



Applying the Pipe Butter Finish

There are about as many different ways to finish wood as there are wood species, or the people finishing them. Here, I will give a brief overview of how I finish out the Woodsman pipe bodies with **Pipe Butter**.

The pipe as Naked Woodsman - straight from rough shaping (note: I'm not finishing the shank during this overview, so tooling marks will still be evident throughout):



Sand this completely with 80 grit sandpaper to remove any rough edges and hard sand marks:



Then, sand the piece completely with 220/ 240 grit sandpaper



Now we will apply a generous dose of "Pipe Butter" through heat waxing



To do the heat waxing, heat the pipe body over open flame such as a cigarette lighter - still have a few of those around? You will want to hold the pipe OVER the flame/ not In the flame - otherwise you will create some carbon scorching (which can also be used to accent the pipe if you choose - just beware)



Working on small portions of the pipe at a time; once the piece is heated, apply the Pipe Butter with a clean, high-nap cotton cloth. You will see it instantly melt, and the heated pipe body will draw the heated mixture in.



Allow this cool/ dry completely. You want the entire pipe body to completely cool to room temperature.



Then, using a clean portion of the cloth, buff this. Some may wish to stop at this step, achieving a smooth/ matte finish.



But we're not going to stop there. Now, we will wet-sand the entire piece with 600 grit sandpaper.



Using hot water, be sure to rinse your sandpaper and the pipe body frequently.



Once you've completely wet-sanded the body, allow it to completely dry - the surface will again appear hazy.



Apply the Pipe Butter once more, and allow it to dry.



And then buff with the rag again:



Not finished just yet. We'll make one more application of the finish:



And we will finish up by buffing this final application.
Our finished pipe:



I hope this has helped some along their path. The Pipe Butter Finish will become even richer as you hold/ use your pipe, and is suitable for regular cleaning/ polishing for all of your wooden mod pieces.

