Shapton vs. Chosera WEPS Stones - The Great Debate

Posted by jendeindustries - 30 Sep 2011 08:43

There will soon be a lot of questions about Shapton and Chosera stones for the WEPS. This is a good thing.

Shapton and Chosera stones are the Lamborghini and Ferrari in the synthetic stone world, and they compete head to head - much like Coke and Pepsi.

It is my hope that people will come here to ask questions, and discuss their experiences with the Shapton and Chosera WEPS stones in general, along with the use of specific stones, or a specific series. If you have stones from both series, I'd like to get some discussions about comparisons, nuances, and the pros and cons between them.

The goal of the thread is to help people make their own informed decision by reading for themselves what other people are getting out of their stone choices. It's not about arguing over which series will be declared the sole master of the universe. It's about finding out which one is best for a given situation, and about enhancing the overall experience of using your WEPS in general.

FWIW, I have and use all the Chosera *and* Shapton Pro stones (including the 30K) for the WEPS. While the list may be small right now, I hope to soon meet more people on their sharpening journeys who also have all these great toys and can share their thoughts and experiences with the rest of us.

So, let the great debate begin!

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Re: Shapton vs. Chosera WEPS Stones - The Great Debate

Posted by jendeindustries - 28 Oct 2011 05:25

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mr.cheapguy wrote:

Now you have reminded me of a question I think of everytime I go the distance with my stones. Should I be wetting or oiling the WE Ceramic stones when using them?

I do believe the Wicked Edge ceramic 1200 and 1600 paddles are meant to be used dry. I recommend periodically cleaning the paddles with clean water and a scrub brush. Using them dry collects the dust and swarf in the pores of the stone making it less aggressive.

Shaptons and Choseras should only ever use water, BTW.

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Re: Shapton vs. Chosera WEPS Stones - The Great Debate
Posted by leomitch - 28 Oct 2011 05:33

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You believe correctly Tom. The ceramics should be used dry...and cleaning them every so often is excellent advice.

Cheers

Leo

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Re: Shapton vs. Chosera WEPS Stones - The Great Debate
Posted by ToJo - 28 Oct 2011 07:02

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Thanks for the info,

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Re: Shapton vs. Chosera WEPS Stones - The Great Debate
Posted by dschur - 28 Oct 2011 09:06

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I usually clean my ceramics every 10 knives or so with a still brush and soapy water. I will sometimes do the diamonds at the same time.

Recently I have switched to Barkeepers Friend as I had some on hand anyway and I saw someone suggested it. I found it to work even better restoring the ceramics, but little difference on the diamonds.

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Re: Shapton vs. Chosera WEPS Stones - The Great Debate
Posted by komitadjie - 28 Oct 2011 09:49

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BKF works great on ceramics in general, I use it to keep my Sharpmaker rods clean and clear of swarf.

Probably will have no effect at all on the diamond plates, they don't retain swarf the way a ceramic will.

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Re: Shapton vs. Chosera WEPS Stones - The Great Debate
Posted by gofly - 28 Oct 2011 13:13

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What is this bar keepers friend you guys talk about, I never had heard of it before, I just use a little comet to clean the ceramics.

Lucky

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Re: Shapton vs. Chosera WEPS Stones - The Great Debate
Posted by komitadjie - 28 Oct 2011 13:18

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It is a powdered cleanser very similar to Comet, except that it has a very mild acid in it that actually eats the swarf due to it's huge surface area. Oxalic acid, if I recall correctly.

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Re: Shapton vs. Chosera WEPS Stones - The Great Debate
Posted by Seapig - 01 Nov 2011 04:21

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komitadjie wrote:

Dumb question, though, is anyone else getting kind of a binding, "sticking at the corners" feeling from the pivots? It's almost like the little universals are twisting against each other and not turning smoothly. Think I might need to add a dab of high-pressure grease to the joints.

Off topic, but...

I'm having exactly that problem with one of the arms. The other one is super smooth at all angles. It's extremely aggravating because it slows everything down. It gets stuck on every stroke and I have to futz with/wiggle it to get it to release. I think it has to do with the tightness of the pivot (black piece near setscrew). On the smooth arm, there is no play at all, and on the bad one it sits very loose within it's seat (socket?). It's as if the play allows it twist and bind on the edge. I'm hoping I can get a whole new arm assembly. It not only affects the smoothness of sharpening, but when I extend both arms out to the side and measure with an angle gauge, the sticky arm sits a full 6 degrees lower than the smooth arm. That can't be good. As I said... aggravating.

I thought about trying some grease or lubricant, but I figured it would just get caked with metalic dust and actually be worse in the long run.

EDIT: Just read the rest of the comments. Microlon? Gonna have to Google that.

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Re: Shapton vs. Chosera WEPS Stones - The Great Debate

Posted by komitadjie - 03 Nov 2011 11:31

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I just added a drop of Kroil myself, it's a fairly standard penetrating oil, and is definitely NOT ideal as a lubricant. I figure that if mine ever starts getting too caked up with gunk, I'll just take them to the sink and scrub 'em down with some Simple Green to take it all off, then add another drop of oil.

It took care of the problem entirely for me. I've now actually got just a tad bit of "Slick 50" Teflon-bearing lube on them.

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Re: Shapton vs. Chosera WEPS Stones - The Great Debate

Posted by mark76 - 03 Feb 2012 17:43

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Hi all,

I have only discovered this thread just now, 3 months after the last post

How do you guys get your Shapton paddles made? I read about getting blank paddles from WE and then sending them to CKTG who will mount the stones. But I find nothing about this on the CKTG site and also nothing about blank paddles on the WE site.

jendeindustries wrote:

I did a microscope progression with the WEPS diamonds, then the WEPS ceramic 1200/1600 and jumped to the Chosera 5K, which I'm writing up on my blog (hopefully it will be ready in a couple of days..)

This is what I had been thinking about for some time, since I have the 100/200, 400/600 and 800/1000 diamond stones, as well as the 1200/1600 ceramic stones. What would be the best (and efficient) Chosera stone to continue with? 5K or lower? (Couldn't find that on your blog, Tom.) And what would be the best Shapton stone to continue with after my full sequence with the WE stones? 5K as well, as suggested by the grit comparison chart?

Thanks,

Mark

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