Ceramic Paddles

Posted by davidmcm77 - 21 May 2012 16:57

Hello all,

I have a question for those of you that have your ceramic paddles. Now I am aware that they are going to have a little bit of a break in period but mine really seem to be very coarse. My 1200 grit stones sound like 80 grit sand paper and have numerous easily visible pores in them my 1600 grit stones arent as bad but its almost like looking at the face of the moon.

And I actually have some chips in the sides of my 1200 grit stones. Is this normal for the WEPS ceramics? They dont really seem to react or perform like any other ceramic stone I have ever used. Granted the only one I have ever used was the one in my GATCO sharpener I had previously.

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Re: Ceramic Paddles

Posted by eatyourroadkill - 26 May 2012 19:21

Hi Clay

welcome back

thanks for looking into this issue. hope you take time to enjoy the weekend.

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Re: Ceramic Paddles

Posted by zig - 26 May 2012 21:07

Mine are from an older batch.

Looking at them yes, there are pits, I can even put a pen tip in them easily.

Does it effect them, from my experience ... not really.

Once again, I thihink there is enough surface area to compensate, especially with verical and horizontal motion, and it should not effect the performance. Kinda like my beat up strops

Yes, I do need to rub them together ocassionally and also soften the edges, but I expect each and every sharpening medium to have its quirks.

I do a lot of sharpening on belts also ... all are not the same ... I think an answer may be that you have to adapt unless its extreme. If its past adaptability, another story.

One of the things with the WEPS, its so far to the acurate extreme, that you notice oddities that would be ignored using other systems.

I used to go crazy over 1/2 a degree difference between sides ... now, not so much.

Just my 2 cents.

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Re: Ceramic Paddles

Posted by DennisHibar - 27 May 2012 04:00

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Zig,

Let me bring the total to 4 cents. If pitting on the ceramics is not supposed to be ... then it is a defect ... plain and simple. Even Clay has indicated that his very old and heavily used ceramics do not show any signs of pitting. Perhaps with all the pressure which was being placed on the supplier to get these ceramics to Clay to fulfill the large number of long term back-orders which existed led to shortcuts or other unknown variables in the production process. Anyway, we are not talking about a simple difference in something like color ... we are talking about a defect (whether it be minor or potentially major). No one should have to adapt to accommodate a defect, regardless of whether something is major or minor. In any event, I am sure Clay will get to the bottom of this.

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Re: Ceramic Paddles
Posted by zig - 27 May 2012 10:24

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DennisHibar wrote:

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Dennis, as a defect, I agree totally. I was assuming pits are the norm. Adaptability as in I work with diamond paddles diffrently than ceramics, not the same game.

If pits are not meant to be there and is a negative, than pits are not supposed to be there period.

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Re: Ceramic Paddles
Posted by BassLakeDan - 27 May 2012 18:56

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Hope this helps:

(Click on the link parts below to see the video series composed of three parts)

part 1

part 2

part 3

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Re: Ceramic Paddles
Posted by CharlesS - 30 May 2012 13:02

Am I mistaken in thinking that these ceramics should be quite a bit harder than steel? I just picked one of mine up and used a swiss army knife to easily shave a small nick off the end of the 1600. Tried the same thing with my sharpmaker stones (on the corner) and all it did was add a new nick to my blade.

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Re: Ceramic Paddles
Posted by RalphHoneycutt - 30 May 2012 13:32

I purchased two sets of the 1200/1600 ceramics. I experienced a lot of dusting (with both 1200 & 1600) on the 1st set. Both sets are very porous (no magnification required to see this). The 1st set was noticably softer than the 2nd set. I have only sharpened 4-5 knives (total) with the two sets.

I have not tried, but I believe both sets could be easily scored with a butter knife. There is no comparison of these 1200/1600 ceramics with the Spyderco Sharpmaker ceramics. The Sharpmaker ceramics are much harder. I am anxious to hear Clay's comments regarding the quality of these. I am not in a hurry to send them back because of waiting so long for these.

I thought I understood from another thread on this forum that the Coorstek Ceramics should be available by now.

In the meantime the Shaptons and Choseras do an excellent job. At this point, I prefer the Shaptons (much quicker, IMO)

Ralph

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Re: Ceramic Paddles

Posted by wickededge - 30 May 2012 13:59

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Hey guys,

I haven't formulated any solid opinions yet though I have spent the last two days testing the new batch vs the old and comparing them with the new Coorstek stones (yep, they're in and I'm checking them out, so far I'm very pleased but we're still experimenting with adhering them to the handles since they are much less porous than our other ceramics.) I've also spent a fair amount of time on the phone with the owner of the company that manufactures our ceramics, bringing him up to speed on all the comments and issues. He has also read through the forum posts to see what's going on. I'll be posting his responses once he gets them emailed over. He did brief me on their QA/QC procedure and equipment and educated me as to why there is more or less pitting depending on each batch: the pitting occurs most on the blue stone and happens as a result of the burnout of the cobalt that is used for coloration. There is a fair amount of variation of the burnout between the batches which reflects in more or less pitting. He also explained the initial powdering of the surface of the stones though I'll wait for his technical explanation before posting it. I'm most concerned with performance and longevity of the stones which is why I'm testing a new set against my old set. My first step has been to work on breaking in the new set. I've got a little more work to do there before I will flatten both sets and study the finish they produce and their wear rates.

So far I've found that the new Coorstek stones definitely need to be broken in - the first few edges were rough and somewhat chipped but that has since calmed down and the edges are looking really nice. The Coorstek stones are much harder than the Superfine ceramics though I don't yet see a performance advantage yet to the extra hardness. If anything, I like the friability of the Superfine stones.

Ken from the manufacturer of the Superfine stones recommends using either oil or water on the stones, which I agree with - I like using a little spray bottle of water with a drop of dish soap to keep the stones lubricated during use. If you use water, make sure you use filtered or distilled water to eliminate hard minerals.

So far, I'm not as worried about the stones as I was a couple of days ago; I'll keep posting as I learn more.

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Re: Ceramic Paddles

Posted by wickededge - 30 May 2012 14:16

Here are some quotes from the manufacturer of the stones:

"After reading over the forum I really think that your customers are just seeing the kiln edge of the stones. I read where some of them are saying that if they rub the two stones together the problem goes away. We do offer shoot siding at $.15 per stone. You can also do this yourself at assembly by rubbing the stones together.

I also recommend using cutting oil with these stones. It will give you a better stone life and performance.

We checked your stone QC history and your GOM is set at 50-70 range. The last two orders has run 50-53 that is the hard side, not soft. Our GOM test is the best way to test friability, hardness, and ware ability of stone. This is a $900,000.00 QC test. It is second to none. All stones shipped to Hollow Point passed all of Tennessee Abrasive manufacturing specifications."

I'm getting ready to flatten the old and new stones and do some side-by-side comparisons. Images and results to follow.

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Re: Ceramic Paddles

Posted by davidmcm77 - 30 May 2012 14:22

Clay,

How do you suggest flattening the stones? My 1600 stones seem flat with each other. But the 1200 stones are definitely dished fairly significantly and only after doing 5 knives with them. Granted I did not check them for flatness before I started using them.

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