

Checklist: Preparing Paulownia Wood Panel for Water-Based Oil Paints

Step 1. Sanding

- Use 180-220 grit sandpaper
- Sand with the grain
- Wipe clean with a tack cloth or damp rag

Step 2. Sealing the Wood

Option A (Recommended for water-based oils):

- Apply Golden GAC 100 - 2 thin, even coats
- Let each coat dry 1-2 hours

Option B (Alternative):

- Apply Dewaxed Clear Shellac - 2 thin coats
- Allow to dry completely (about 30 minutes per coat)

Step 3. Priming with Gesso

- Apply 1st coat of acrylic gesso
- Let dry (about 1 hour)
- Lightly sand (optional, for smooth finish)
- Apply 2nd coat of gesso
- Dry + sand lightly again (if desired)
- Apply 3rd coat (optional for extra coverage)

Step 4. Curing Time

- Let panel cure overnight after last coat
- Surface should be dry, firm, and matt before painting

Step 5. Optional Final Surface Tweak for a very smooth surfaces

- For smooth finish: wet sand final gesso layer with 400 grit
- Optional: apply thin layer of matte acrylic medium for slicker surface

Suggested Tools & Materials

- 180-400 grit sandpaper
- Tack cloth
- Golden GAC 100 or dewaxed shellac
- Golden or Liquitex Gesso
- Wide soft brush or foam roller
- Acrylic matte medium (optional)