

First you need to first prep the surface of the console so that it will accept a good bond with the new varnish. The key here is to do as minimal sanding as possible to avoid over sanding and damaging the wood. Note that if you are doing specific area touch up work that any areas that aren't affected by said issue need only 1-pass with the sandpaper, basically "scuffing" the surface is all that's needed to assure a good bond with the varnish. Using 220 grit sandpaper, lightly sand the affected areas going the same direction as the grain. Use very light pressure. Once you see that it is smooth to the touch, this should be sufficient as long as there are no signs of the issue still present. Once you have all surfaces of the wood sanded and scuffed, wipe it down very well with a clean, lint free rag. Microfiber rags are great for this.

The varnishing process is fairly straight forward. You will want to use a foam brush to apply the varnish. You can get a couple different sizes, wide ones for large areas and a little narrower for hard to reach areas. Regarding the can of varnish, it's important not to shake it, as this will create air bubbles and will transfer onto the brush. All that is needed is to gently stir the varnish, then let stand for 20 or so minutes to allow any bubbles that might have been created to dissipate. Then, dip the brush into the varnish and wipe against the lid of the can to remove any excess varnish. Going with the grain, apply the varnish in long, straight strokes. You will want to frequently re-dip the brush to keep it wet. Don't worry if you see any streaks, these will level themselves off shortly after the varnish is applied. Don't be nervous about making any mistakes, as these can be corrected in an additional coat, if needed. An alternative to using a brush to apply the varnish is by spraying. This method is only suggested for larger projects and If you've sprayed painted in the past.