Stock stone/strop progression (Lots of Pics!!)

Posted by razoredgeknives - 20 Feb 2012 19:36

Hey guys, quick question... I can't seem to find any info to this effect... when going through the process of sharpening a straight razor I have found that the jump between the 1k stock diamond to the 14m pasted strops is too large... after 500 strokes per side w/ the 14m strop it has not removed any of the scratches. Which leads me to my question, what is the logical progression if I am sticking with all stock stones/strops (i.e. no chosera/shapton stones)? I just ordered the 1200/1600 ceramic stones as an "in-between" before I go to the 14m strops. Any suggestions or should I be good?

According to the grit chart in the sticky, it would actually be a step back going from the 1k to the 14m pasted strop (as the 1k is supposed to be 7m).

Thanks for your help!

** Updated **

I compiled this as a reference for those of you who are interested in the progression photos but not all the discussion in between. I left my original OP above so you can see the problem I was having.

Tom's series (pg. 1 - scroll down)

Tom from Jende industries does a series of photos trying to re-create the problem I was having (which he does successfully). In this series he jumps between the 1k stock diamond stones to the 14m WE pasted strops. H**e found that the jump between the 1k stock diamond stones to the 14m strops is too large of a leap.** After 600-800 passes/side, and after adjusting the angle to where he was only hitting the very edge of the edge w/ the strops, he finally made some progress.

Clay's Series (pg. 2-6)

Pg. 3 – Clay does a series of photos going from the 10k chosera stones polishing all the way down to

.125m on CBN strops (final photo post # 2025). Pg. 4 - After having a nice mirror polish on the edge, he backs out to the 3.5m pasted strops to check out the scratch pattern left by that paste, and then goes even further out to the 5m pasted strops, which were really effective. On Pg. 6 Clay goes to the following progression: 10>14>10>5>3.5>1>.5>.25>1 microns. He did this while changing directions with each different grit so you could really see what each grit is doing… This was an excellent series!

Clay's Series (pg. 7-9)

Here clay conducts an edge progression with all stock stones on Aus 8 steel, starting with 100 grit and going all the way up. He actually re-starts the progression in post #2059 (pg. 14 after taking a little detour (i.e. jumping straight from the 600 grit stock to the 14m paste). He re-starts it with the 600 grit and, on Pg. 9, goes up through the stock ceramics (1200/1600) and then jumps to the 14m pasted strops from there. He goes all the way down to the 3.5m pasted strops. This does seem like much softer steel then we are used to, however (keep this in mind).

Another one of Clay's series (different thread) - You can check out this other thread started by Mark76 , in which Clay shows photos of an edge at 510x while playing around with lapping films, strops, and paste vs. spray. Excellent info! See what happens to your edge w/ each subsequent grit!

Stone Comparison (pg. 11) – new stones vs. broke in stones

A picture (by Holymolar) similar to **Clay's microscope setup** on how to consistently recapture the same exact spot on an edge when sharpening (Pg. 14 , post # 2185).

My Series =) (pg. 16 , post # 2409) – I progressed up from the 5k/10k choseras all the way to .5m Hand American sprayed leather strops. I post my observations here.

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Re: Stock stone/strop progression

Posted by wickededge - 14 Mar 2012 12:57

On the 600 grit stones I made a few errant strokes which showed up immediately.

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Re: Stock stone/strop progression

Posted by wickededge - 14 Mar 2012 13:08

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At this point, I took a detour to examine a technique a customer had been telling me about and had written about in Blade Forums. He has been jumping straight from the 600 grit diamond stones to the 14 micron strops. I followed that path for a while with the following progression: 600#> 14µ> 10µ> 5µ> 3.5µ

I started with just 20 passes per side on the 14µ strops

An additional 80 passes per side

An additional 100 passes per side

10µ strops - 50 passes per side

5µ strops - 50 passes per side

3.5µ - 50 passes per side

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Re: Stock stone/strop progression

Posted by razoredgeknives - 14 Mar 2012 13:09

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when you get to the higher levels, are you going to be alternating stroke directions?

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Re: Stock stone/strop progression
Posted by razoredgeknives - 14 Mar 2012 13:14

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it must be because it is a softer steel.... because even after the 1k stones and going to the 14m paste, i did around 800 strokes per side and could still see the scratches left from the 1k with the naked eye...

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Re: Stock stone/strop progression
Posted by wickededge - 14 Mar 2012 13:30

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razoredgeknives wrote:

when you get to the higher levels, are you going to be alternating stroke directions?

In the next phase, I dropped back to the 600 grit stones and then progress up through the 800, 1000, 1200 and 1600 grit stones before using the strops again.

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Re: Stock stone/strop progression
Posted by razoredgeknives - 14 Mar 2012 14:41

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wickededge wrote:

razoredgeknives wrote:

when you get to the higher levels, are you going to be alternating stroke directions?

In the next phase, I dropped back to the 600 grit stones and then progress up through the 800, 1000, 1200 and 1600 grit stones before using the strops again.

Sweet! I can't wait to see the results... so when you refer to "split grain" leather, what are you talking about? just the smooth side out? from what I have read, split grain is much harder than the full grain, is this true?

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Re: Stock stone/strop progression

Posted by wickededge - 14 Mar 2012 17:17

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After my little detour around stropping straight from the 600 grit stones, I wanted to get back on track, so I went back to the 600 grit diamond stones for 20 strokes per side:

Next were the 800 grit diamond stones, also 20 strokes per side:

And finally the 1000 grit diamond stones, also 20 strokes per side:

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Re: Stock stone/strop progression

Posted by wickededge - 14 Mar 2012 17:26

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Now the ceramics:

20 Passes with the 1200 grit.

20 Passes with the 1600 grit.

I wasn't satisfied with the 20 passes so I did another 30 for a total of 50 per side:

I liked the way this looked much better.

Next came the strops.

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Re: Stock stone/strop progression

Posted by wickededge - 14 Mar 2012 17:28

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Finally back to the strops, starting with the 14 micron:

Then the 10 micron:

5 micron:

And finally the 3.5 micron:

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Re: Stock stone/strop progression

Posted by Deputy115 - 14 Mar 2012 18:34

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UMMMMMM....WOW!

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