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

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Re: Strop Care & Maintenance

Posted by garyfergus - 27 Oct 2011 10:53

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dschur wrote:

I'd say way, way less than a whole syringe to recharge - I would guess you can recharge 20-30 times out of a single syringe

I agree with that...but oddly when I'm using the honing wheel on my Tormek sharpener I charge the honing wheel with fresh paste every time. I guess I'm as random and inconsistent in my strategies as the next sharpener!

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Re: Strop Care & Maintenance
Posted by gofly - 27 Oct 2011 10:57

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How do you repair a balsa strop?

Thanks

Lucky

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Re: Strop Care & Maintenance
Posted by garyfergus - 27 Oct 2011 11:06

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gofly wrote:

How do you repair a balsa strop?

Thanks

Lucky

Well firstly I'd argue that if it's just a guouge in the surface it may not even need repairing at all, most defects that are depressions below the surface don't usually need any corrective action. It's the raised defects that cause the problems as they screw up your honing angles and can catch on the blade's edge.

But with balsa you don't usually get these raised areas, and if you do you can sand it flat by laying some wet and dry paper on a flat surface (granite slab, piece of float glass, etc) and just rub the balss hone on it. And if you've a serious depression that's causing problems (by catching on an edge say) you could fill it with any wood filler and then sand it flush.

The leather strops are more fussy, any deep nick will usually produce a hollow and a corresponding raised section around the lip of the nick, and these are that bit trickier to deal with on leather.

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Re: Strop Care & Maintenance
Posted by kevinzk - 18 Jan 2012 11:22

Ok, I guess I should have read this thread last night before using my strops for the first time. The syringe clearly says single use so that's what i did, I loaded the blank leather strops with all the paste. Oh well.

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Re: Strop Care & Maintenance
Posted by leomitch - 18 Jan 2012 11:43

Welcome to the club Kevin...I did exactly the same thing when I got my WEPS. I finally checked with Clay and found that all I needed was a 1 inch strip the width of a pencil lead good for 50 knives or so.

I was chagrined to say the least when I discovered how much diamond paste I had wasted for I did it on each side! Sigh!

Cheers

Leo

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Re: Strop Care & Maintenance
Posted by wmarq9237 - 13 Feb 2012 17:07

Just received my balsa strops, how do you charge them with diamond spray, i.e. 1 micron, 1/2 micron

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Re: Strop Care & Maintenance
Posted by jendeindustries - 13 Feb 2012 19:39

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1. Place the strops/paddles on a paper towel.

2. Shake your diamond spray bottle.

3. Spritz the surface of the strops - 1-3 spritzes is more than enough

4. Let it dry for at least 10 minutes (or until no more puddling)

5. Flip paddle over and repeat with the next grit spray.

6. Enjoy!

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Re: Strop Care & Maintenance
Posted by mark76 - 13 Feb 2012 19:58

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jendeindustries wrote:

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Leo, you really should consider setting up a Wiki about the Wicked Edge (although a lot of it is general knife sharpening). I just read too many concisely formulated and very to the point posts lately among the large number of posts here 😀

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Re: Strop Care & Maintenance
Posted by leomitch - 14 Feb 2012 05:31

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[quote="mark76" post=1740]**jendeindustries wrote:**

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Re: Strop Care & Maintenance

Posted by wickededge - 19 Feb 2012 10:09

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[quote="leomitch" post=1743][quote="mark76" post=1740]**jendeindustries wrote:**

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