

The "Belgian Rock™" blue whetstone and the yellow "Coticule" (Stone of Vielsalm) are natural abrasive stones for sharpening of metal blades. The stones are quarried and fabricated in the Belgian Ardennes. They are so durable that they should be considered more of an investment than an expense, as often they are passed on to the next generation. They are equivalent to 4000 and 8000 grit, and demonstrate remarkable cutting characteristics, producing no burr!

Known since Roman times, the Belgian Coticule yellow whetstone source was long thought to have been exhausted. However, in 1996/97, working together with the University of Liege, the geological deposits of rock close to the traditional yellow Coticule whetstone were closely analyzed -- with amazing results. A high quality whetstone was discovered with identical sharpening properties as the yellow, only blue in color because of iron oxide in the stone. The stones are quarried from nearly 480 million year old grey/yellow/pink sedimentary rock which has metamorphosed from clay and volcanic ash and now contains garnet crystals. When the non-porous stone is wetted, the crystals and water produce an abrasive slurry. The crystals are slightly oval, resembling a soccer ball with many facets (rhomboid) sitting at obtuse angles with each other. Where they meet, they cut lightly into the metal taking fine shavings. The hardness of the garnet, third only behind diamond, allows for quick removal of metal, but the roundness gives a very precise polish of the honed edge. While the garnet grains are 10-15 microns in size, the penetration is only about 2 or 3 microns. This combination of speed and fineness is unique in the world. You may not believe it until you see it!!!



- The blue whetstone, 20 to 30% garnet by weight, is available in many sizes, even large bench stone sizes, and produces a 4000 grit polish.
- The yellow is available only in small thin layers and therefore is glued to a slate base. It is often odd-shaped to make use of all deposits. Yellow contains about 30-42% garnets of about 10 microns diameter, for an 8000 grit polish. There has never been a better sharpening stone. You will own it for life.

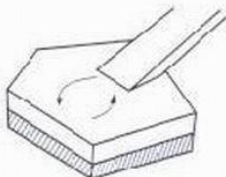


THE STONE MUST BE USED WITH WATER. NEVER USE IT DRY!



CURVED CUTTING EDGES

Place the stone on a flat surface. Move the blade obliquely on the stone in the usual “cutting” direction, at the correct angle. Whet the faces of knives, lancets, etc., alternately.



STRAIGHT CUTTING EDGES

Use any technique that is successful for you, or:
Place the stone on a flat surface. Move the blade in circles on the stone at the correct angle, pushing harder in the “cutting” direction.

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