

taking that leather off not hitting your shaft wood, not hitting your ferrule, just hitting the leather. After you've got that down and smooth all the way around - you're rid of that flare - then do the same thing - spit on it, polish it on the rail cloth, bring it up to a shine and now you've got it case hardened again, and everytime you play, you ought to do that at least once during the day's session. Then take your tape off and take some steel wool and clean off any of the adhesive that stayed on, then you can polish that on the table rail too.

Quite often you'll find that a little ridge develops between the wood and the ferrule. This is a common thing on any cue, because we've got two different organic materials that are going to expand and contract at different rates, lose moisture, gain moisture at different rates. You don't like to feel that as it goes through your bridge, so you may want to take it down periodically. I find 600 grit sandpaper will work that down in pretty short order. Don't get in a rush, because if you do, you're going to get the whole thing out of whack. Just take your time and work that ridge down over the whole area. Once you've done that, you're going to find that the wood is all clean right there and back where you've been playing it's dirty, so that's going to bother you. I would suggest that as your final thing you go ahead with the 600 sandpaper and clean the shaft off. You've been playing with the shaft for awhile and you've done something very important; you've gotten some of the oils from your hands into the wood. That's real important to work in there. At this point what I suggest is to take some lighter fluid, swirl it on a rag and then rub the shaft real good. Get that lighter fluid into it. Let it dry five or ten minutes - the lighter fluid is going to help to pull any moisture inside the wood - out. Then take a little piece of leather and just rub the daylights out of that shaft - I mean get it HOT. This is one time you can get some heat to a cue. You normally shouldn't, but when your rubbing the leather on here you'll find that it brings all the hand oils right back to the surface and you've got a real fine finish on the shaft. Under normal conditions, if you're not having to go through the sanding for a little ridge at the ferrule, and you want to clean your shaft, take a slightly damp soft cloth, wipe the grime off - because it's going to happen, I mean playing on any table where there's chalk, or powder and all, you're going to get your hands dirty and it will transfer to the shaft. Use a slightly damp cloth, then take a dry cloth and rub the daylights out of the shaft. If you want to take leather over that and work it up hot and you'll find that you've got a real fine playing surface.

Sometimes you will get a dent or ding in your shaft - you hit a light fixture, or something else. If you get a dent in your shaft, you can raise it out, because remember all that's happened is that the wood has dented in, so the wood's still there - all you have to do is bring it up. Take