Angle Gauge & Stropping Questions

Posted by ARES - 10 Oct 2012 06:15

I have another, potentially dumb, question. What exactly is the Angle Gauge for and how can you use it? I've seen it attached to the arms, which I assume is to make sure your systems angle settings are correct, but is that its only purpose? I am interested in whether or not this can be used to check the factory angles on a knife, and if so, how? Can it only be used by attaching it to the WE arms? I have had a few knives come brand new with two very different angles and so I think this would be useful to find the angle on the 'good side' and match it. I think it would also be useful to check what angles my knives are after using the Lansky, which is known for having inaccurate angle settings. I was not planning on buying this, or the PP2, but if the Angle Gauge can do all these things that I'm interested in then I might just have to opt for the PP2.

I also have a question about stropping. No matter which system I buy I know I'm getting the 1.4/.6 micron Ceramic Stone, so my question is, what strop/micron would be the best next step? I see the PP2 comes with the Ceramic that I want plus a 1/.5 micron leather strops, but is there a better option instead of this particular strop? And what kind of strop would be best for polishing without convexing my edge? Right now I use Balsa with 1/.5 micron paste but only for my straight (non recurve) blades, I do this by hand though because I don't have a WE system yet.
I was thinking about Balsa with .25/.125 spray but I'm not sure if this is adequate after using the 1.4/.6 Ceramic. But I've seen that Nano and Roo are really popular so I thought I would ask and see if Balsa is the best option for me or not. I've never tried Leather for two reasons; first reason is that I just started trying to learn how to strop and if I mess up on Leather I might ruin it and if I mess up on Balsa and ruin it I can just sand it down and start over, second and really the more important reason is that I don't want to convex my edge and I read that over time stropping with leather WILL convex the edge. But I have no experience with Nano or Roo Leather, and even though I believe they would both probably convex my edge, I still wanted to ask and make sure that I'm not missing out on the best possible option because of an assumption.

Again, thank you ALL for the help!

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Re: Angle Gauge & Stropping Questions

Posted by TPeters - 12 Oct 2012 19:12

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cbwx34 wrote:

Something like this what you're looking for?

www.fingerlakeswoodturners.com/downloads...rit%20Comparison.pdf

or

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandpaper#Grit_size_table

(Type "grit micron sandpaper" in google, and you'll get a bunch of examples.)

This is the information that I was looking for, thank you.

As Phil stated I also noticed that the sand paper is roughly equivalent to the 1000 grit diamond stones. My experience with the sand paper is similar to some of the other members after the 1000 grit diamond the sand paper starts to bring out a nice polish. I enjoy trying all the different options just trying to make sense out of what I am experiencing

This is such a fun hobby!

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Re: Angle Gauge & Stropping Questions

Posted by PhilipPasteur - 12 Oct 2012 19:55

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Hey guys, I was at work when I replied before

Here is a link to a similar discussion:

www.wickededgeusa.com/index.php?option=c...0&Itemid=63#5566

Clay makes a very good point about the difference in not only the size of the abrasive , but the way it behaves as it breaks down...

drastically changing the results that you get.

I got my WEPs a good while back. I could not even find the 800/1000 grit paddles.... nor much else in the way of abrasives. I bought a bunch of wet/dry sandpaper (1000, 1500, 2000, 2500, 3000) and a whole assortment of the 3M PSA films. I had nothing other than the abrasive papers and the diamonds up to 600 grit. I would stick the sandpaper to the 600 grit plates with painters tape, work up to the 3000 grit (P), then to the 9/3/1 micron 3M PSA film. I had some WEPS 5/3.5 micron leather strops. I would finish with those. I promise that I got some awesome edges with that progression.

The only problem that I had was that the papers and films would wear real fast. I could only do 2 to 3 knives with them before I thought they had lost effectiveness.

Here is another link to some discussion of abrasive papers:

www.wickededgeusa.com/index.php?option=c...0&Itemid=63#3798

And some more:

www.wickededgeusa.com/index.php?option=c...5&Itemid=63#3245

More interesting reading:

www.wickededgeusa.com/index.php?option=c...0&Itemid=63#2378

BTW, the search function is great stuff... but I am happy to do the leg work when I have time!

Phil

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Re: Angle Gauge & Stropping Questions

Posted by PhilipPasteur - 12 Oct 2012 20:17

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www.bladeforums.com/forums/showthread.ph...ied-Grit-Chart/page3

One thing about the above..

Not sure if you folks have had a chance to look at the final edtion on page three of the above thread...

But, it has all of the grit sizes for the WEPS stones as well as the Chosera stones and Shaptons.. plus the sandpaper grits and EP stones. I downloaded it and keep a copy on my desktop on my main PC. It comes in real handy quite often.

Of course, the size of the grit is just one component of what determines your results when using any abrasive for sharpening... and undoubtedly not the most important component. You can easily see this just by checking out reviews for the different stones that are in the same grit size range.

Phil

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Re: Angle Gauge & Stropping Questions
Posted by ARES - 12 Oct 2012 21:32

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Alot of very good advice. Thank you guys for all the info and for digging up so many links. Its amazing what can be done with some sandpaper. Ill have to look around town and see whats available. I dont want to go too fine, because I do like my edge a bit toothy, but I also like it clean and reflective. The most Ive done on an edge was on my Griptilian 550HG, I reprofiled the edge to 20* per side on my Lansky (which some people say is closer to 17*) started at 70 grit diamonds and ended with 2000 grit ceramic (Super Sapphire), then I went to the UF rods on my Sharpmaker, and ended stropping on Balsa with 1/.5 micron pastes, which got my edge to a nice polish (not a mirror polish) but kept the edge a nice and toothy-ish. That was my first hair whittling edge. I dont have good consistency with the Lansky though, thats another reason I want to upgrade.

Its good to know the leather wont completely convex my edge, Id like to try out a good leather strop now, maybe see what that Roo is all about.

Thanks again you guys, tons of great info since the last time I was online. Those micron charts are nice to have, but I know they arnt the only variable on the results of any knife. But its still good to have a chart like that to refer to.

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Re: Angle Gauge & Stropping Questions
Posted by ApexGS - 12 Oct 2012 22:18

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[quote="TPeters" post=5926]**cbwx34 wrote:**

I enjoy trying all the different options just trying to make sense out of what I am experiencing

This is such a fun hobby!

Yep!

I'm the same way, I got the paper just to try, but have been very surprised and pleased with the results.

Like I mentioned, I tend to use sandpaper much longer after most people consider it worn out

I think I've done 4 knives with the current set of strips, and they're holding up well. I'll do another three or four this weekend and see what the longevity is though. I'll use 'em to death

ARES: After some practice you can experiment with micro-bevels using the 1000 grit or higher stones. Clay has mentioned that he often uses that technique to keep a nice mirror shine on his bevels to show off, but retain a tougher cutting edge with some tooth. Definitely something I'm going to start playing with myself in the near future, now that I have the ability to get a really nice shine. It'll only improve once I can budget more goodies!

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Re: Angle Gauge & Stropping Questions

Posted by PhilipPasteur - 12 Oct 2012 23:49

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This is what got me going with the abrasive papers...

It is long, and I don't now agree with some of it...

but it is still impressive:

Phil

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Re: Angle Gauge & Stropping Questions

Posted by cbwx34 - 13 Oct 2012 10:29

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I polished a Leek with 2500g sandpaper... I don't think a 1000g diamond stone would leave this...

(You hit on the secret... the more you use it, the finer it gets.)

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Re: Angle Gauge & Stropping Questions

Posted by PhilipPasteur - 13 Oct 2012 12:10

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CBW,

Of course you are correct on both counts. The 1000 grit plates will not polish like the sandpaper at 2500 grit (FEPA-P), and the more you use the sandpaper, the less grit there is to do the job...and what is still there has generally fractured and become equivalent to a much finer grit. The only problem here is that it takes forever to get results once the paper is worn. This is surely the secret to a finer polish, but also to spending much more time getting there.

One can do a very nice job with sandpapers... and even better if some of the 3M lapping paper is added at finer grit levels. But,if the option to get some of the ceramics or Choseras, or Shaptons is there, you can get an even better polish and edge with better consistency over time (and not having to mess with changing paper, storing it, and having to continually replace it). I am happy that I went through the process of learning to use the sandpapers to their best effect (I still have a large supply of sandpaper and 3M film), but I am really glad that I have now gotten the stone selection that I use today. It took me close to two years to get there, but it is worth it.

I still want to get a full set of the 4 grits in the WEPS ceramics to give them a try, but that will be a bit later.

Just saying, if the opportunity arrises for anyone to try some of the finer grit stones, you will be happy that you did. If you do lots of sharpening, they will also end up being cheaper to use in terms of time savings, convenience, and material costs.

Phil

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