# Ascending Stone Progression at 800x

Posted by wickededge - 17 Aug 2012 11:46

---

Here is a fun study I started this morning - I'm taking a series of identical blades through the different stones I have. I started with the 50# diamonds and so far have progressed up through the 1um strops. So, without further hesitation, here are the images:

50# Diamond Stone

**Zoom**

80# Diamond Stone

**Zoom**

It's difficult to clean the edge of the blade since it's so toothy and snags just about everything it touches. There is some residue on the edge, especially in the 50# image.

==========

# Re: Ascending Stone Progression at 800x

Posted by PhilipPasteur - 21 Aug 2012 11:54

---

I hope you do get a GOOD answer. It would drive me slightly nuts to have something like that microscope and not be able to use it to the max extent of its capabilities (especially considering the price!!!).

Heck, I am impatient to see what it does... and I didn't even pay for it

Good luck with it!

Phil

==========

# Re: Ascending Stone Progression at 800x

Posted by WolfsLair - 26 Jan 2013 19:53

---

Clay, I hope you can find an ideal number of degrees to back off when moving to stropping with split bovine.  I love how fast chromium oxide on split bovine can polish out all scratch marks, but it is so easy to round the edge. Once you work the paste or spray into the split bovine, those little fingers just polish away.

==========

# Re: Ascending Stone Progression at 800x

Posted by PhilipPasteur - 26 Jan 2013 21:22

---

Hi,

What kind of chromium oxide are you using?

I have a bunch of it and they all seem to have considerably different actual grit levels. It seems that some, as in from HA is rated at 0.5 microns nominal. I have some that is no name stuff that I have read is closer to 6 microns and contains more aluminum oxide than CrO... Typically the 0.5 micron CrO wouldn't be a great scratch remover. Just wondering what you are using that does such a great job for you.

I know that you addressed Clay directly, but let me take a swing at this.

Most people say that 1 to 2 degrees more acute (lower) is a good place to start trying for stropping. I tend to use about a degree less for horse leather...and whisper light strokes. BTW, this is in general, I have never used CrO on WEPS paddles.

If you use more pressure, maybe try 1.5 or 2 degrees lower. I think there is no "ideal"... "**it depends**" (there is that equivocation again ☺) on the materials that you use and your technique. Do some experimenting and see what works for you. I don't think that Clay nor anyone else can determine that for you. The best you will get is some suggestions on where to start trying things.

Phil

==========

# Re: Ascending Stone Progression at 800x

Posted by Geocyclist - 26 Jan 2013 22:35

---

I use 1 degree.  I think it depends entirely on your pressure.  if you go very, very light strokes the maybe the same angle would work.

With the first strop I can tell in about 5 - 10 strokes how the angle is working.  The polish is good enough to see if I am hitting alof the bevel.

==========

## Re: Ascending Stone Progression at 800x

Posted by cbwx34 - 27 Jan 2013 08:30

---

**WolfsLair wrote:**

Clay, I hope you can find an ideal number of degrees to back off when moving to stropping with split bovine.  I love how fast chromium oxide on split bovine can polish out all scratch marks, but it is so easy to round the edge. Once you work the paste or spray into the split bovine, those little fingers just polish away.

If you're talking about losing the "bite" of an edge, one thing you  can try, is to  add it back in. Clay has posted this somewhere (that I can't find right now), but basically, after stropping, raise the angle a couple of degrees, and with your finest stone or ceramic, make a couple of passes.  This will leave your polished edge, but return the bite.

==========

## Re: Ascending Stone Progression at 800x

Posted by cbwx34 - 29 Mar 2013 09:49

---

Thought I'd add this to this thread, since I pulled some pictures from it.

On edges I finish with a leather strop, I've been finishing them by stropping 1 deg. higher.  For reasons that seem to defy what "should" happen, this leaves me with an edge much sharper, yet without the loss of "bite" that many try to avoid when using leather.

On my last visit to WE, I took a blade that I had stropped after the 1K diamond stone, for Clay to put under the 'scope..  I compared it to a couple of photos in this thread...

Here 1 deg. higher (bottom) compared to an edge stropped 4 deg. higher (top)

Here 1 deg. higher (middle) between an edge stropped 2 deg. lower (left), and the 4 deg. higher again (right)

While just one blade, It does seem to show that the edge gets cleaned up without significant rounding. I'm using very light pressure, and the increased angle seems to facilitate this. Pressure probably plays a role, as indicated where Clay was able to take the 2 deg. lower edge (top) and round it by increasing the pressure (bottom) (shown earlier in this thread) ...

So, just thought I'd share, since it's working well for me, this might give at least one clue why, and see if others want to try it and post their results.

==========