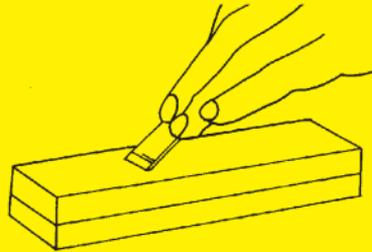


Whetstones in general

Whetstones are the most common and safest tool for sharpening sharp-edged tools. Used by hobbyists as well as professionals. To achieve the desired quality and working speed many tradesmen frequently sharpen, e.g. a knife once every half hour.

As all whetstones are intended for sharpening by hand, true measurements may deviate by $\pm 5\%$.



What whetstone quality?

First and foremost, for an occasional user the combined whetstones (coarse-fine) are recommended. Sharp-edged tools that are rarely sharpened usually need to be coarse ground first and then fine ground.

With regular use of whetstones the requisite coarseness is chosen, usually medium fine or fine. The conditions for the use of these whetstones is that you do not allow the tools to become too dull.

When sharpening sharp-edged tools of specially hardened steel extra fine whetstones are recommended. If the sharp-edged tools have corners and sharp edges (such as lathe tools, milling cutters, drills, etc.) extra hard whetstones are recommended.

The whetstones are divided into the following main groups – all according to the abrasive:

Silicon carbide whetstone. Is hard and sharp yet at the same time brittle. Has a good sharpening capacity but slightly less dimensional stability than an aluminium oxide whetstone.

Aluminium oxide whetstone. Has good dimensional stability, but is not so fast sharpening as silicon carbide whetstone.

Natural stone whetstone. Especially hard. Give the finest edge of all whetstones and practically never wears out.

Diamond whetstone. Used for edge dressing and sharpening between the regrinding of tungsten carbide tools.

What shape of whetstone?

Straight edges are ground on straight whetstones. The longer the whetstone the smoother the movement that can be achieved, whereby it is easier to attain a good result. If the edged is shaped a formed whetstone is used. Accordingly, a conical gouge whetstone is chosen for gouges and curved sharp-edged tools, a knife shaped whetstone is chosen for specially shaped woodworking tools, etc.

Dry, oil or water?

Oil or water together with honing has nothing to do with cooling. This has the effect of keeping the whetstone clean and it becomes more free-cutting, yet in addition, you get a smoother movement between the edge and the whetstone as the friction decreases slightly. However, a whetstone can also be used dry.