Diamond Sprays

Posted by MartinL1 - 02 Dec 2012 01:08

I was wondering which diamond spray is best to use, and also if I can use it on my regular leather strops.

I was searching and came across two brands of diamond spray;

1) HA Diamond spray (which everyone seems to know) or

2) Little Stropper Diamond spray

www.vintageshavingshoppe.com/servlet/the...ng-Sprays/Categories

I currently use my stones from 50-1600 grit and then tape 2000, 2500 grit sandpaper to the ceramics, then strop with 5um and 3.5um to get a mirror finish, however I want to take it to the next level and use diamond sprays.

I have an extra set of blank leather strops and was wondering if I'd be able to use the sprays on it effectively.

I was looking to get the 1um and 0.5um spray but do not know the quality of the brands.

Any advice would help!!

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Re: Diamond Sprays

Posted by wickededge - 02 Dec 2012 11:25

MartinL1 wrote:

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Any advice would help!!

The 1um and 0.5um sprays on your blank leather strops would be a great next step and I think you'll love the results. I find that I don't need much paste when using my strops. The sprays are a different story - I find that my results are much faster if I'm somewhat liberal in reapplying the sprays. I don't apply the spray at every sharpening session, maybe 1:3 applications:sessions. In between applications, I keep the leather moist by spraying it with some rubbing alcohol.

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Re: Diamond Sprays
Posted by Geocyclist - 02 Dec 2012 14:40

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This raises a few questions for me:

1.) What is the difference between the 1 and 0.5 paste vs. 1 and 0.5 spray? Theoretically the particulate size is the same? But how does the medium, paste vs. liquid change the stopping characteristics?

2.) Why use alcohol (vs. water?) What does alcohol do that you like Clay? I would think it would evaporate quickly. I saw Smoke Eater on youtube uses alcohol (a lot of it) for cleaning strops.

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Re: Diamond Sprays
Posted by wickededge - 02 Dec 2012 20:02

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Geocyclist wrote:

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2.) Why use alcohol (vs. water?) What does alcohol do that you like Clay? I would think it would evaporate quickly. I saw Smoke Eater on youtube uses alcohol (a lot of it) for cleaning strops.

1.) I'm still studying this and will be able to get further when the next shipment of paste comes in on the 13th. I have some paste coming that has no abrasive and I want to examine a theory that I have that relates to how the paste itself, without the abrasive, creates an interaction between the leather and the metal. My theory, born out by anecdote, is that the paste helps the leather form a vacuum on the surface of the metal and causes the leather to smear the metal, burnishing it. So far, I haven't been able to test it thoroughly since all the paste I have has abrasive mixed in. My plan to test it is to start with identical samples of metal, with the same grit scratch pattern, and strop each sample with strops prepared with blank paste or 1um diamond spray, or 1um diamond paste.

2.) A little bit of alcohol reconstitutes the paste enough to generate more 'sticion' without making them wet enough that the paste rubs off on the blade.

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Re: Diamond Sprays

Posted by MartinL1 - 03 Dec 2012 00:22

I just placed the order for some HA Diamond paste. Thanks a lot for the advice. I actually did some research and they said the same thing about using alcohol.

It will actually create a more "sticion" feeling with the paste or spray, but there is no need to go crazy with it like smoke eater did in his videos.

He used them to clean it, which is why he used so much alcohol (I would do the same) but just a bit of alcohol actually helps with the polishing.

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Re: Diamond Sprays

Posted by mark76 - 03 Dec 2012 04:09

The reason I use the HA sprays (as well as Ken Schwartz sprays) is that I know they are high quality.

Other brands may be high quality, too. But there is a lot a variation regarding diamond concentration and particle size among various brands. If you want to know more about that: precisesharpening.blogspot.nl /2010/12/pa...f-three-quarter.html

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Re: Diamond Sprays
Posted by Geocyclist - 03 Dec 2012 21:21

What do you use sprays on leather, nano cloth? Can you tell the difference?

Do you go through a full progression of sprays or skips some grits?

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Re: Diamond Sprays
Posted by mark76 - 04 Dec 2012 05:44

I use my really fine sprays (

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Re: Diamond Sprays
Posted by JamesBell - 04 Dec 2012 08:11

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wickededge wrote:

2.) A little bit of alcohol reconstitutes the paste enough to generate more 'sticion' without making them wet enough that the paste rubs off on the blade.

I have been using the .125 Cubic Boron Nitride Spray on the roo. Do you think it would be OK to use a little bit of alcohol with that combination? Advice appreciated!

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Re: Diamond Sprays

Posted by wickededge - 04 Dec 2012 08:52

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JamesBell wrote:

wickededge wrote:

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I have been using the .125 Cubic Boron Nitride Spray on the roo. Do you think it would be OK to use a little bit of alcohol with that combination? Advice appreciated!

I think you'll be just fine using a little bit of alcohol, just barely enough to dampen the surface but not soak through.

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