

Palm Sanders

DT Workshop Equipment Reference — D&T / STEM resource for school workshops | Machinery & Power Tools



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A palm sander is a small, one-handed finishing sander that moves a sheet of abrasive in a random orbit or flat motion, used for final smoothing of wood, filler and paint. It is light, easy to control and perfect for students finishing projects by hand.

Key Features

- Sheet or hook-and-loop pad systems
- Random orbit or orbital action
- Dust collection through the pad
- Soft-grip bodies sized for small hands
- Variable or fixed speeds 12,000-20,000 rpm

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Final sanding of furniture and models
- Smooth filler and primer between coats
- Feather edges on painted repairs
- Prepare surfaces before finishing

Safe Operation

1. Fit a fresh abrasive pad matching the grit guide
2. Set the sander on the work before switching on
3. Move slowly with the grain, overlapping strokes
4. Check the surface with your hand for smoothness
5. Vacuum the surface before the next grit

SAFETY NOTES

- Wear a dust mask - fine dust is unhealthy
- Do not apply heavy pressure; let the sander work
- Keep the power cord away from the pad
- Empty the dust bag away from your face
- Switch off before lifting the sander from the work

Maintenance & Consumables

- Empty the dust box after each job
- Check the pad for wear and replace
- Clean hook-and-loop pads of dust build-up
- Check the power lead and switch
- Keep spare abrasives in labelled grits

Specification & Buying Notes

A random orbital palm sander with dust extraction and a pack of hook-and-loop discs from 80 to 240 grit covers finishing work. Variable speed helps on soft woods and paint.