Pro-Pack II Ceramic Stone Question
Posted by JoelFiorentini - 20 Oct 2012 17:24

Hi all. I am looking at the Pro-Pack II and am confused about the ceramic stones. I see it includes the Micro Fine Micro Ceramic Stones(1.4 micron/.6 micron) but not the Super Fine Ceramic Stones(1200/1600). I don't understand the jump to the Micro Fine from the included 1000 Grit Diamond Stones without first using the Super Fine Ceramics. Would I need to also consider including these stones when I am able to purchase. My goal is a hair whittling mirrored finish in the end! Thanks.

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Re: Pro-Pack II Ceramic Stone Question
Posted by Geocyclist - 20 Oct 2012 18:19

Good question. I was wondering the same.

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Re: Pro-Pack II Ceramic Stone Question
Posted by KyleMazur - 20 Oct 2012 19:45

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i know there was an issue with the formula or the manufacturing of the original superfine ceramic stones. It has been sorted out according to clay and mine should be here very soon. that might be the reason.

i know that for me, going 1000 to 5 micron is too big a jump so i've been using 1500 and 2000 wet/dry sand paper

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Re: Pro-Pack II Ceramic Stone Question
Posted by Scott Sherman - 20 Oct 2012 22:19

JoelFiorentini wrote:

Hi all. I am looking at the Pro-Pack II and am confused about the ceramic stones. I see it includes the Micro Fine Micro Ceramic Stones(1.4 micron/.6 micron) but not the Super Fine Ceramic Stones(1200/1600). I don't understand the jump to the Micro Fine from the included 1000 Grit Diamond Stones without first using the Super Fine Ceramics. Would I need to also consider including these stones when I am able to purchase. My goal is a hair whittling mirrored finish in the end! Thanks.

For what it's worth, I will offer my .02 worth. Which is really all it's worth. I need to say that I am a new

customer and new to sharpening and polishing, but having said that, I have got all the WEPS diamond stones from 50 to 1000 and the super and micro ceramics and strops 5>3.5>1>.5 and a kangaroo strop. I have been experimenting a bit but I have only had this total collection since yesterday when I got my super ceramic 1200-1600.

A couple of things I have learned are that it takes more strokes than I thought it would from one grit to the next to get to the mirror stage successfully. You can definitely get there with the PP2 as it is, but your right there is a big gap. Today I re-profiled a new Buck 110 Hunter. I started with a new 50 grit diamond stone which is about like using a rasp file, especially in it's new state. I went to the 1000 then to the 1200, then the 5 m paste on leather then the 3.5 m paste then on to the 1600 ceramic. At this point I see the scratches left by the progressive diamonds begin to become finer and not as deep. When I did not have the 1200-1600 I was working with much more coarse deeper scratches and it took a lot longer to remove them. So predictably, the 1200-1600 is a good stone to prep for a finer stone like the micro ceramic which is a glassy ceramic and more like a polishing stone than a sharpening stone in my opinion. The 1200-1600 is not a polishing stone in the sense that you will not see a mirror begin to emerge and has minimal sharpening qualities but it is a good in between stone.

So it kind of comes down to how much time and energy and money you are you okay with spending to get to the mirror polishing stage. I have only sharpened four knives including an Elmax steel, ZT 560, (a pretty hard steel). I have not actually achieved what I would call a perfect scratch free mirror shine yet but my blades are push sharp with the weight of the blade to cut copy paper and I can read reflected print when I put my blade on printed paper. Each successive knife however has been shinier and closer to the scratch free "perfect" mirror polish (to my eye). Like I said in the beginning, I am still learning how many strokes it takes to optimize each stones potential to prepare for the following stone.

Not sure if I actually answered your question, but I am still in learning mode myself and thought it might be helpful for you to hear some of my limited experience. I am sure there are others here who can answer your question much better.

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Re: Pro-Pack II Ceramic Stone Question

Posted by Billabong - 21 Oct 2012 06:04

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Scott Sherman wrote:

So predictably, the 1200-1600 is a good stone to prep for a finer stone like the micro ceramic which is a glassy ceramic and more like a polishing stone than a sharpening stone in my opinion.

Thought I read to go to the coarse side of the micro ceramics "before" the 1200/1600, then back to the fine side of the micro ceramics?

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Re: Pro-Pack II Ceramic Stone Question
Posted by 4jlcc - 21 Oct 2012 09:46

Thanks to everyone that has replied. I found a chart that might help . www.knifeforums.com/forums/fbbuploads/1316340409-Grit_Table.png
If I am understanding this chart than 1000 grit stones = 7.0 microns, 1200 grit = 5.0 microns, 1600 grit = 2.8 microns (Super Fine Ceramics), and the Micro Fine Ceramics are 1.4 microns and .6 microns. If this is correct information than the Super Fine Ceramics might help to bridge the gap before the Micro Fine Ceramics.

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Re: Pro-Pack II Ceramic Stone Question
Posted by FredHermann - 21 Oct 2012 10:30

One thing I'm not sure about, the ceramics are to be used dry correct? Not wet like an Arkansas stone?

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Re: Pro-Pack II Ceramic Stone Question
Posted by JoelFiorentini - 21 Oct 2012 10:37

My understanding is that they are meant to be used dry.

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Re: Pro-Pack II Ceramic Stone Question
Posted by wickededge - 21 Oct 2012 10:48

FredHermann wrote:

One thing I'm not sure about, the ceramics are to be used dry correct? Not wet like an Arkansas stone?

They can be used wet or dry and I alternate both methods a lot. If I'm looking for an extremely polished edge, I'll use them wet. By wet I mean only slightly damp with soapy water.

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Re: Pro-Pack II Ceramic Stone Question
Posted by 4jlcc - 21 Oct 2012 11:03

Thanks Clay. I will remember that method and hopefully try it someday.

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