

# Using Dressing Sticks

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## **Diamond Wheel Cleaning and Dressing**

Terminology is often confusing on the difference between cleaning and dressing a diamond wheel. When we say *cleaning* we mean removing only cutting debris, dirt, etc. from the wheel without using an abrasive dressing stick.

*Dressing* is done with an abrasive dressing stick designed for this purpose. Dressing is performed on a rotating wheel and actually removes small amounts of wheel material (mostly from the bonding agent.) Cleaning should be done much more regularly than dressing. Do not be afraid to dress diamond wheels. Proper dressing will extend the wheel life, not shorten it. How often to dress depends greatly on the individual application. Experience is the best guide.

## **Cleaning**

Remove the wheel from the machine and scrub with water, mild scouring powder (Comet, Ajax, etc.) and a clean stiff brush.

## **Dressing**

Dressing is done with the wheel rotating on the machine.

1. Cover your machine (except the wheel) with a clean cloth to keep abrasive dust off unnecessary surface.
2. Wet the diamond wheel surface with water or preferably a water soluble wetting agent (non-aerosol Windex will work.) Apply dressing stick to face of wheel and slowly traverse across, maintaining uniform but moderate pressure. Lean into the wheel with corners and edges of the stick. Run across wheel several times until stick begins to grind away freely.
3. Thoroughly clean abrasive debris off wheel and machine before uncovering. You may want to take the wheel off and wash it in a sink.

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