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 wickededge - 30 May 2012 14:50

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davidmcm77 wrote:

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.

I rub them against one of the diamonds stones under running water. It helps to draw a grid in pencil to visualize where more work needs to be done - when all the pencil is gone, you should be all set. I usually use my 600 or 800 grit stones for the job. Ken Schwartz has posted extensively on flattening stones here: Flattening Stones

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Re: Ceramic Paddles
Posted by wickededge - 30 May 2012 16:56

I've messed around with my old set and new set all day after flattening both. I'm not getting any more powder coming off the new ones and the results under the microscope look very similar. Wear up to this point seems negligible on both sets. Once I've had some more time to interpret the images, I'll organize them and post them but my first glances at them don't indicate any real big differences (aside from that fact that *everything* looks big at 510x). I'll keep posting as I learn more, but I'm feeling more and more confident in this batch.

I wish I had one of BassLakeDan's sharpness testing jigs - that would be a wonderful way to compare

the stones!

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Re: Ceramic Paddles
Posted by wickededge - 30 May 2012 17:07

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I retested honing oil on the ceramics and I don't recommend it. I get as good or better results with slightly soapy water. The oil causes the stones to come off of the handles.

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Re: Ceramic Paddles
Posted by DennisHibar - 30 May 2012 17:31

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Clay ...

Thanks so much for all the effort you are putting in to investigate what may or may not be an issue with the new ceramics. For me, the concern was not so much the powder, but the pitting. If using them like this is okay ... I am alright with that. I do remember you mentioning a while ago when you were doing grit progression images, that you did a test with the wetting down the ceramics. It was interesting to see that the manufacturer recommends wetting the down. You are handling a vise issue for me ... but once I am back up and running, I'll be using the ceramics, sprayed down a little with distilled water. Again, thanks.

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Re: Ceramic Paddles
Posted by RalphHoneycutt - 07 Jun 2012 11:08

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I had indicated in an earlier post that I was having problems with dusting when using the Superfine ceramics. The problem apparently went away after 6-8 sharpening sessions. Also, it is possible that I could have using the 1200/1600 ceramics in a too heavy handed fashion. I started using filtered water with a bit of dish soap as previously suggested by Mark76 and Clay(I think). The results are excellent.

Also, I received the Coorstek Ceramics yesterday. These ultrafine ceramics work great right out of the box. I followed the Superfine Ceramics with the New Ultrafine (Coorstek) Ceramics. The amount of time spent stropping down to 0.5u is very fast to achieve the desired edge.

I think the difference in the Superfine and Coorstek Ceramics is significant. While the Superfine Ceramics appear to be more porous than the Coorstek Ceramics, the difference in results are amazing.

I have consciously tried to lighten up on the pressure with the both sets of ceramics. My results have improved significantly. In my next post, I will try to include a few photos. So many knives, so little time!

Ralph

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Re: Ceramic Paddles
Posted by StevenPinson - 12 Jun 2012 08:52

Adding to the fray:

Anybody seen this as a failure mode or defect yet on their paddles?

i1133.photobucket.com/albums/m599/SPIN1963/DSCN0129.jpg

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Re: Ceramic Paddles
Posted by eatyourroadkill - 12 Jun 2012 09:03

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ouch .. that sucks

i have used my ceramics twice since this thread started and do not have your problem.

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Re: Ceramic Paddles
Posted by BobNash - 12 Jun 2012 12:13

StevenPinson wrote:

Adding to the fray:

Anybody seen this as a failure mode or defect yet on their paddles?

i1133.photobucket.com/albums/m599/SPIN1963/DSCN0129.jpg

"ouch .. that sucks" x2

Never seen or heard of that in my time at WE or since. A few with cracks running across the short dimension - like maybe the stone wasn't quite flat across the length and pressure cracked them. I'd call in and talk with Kyle or Kay and get a new set on the way. Out of curiosity did they crack like that in use? (looks like a crack anyway - is that what is happening?
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Re: Ceramic Paddles
Posted by wickededge - 12 Jun 2012 12:41

StevenPinson wrote:

Adding to the fray:

Anybody seen this as a failure mode or defect yet on their paddles?

i1133.photobucket.com/albums/m599/SPIN1963/DSCN0129.jpg

We haven't seen that before! Please send it in.

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Re: Ceramic Paddles
Posted by StevenPinson - 12 Jun 2012 13:02

Hey Bob & Clay,

Just got off the phone with Kyle (see him for details) and they will be headed your way. How I found the problem was I had the powder/pitted issue with them. I had used them on a few knives and not really seen very good results with or without water so I decided to flatten both grits (1200/1600). After the flattening I cleaned them with DI and a drop of dawn, rinsed them with distilled, then air dryed them. When I picked them back up to inspect before putting them in my plano box I noticed the crack ... the

other three sides look ok but the one 1600 grit side did not (QED).

Oddly if you look at the picture you will see the crack migrates down the outer wall of the pitted material but does not migrate to the end of the brick (as far as I can see without destructive testing).

I sent an email to the info addy with a analysis and now Kyle has it as well.

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