

# Bent Polishing Instructions

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Bent polishing takes several hours to complete, so plan accordingly. Rushing will cause you to damage your bent, and then you will need to spend more time to fix your mistakes. An example of an unpolished bent is on the left, and an example of a polished bent is on the right. Examples of other bents can be found online by visiting other TBP chapters' websites.



There are three steps in polishing: filing, sanding, and brasso. We provide you with materials, but if you want to work on your own you will need:

- flat file
- round file
- 150, 300 dry grit sandpaper
- 600 wet grit sandpaper, (option) 1000 grit sandpaper
- Brasso
- Dry clean cotton cloth

The materials can be found in the student common's room on the second floor of Tech, and files are in the shop in Ford.

## Filing

Begin by filing the rough casting off your bent. Use long smooth strokes in one direction to reveal a smoother and shinier coating on your bent. Use the round file to polish the circle part of the bent at the top. When you feel like you are not filing off much of the rough casting anymore, rotate your bent 90 degrees and continue filing. You will be done with this step after you have removed the rough spots off your bent. This step takes the longest amount of time so take your time and do a good job. All other

steps depend on how well you filed. The goals of this step are to remove the rough casting off your bent and also to get the general shape of your finished bent. At the end of this step, you should have smooth, flat edges on your bent (except at the rounded parts on the top and bottom).

## **Sandpaper**

Once you have finished filing, use the 150 grit sandpaper to smooth out the marks left from filing. You will know when you are done when you can no longer see the marks from the file.

Next, move on to the 300 grit sandpaper. Make your sanding direction perpendicular to the direction of the 150 grit marks. You will once again know when you have used this sandpaper enough because you will not be able to see the marks from the 150 grit sandpaper.

You guessed it! The 600 grit sandpaper is next. Sand the bent in the direction perpendicular to the 300 grit marks until you cannot see the marks from the 300 grit sandpaper.

If you are feeling ambitious and want a higher quality shine on your bent, use 1000 grit sandpaper after the 600 grit step.

## **Brasso**

You should do this step outside or in a large well ventilated room. Pour a little bit of the brasso onto a dry, clean, cotton cloth. Then rub the brasso into the bent but be careful not to get the brasso into the letters of the bent. It will be difficult to remove the brasso from the letters, though, it is possible. The purpose of this step is to smooth out any lines left by the last sandpaper and give your bent a smooth finish.

If you do get brasso in the letters, you can remove it by dipping a pipe cleaner in Windex and then scrubbing the brasso out of the letters with the pipe cleaner.

## **Note:**

Do not file or polish the letters on the bent. They are meant to remain rough because they will stand out better on a smooth polished bent that way.

If you do buy your own sandpaper and brasso, you may want to share with a friend. You will only need about half a sheet of each sandpaper grit and much less than one bottle of brasso.