

HOW TO ACHIEVE THE BEST FINISH USING MICRO-MESH®

The polishing of surfaces can be very exacting. Success or failure depends on the technician's knowledge of, and his ability to follow, an established sequence.

MICRO-MESH® pads are designed to be used by hand.

Pressure should be light. Remember the cushioned abrasive cuts with the abrasive crystal tips. The sharp cutting edges are floating on a resilient matrix. Extreme pressure pushes the tips back into the matrix rendering them ineffective and resulting in surface smearing, burning, and possible orange peel and distortion.

KEEP EVERYTHING YOU USE CLEAN. This includes equipment, sandpapers, MICRO-MESH®, and all wiping materials. A minor scratch here or there is not a crisis situation, but picking up a piece of metal or other contaminates from the top of a work area can be a disaster.

Acceptable Cleaning and Maintenance Materials:

- 100 % cotton flannel
- Genuine chamois, not synthetic or imitation
- Biodegradable liquid detergent

Unacceptable Cleaning and Maintenance Materials:

- Paper towels or other paper products
- Shop towels or synthetic fibre fabrics
- Commercial window cleaners
- Any product containing ammonia or solvents or alcohol

Clean the work surface between each step, especially in cracks and crevices. Flush surface several times with clean water to remove dust and dirt before touching it with anything. Clean abraded particles from the work piece by rinsing and then dry and inspect.

Inspect the work piece between steps with a bright light to ensure you are removing the previous scratch pattern before continuing on.

Keep the abrasives clean. Keeping them clean will improve performance and extend life.

To avoid scratching the surface, do not wear watches, rings, or bracelets. Cover long fingernails with gloves.

Use a straight-line crossing pattern. Do not use a circular pattern except in the final hand buffing or anti-static operations.

Using MICRO-MESH® with water and a few drops of detergent will generally result in a less effort having to be used and a slightly better finish. Only use enough water to provide light lubrication to the surface, but not so much that poor contact is made with the work piece.

DO NOT wear out one of the meshes by trying to make it do too much work on your first step. If your estimated damage is not readily removed, go immediately to the next coarser mesh.

Work an area slightly larger with each step to blend. Working one small area on a highly curved section could create flat spots or distortion.

GUIDELINES FOR ACRYLIC FINISHING BY HAND

To avoid scratching the surface, do not wear watches, rings, or bracelets. Long fingernails should be covered with gloves.

MICRO-MESH® will remove surface discoloration, but not tinting that is throughout the plastic. If unsure, test in a small inconspicuous area.

Keep MICRO-MESH® clean; contamination can cause scratches. When your restoral is complete, rinse MICRO-MESH® pieces, air dry, and return them to their original packaging. MICRO-MESH® is reusable!

Use only 100% cotton flannel for wiping. Keep it clean

MICRO-MESH® is numerically graded. The higher the number, the finer the cutting action.

Do not work in a circular pattern. Cross your sanding pattern at 90 degree angles from one step to the next to be sure of total removal of the previous sanding pattern. Incomplete removal will result in an incomplete restoration. Damage not removed with the beginning step will most likely remain after the process is complete.

To remove heavy damage from highly curved surfaces, it may be beneficial to sand in an alternating pattern of diagonally, horizontally and vertically, in a straight line motion. This will assist in achieving an even removal of material over the entire surface.

Thin plastic (1/8" or less) may develop surface distortion if sanding the surface creates heat. Work the surface slowly and work wet.

Check your scratch pattern frequently. It is helpful to set a bright light on the side opposite your restoral side. For better viewing on non-transparent surfaces, place the light at an angle.

DISTORTION

It is always easier to prevent distortion than to remove it! There are two types of distortion that can be caused by the use of improper restoral methods, localized and surface. Localized distortion is caused by working one small spot and not blending the damage removal over a large enough area.

Surface distortion is almost always a sign of incomplete restoration. This could be the result of:

1. the incomplete removal of one sanding pattern before proceeding to the next step
2. not working a larger area with each new step
3. heat build-up
4. skipping steps
5. not cleaning the surface between steps

HINTS FOR POLYCARBONATE RESTORAL (LEXAN, TUFFAK, ETC.)

Polycarbonates have one very serious and un-redeeming feature. They are easily scratched and next to impossible to restore without leaving haziness. Unlike acrylic, which is hard and can be almost rubbery. Some scratches and other damage can be removed, but the final polishing is not truly effective. MICRO-MESH will produce a "better-than-anything else" finish on polycarbonates, but does leave a slight haze.

If restoring polycarbonates, it is important that each step in the process can be an improvement to the quality of the surface. For this reason, sandpaper and coarser abrasives should be avoided.

In most cases it is better to minimize the damage than to attempt to totally remove it. Sandpaper may leave scratches that are more objectionable than original damage. Begin with 2400 or 3600 MICRO-MESH and follow the basic procedure. Extra time and effort may be required to obtain best results. Upon completion of the MICRO-MESH steps the surface will still appear less than optically clear.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF ACRYLIC AND PLASTIC SURFACES

Use clean fresh water with a drop of detergent and flannel for cleaning. Avoid paper towels, napkins and tissue.

Keeping the surface clean and smooth helps prevent scratching and crazing.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF ACRYLIC AND PLASTIC SURFACES

Use clean fresh water with a drop of detergent and flannel for cleaning. Avoid paper towels, napkins and tissue.

Keeping the surface clean and smooth helps prevent scratching and crazing.

Never use rubbing compound, polishing cleaner or auto waxes on acrylic. These materials contain abrasive and solvents that damage the surface or accelerate crazing.

MICRO-MESH® Procedures for finished wood articles

MICRO-MESH® is a unique cushioned abrasive that produces a very fine and uniform scratch pattern. The nine grades range from 1500 to 12000. The 1500 is similar in grit range to conventional 400 grit wet/dry sandpaper. The 12000 will leave a scratch pattern that cannot be detected by the human eye.

MICRO-MESH® abrasives can polish to a high reflective state or leave a matte or satin finish depending upon where you stop while using the series.

Mask off any areas you wish to protect, and polish the surface beginning with 2400 or 3200 MICRO-MESH® and continue through the series (3200-12000) until the desired gloss is achieved.

You may stop at any point during this process when you have reached the finish that you desire.

Satin finishes are achieved by sanding up to the 3600 grade. The satin finish gets progressively higher in gloss through the 6000 step. High gloss finishes will appear by the 6000 through 12000 step. The wood, the finish used and personal preference determine where to stop.

MICRO-MESH® can be used wet or dry. When using MICRO-MESH® dry, it can be "unloaded" by rapping against the palm of your hand.

MICRO-MESH® can also be cleaned by using a stiff, short bristled brush.

It may not be necessary to go through every grade of MICRO-MESH® to reach the desired finish. You can experiment skipping every other step.

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