# Strop Care & Maintenance

Posted by dschur - 20 Aug 2011 18:17

---

Clay, I was wondering if you could share your routine for strop care and maintenance.

How often would you guess you reload diamond paste on your strops? For example In how many knives (at say 100 or 200 strokes per knife)? Do you get through 5, 10, 25, 50 knives? How do you know when to reload?

Do you ever totally clean them (i.e. scrub them down with a brush/soapy water, dry and load new compound)?

Thanks for any tips! I already picked up off your vids to alcohol wipe between strops, and store them same size together in a ziploc.

If you don't mind, I'll post some of my newb questions here rather than calling so all can benefit.

Thanks

Dave

==========

# Re: Strop Care & Maintenance

Posted by dschur - 05 Apr 2012 14:51

---

cows?

Sorry, couldn't resist

Based on the original leather, I would think a quality 6oz veggie tanned but not dyed leather (the type used in crafts and for tooling) would be great.  I'd look on eBay (I bought some great 10oz armor leather on there a few weeks ago that I use as a mat and when cleaning guns). That said, I have many small nicks in my WE leather strops, and I have no plans to replace it any time soon, then again I am not going down to sub micron sprays.

==========

# Re: Strop Care & Maintenance
Posted by mark76 - 05 Apr 2012 15:23

_____

**dschur wrote:**

cows?

Sorry, couldn't resist

Based on the original leather, I would think a quality 6oz veggie tanned but not dyed leather (the type used in crafts and for tooling) would be great.  I'd look on eBay (I bought some great 10oz armor leather on there a few weeks ago that I use as a mat and when cleaning guns). That said, I have many small nicks in my WE leather strops, and I have no plans to replace it any time soon, then again I am not going down to sub micron sprays.

Good point, I also have two strops with many small nicks. When loaded with the WE compounds they work just as well as some brand new ones. My microscope confirms that. Could indeed be different when you enter the sub-micron space.

==========

# Re: Strop Care & Maintenance
Posted by wickededge - 05 Apr 2012 15:30

_____

**mark76 wrote:**

**dschur wrote:**

cows?

Sorry, couldn't resist

Based on the original leather, I would think a quality 6oz veggie tanned but not dyed leather (the type used in crafts and for tooling) would be great.  I'd look on eBay (I bought some great 10oz armor leather on there a few weeks ago that I use as a mat and when cleaning guns). That said, I have many small nicks in my WE leather strops, and I have no plans to replace it any time soon, then again I am not going

down to sub micron sprays.

Good point, I also have two strops with many small nicks. When loaded with the WE compounds they work just as well as some brand new ones. My microscope confirms that. Could indeed be different when you enter the sub-micron space.

You guys would probably be appalled to see how beat up I let my strops get and still just use them like crazy and love the results. I only change them out to go to shows where they have to look nice.

==========

## Re: Strop Care & Maintenance

Posted by wmarq9237 - 15 Apr 2012 19:32

_____

Clay, have you tried any other leather for the strops i.e. Elk, Deer, Buffalo, Pig, Shark, Stingray etc. What is the thickness of the hides that you use for the strops? Bill

==========