply and tip the edger upside down and rest the machine on its handles. Remove the T bar wrench from the clips inside the machine and remove the bolt and washer from the centre of the sanding disc.

TIP: Use the same grit sandpaper as used with the drum sander (Don't skip a grade)

For corners that can't be reached you can use a sanding block or scraper. Ensure you vacuum the floor thoroughly to remove as much sanding dust as possible.

Step 3: Orbital Floor Sander

The Orbital Floor sander is designed for re-finishing, sanding between coats of floor finish, parquetry floors and sanding decks. To operate the machine hold the handle with both hands and depress the foot pedal with your right foot to lower the handle (see image). Switch on by holding your thumb on the ON position of the switch, if you release the switch it will automatically return to the OFF position.



To fit an abrasive sheet make sure the handle is locked in the upright position and tip the sander backwards to ensure it rests on the dust bag frame. The Red or Maroon Abrasive pad must be fitted to the machine. If it looks worn or damaged it must be replaced.

Peel the backing off the abrasive sheet (Grit range is 40, 60, 80, 120 and 180) and stick the sheet onto the abrasive pad. Turn the knob at the bottom of the dust bag frame to lower it to the ground and fit a disposable paper dust bag to the sander. Install from bottom to top (see image)



TIP: For a perfect finish sand between the 1st and 2nd coats of floor finish with a 120 or 180 grit abrasive.

Once all sanding is completed vacuum the floor thoroughly before applying any floor coating.

Floor Types

Plank & Strip Floor

Old floors in good condition - when the floor is in good condition - no uneven edges, cupping or crowning of planks and strips - and you want to resurface the floor, sanding back to new wood, start sanding in the direction of the planks or strips – with the wood grain. Start with a medium grit abrasive. Complete the first cut with the HT8-1.2 Floor Sander then sand up to the baseboards and door thresholds with the HT7-2 Disc Floor Sander, using a medium grit abrasive, blending the edges in with the main floor area. Sweep the floor. Using a medium/fine grit abrasive, sand the main floor area with the drum sander and then complete the floor with the edger using a fine grit abrasive. Sweep the floor. Finish sanding the main floor area with the drum floor sander using a fine grit abrasive. If the floor is in particularly good condition (level with no deep scratches or blemishes) you may re-surface the floor using the HTF-2 Floor Sander, however, as the sanding action of this machine is less aggressive than the HT81.2 Floor Sander the job will take more time.

Plank & Strip Floor

Uneven Floor - when the floor is uneven sand diagonally at 45 across the room in both directions using the HT8-1.2 Floor Sander with a coarse grit abrasive. Only make one cut on both diagonals, this will achieve a basic level. Now complete the floor as for a level strip or plank floor. Use the same grit abrasive as was used on the 45 cut for the first cut parallel to the planks or strips.

Floors with an existing finish - when re-finishing a floor remove as little of the existing surface as possible. If the old finish is worn and the floor is generally in good condition use the HTF-2 Floor Sander with Floor Team™ abrasive pads and strips which have been especially designed for re-finishing floors. These will maintain the integrity of any stain used to colour the wood and prepare the surface for a new coat of finish. If the floor is badly marked and scratched and has to be sanded back to new wood use the HT8-1.2 Floor Sander and HT7-2 Disc Floor Sander. Always try a medium grit paper first, particularly on a diagonal cut. If 90% of the old finish is removed and the floor is generally levelled, you do not need to use a coarse grit abrasive.

Veneered, Laminated & Thinner Floors

Use the HTF-2 Floor Sander for veneered and laminated floors or thinner floors that may have been subjected to repeated sanding. The HTF-2 will remove old surface finishes and prepare the floor for re-finishing. Sand the floor using the same method as a strip, plank, or parquet floor. If the floor has deeper scratches or marks these should be sanded out by hand and blended in with the main floor. To check the wood depth in the floor remove a baseboard or molding from around the edge of the floor. This should provide access to the edge of the floor for inspection.

Parquet & Blockfloors

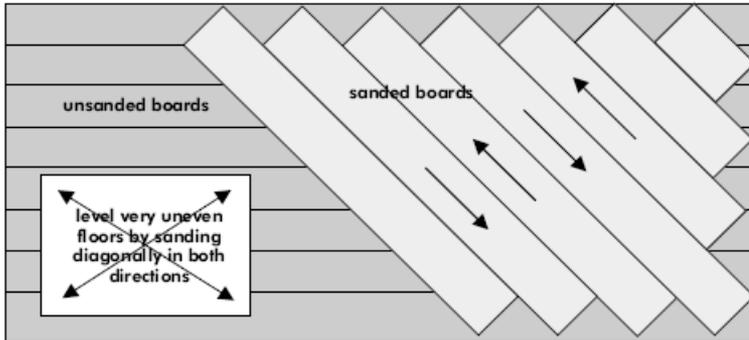
The grain of the wood will run in a number of directions so sand the floor in the direction of the main source of natural light in the room. If there is no source of natural light sand in the direction of the longest side of the room or, if the room is square, in the direction the furniture is laid out and how people normally use and view the room. This technique will help mask any imperfections in the floor. Complete the sanding operation as detailed for plank or strip floors.

Between Coats of Finish (Varnish)

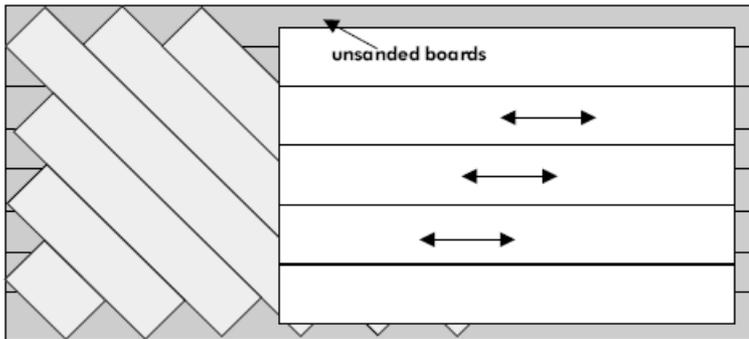
Use the HTF-2 Floor Sander to sand between coats of floor finish, particularly when using water based varnishes. These types of finishes tend to raise the wood grain when first applied to raw wood. Allow each coat of varnish to dry completely following the manufactures directions. Use Floor Team™ abrasive pads to sand between each coat of varnish. The fine abrasive pads will remove light brush/applicator marks and raised grain while maintaining the integrity of the coat of varnish applied

Techniques

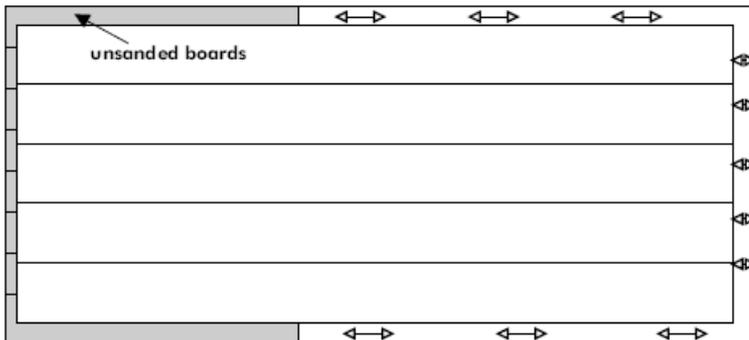
Level uneven floors.



Sand main floor area.



Sand and blend edges in with main floor area.



Plank and Strip Floors - sand in the direction the boards are laid, with the wood grain.

Parquet and Wood Block Floors - sand in the direction of the main source of natural light. If there is no natural source of light, sand in the direction of the longest side of the room. If the room is square, sand in the direction the furniture is laid out and how people normally use the room.