Lapping the Micro-Fine Ceramics

Posted by wickededge - 19 Jul 2012 19:08

Cliff Stamp has posted elsewhere that these stones definitely benefit from lapping. Today I worked on my set and it made a huge difference. You can easily use the diamond stones in your set to lap your ceramics and depending on which grit you use to finish, you can dramatically alter the way the stone performs. My coarse Micro-Fine stones were more coarse than I wanted at the moment, so I took them all the way up to the 1000# diamonds, progressing from the 100# stones up the line. I also have a 3um diamond bench stone that I used to finish and the coarse Micro-Fines were like a whole different set of stones. I can see where there might be times when I want to add a little texture back to them to give certain knives a little bite, so I'll experiment with lapping on different grit stones and see what comes of it.

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Re: Lapping the Micro-Fine Ceramics

Posted by wickededge - 04 Dec 2012 08:49

Billabong wrote:

My crazy logic here, but I wonder if having two sets of micro-fines that are manipulated to replace/remove the 1200/1600 role in a progression is possible?

The first stone being "as it comes" on the coarse side and made coarser on the fine side. (not sure)

The second being "lapped finer" on the coarse side and standard on the fine. (possible)

Can we make the fine ceramic coarser with lapping?

Good question. I'll do some testing.

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Re: Lapping the Micro-Fine Ceramics

Posted by VladimirSoskov - 14 Jan 2013 02:01

Do you lap only the coarse side or both?

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Re: Lapping the Micro-Fine Ceramics
Posted by KenBuzbee - 14 Jan 2013 07:10

VladimirSoskov wrote:

Do you lap only the coarse side or both?

People have done one (usually the coarse side) both, and neither.

I would try them stock for a bit. See your results. Then decide what, if anything you want to do

Ken

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Re: Lapping the Micro-Fine Ceramics
Posted by PhilipPasteur - 14 Jan 2013 10:57

I only did the coarse side of the microfine set. Keep in mind these things are extremely hard. I marked them (bad idea) with a sharpie. After 45 minutes on a DMT coarse plate. I barely touched the marks. I think they, at least the ones that I got, are pretty darn flat out of the box. Mostly what you are trying to do is re-texture then a bit. Even that takes a bit of effort. I finished on the DMT fine stone. This seems to have slottted the coarse stone into the progression just as it is rated. I never had any reason to lap or retxture the fine side... so I haven't touched them.

I thought that lapping/texturing the coarse stones worked by removing or altering the top layer left in the manufacturing process (something like the Kiln layer that Clay mentioned in relation to the other ceramics??). Possibly to get to the "true grit" below that.

If the stones are homogenous, it is hard to imagine that you can make them more coarse than they are.

Phil

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Re: Lapping the Micro-Fine Ceramics
Posted by cbwx34 - 14 Jan 2013 12:06

I held off lapping mine when I first got them... I thought they were fine. When I did lap the MicroFine-Coarse (I never did the fine), I found it did have some type of noticeable layer on it, that when removed, the stone performed better. (I still think it falls above the 1200/1600 stone though). I did rub the Fine side together, but didn't see much difference... they work well though.

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Re: Lapping the Micro-Fine Ceramics

Posted by PhilipPasteur - 14 Jan 2013 13:49

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cbwx34 wrote:

I found it did have some type of noticeable layer on it, that when removed, the stone performed better. (***I still think it falls above the 1200/1600 stone though***
).

Hey Curtis,

What do you mean by "falls above" the 1200/1600? As in, maybe, you think it has a finer grit than the 1600 (which is what I think that you meant)?

Or perhaps the opposite, I couldn't exactly tell from your statement. Probably just me on a Monday morning

.

Just curious, as I find it a close call. On some knives it seems like the coarse may be adding scratches after the 1600. In any case, I usually use the microfine course right after the 1600 though. Is that what you do as well?

I need to take some photos...

Phil

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Re: Lapping the Micro-Fine Ceramics

Posted by KenBuzbee - 14 Jan 2013 15:46

It seems more coarse than the 1200, to me. If I use all four I go coarse micro->1200->1600->fine micro, but I rarely ever do that. If I'm going to use the ceramics, I just use the micro alone, skipping the 1200/1600 altogether.

Ken

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Re: Lapping the Micro-Fine Ceramics
Posted by cbwx34 - 14 Jan 2013 22:47

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Yea, what Ken said... MicroFine Coarse --> 1200 --> 1600 --> MicroFine Fine. Even after lapping it still seems this way, although I'll admit I haven't spent a lot of time looking at it... just seem to get better results with this progression.

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Re: Lapping the Micro-Fine Ceramics
Posted by MatthieuMethot - 21 Feb 2013 08:19

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I used my micros one time and I thought they needed lapping right away. When I started lapping I did it the way clay discribed with my 100 grit first but I hadent cleaned the diamond stone and I am glad I didn't because it showed the high and low spots on the ceramics.It took over an hour to flatten and I did most of the work with the 100 grit stones just to get the high spots out. Now my 100 grit stones are less agresive than my 200 grit stones. I would buy a cheap coars diamond stone to flatten them then work through the rest of your we stones. I would like to see if someone could mic there micro ceramics before they start so I know how much I sanded off.

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Re: Lapping the Micro-Fine Ceramics
Posted by wickededge - 21 Feb 2013 09:04

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MatthieuMethot wrote:

I used my micros one time and I thought they needed lapping right away. When I started lapping I did it the way clay discribed with my 100 grit first but I hadent cleaned the diamond stone and I am glad I didn't because it showed the high and low spots on the ceramics.It took over an hour to flatten and I did most of the work with the 100 grit stones just to get the high spots out. Now my 100 grit stones are less agresive than my 200 grit stones. I would buy a cheap coars diamond stone to flatten them then work through the rest of your we stones. I would like to see if someone could mic there micro ceramics before they start so I know how much I sanded off.

Have you cleaned your 100# plate since lapping the ceramics? I get about 1.170" on an unlapped

but slightly used pair.

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