

When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached, don't adjust the goals, adjust the action steps.
~ Confucius

TESTING AND TRAINING AT WOLFF INDUSTRIES

By Joshua Freund

I was really excited to get Jim O'Donnell's invite to fly out to Wolff Industries in late February to train and get authorized as a Wolff trainer on the Hira-To Sharpening machine, and the Twice as Sharp system. I had a lot of fun within those two days training, and doing first-time testing of beauty shears on different sharpening modalities, particularly notable for me, the pressure tester. I've been in the sharpening industry for over 9 years, and in that time frame I've also been running my own independent tests, constantly striving to offer the best sharpening possible. I really love to research and run my own tests with different water stones, abrasives, polishing compounds and other sharpening mediums. The most rewarding of my independent tests is utilizing the balsa strop for deburring.

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3. Double check the adjustment on the screw.

Additional suggestions for working at shows.

1. Bring good lighting and a rubber mat to keep items from bouncing off the table
2. Find a spot in the booth where you can't be bumped and customers can't get to the shears you are sharpening.
3. Write "SEE SHARPENER" on an envelope where you need to discuss something with the customer.
4. Avoid free hand sharpening if possible. Even a great free hand sharpener when rushed can over rotate the blades and create a too blunt angle. If you decide to free hand the shear, take a deep breath, concentrate and remind yourself to take your time.
5. Be careful and extremely gentle bending handles. The best bet is to ask permission of the stylist.
6. Clean all shears with alcohol not acetone before you sharpen. In the speed of the show, the sharpener is often cut. You want to be certain those blades are disinfected.

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What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals.

~ Henry David Thoreau

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I was pleased to see how well the balsa strop performed in the course of rigorous tests Jim and I performed. The tests proved it created a significant improvement on a Chinese shear from 23ozs down to just under 13ozs of pressure. Overall, compared to the other popular methods of deburring, and polishing compounds it scored the best results by an ounce or two. It's this type of testing that gives us sharpeners, who want to produce the very best sharpening, a chance to scientifically convey our results to our fellow sharpeners, and also explaining to our customers that we are on the "cutting edge" of the latest and best sharpening procedures. Furthermore, it shows them how much we really care about meeting their needs and expectations.

Last but not least, it was also pleasing to see how well the sharpening methods, machines, and polishing mediums at Wolff Industries were able to outperform a factory sharpened shear fresh out of its box. It was a true honor and pleasure to be a part of this first of its kind testing with Jim on these beauty shears.

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7. Don't take bevel edge shears apart, even if they have a rideline. Sharpen them together and cut the bur off. (the only exception would be a very expensive bevel edge with a deep hollow and clean ride like a Matsuzaki.)
8. Bring some good Band-Aids for yourself in case you need them.

Not every sharpener can take the steps necessary to be a great show sharpener. Personally, I am not comfortable skipping steps and taking short-cuts and will only sharpen at shows that are slow or charge extra at shows to keep my volume down. Work your way up to the busier shows and try some of these tips. You can also use this article to explain to your stylists why they should have their shears sharpened by you in their salon and not at a hair show.

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The game has its ups and downs, but you can never lose focus of your individual goals and you can't let yourself be beat because of lack of effort.
~ Michael Jordan

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With our sharpening industry growing year by year, and with advancements in the shear sharpening industry, sharpening methods have almost reached the ceiling of how much further we can take it. So even when you are able to make even the smallest of improvement in the world of shear sharpening, then what you have is a significant leap in the advancement of sharpening as a whole.

Contact info:

Email: Joshua.freund@yahoo.com

Website: kutaboveperfection.com

YouTube Channel:

kutaboveperfection

A Note from Jim:

These were Josh's reflections on the testing I reported on last month. If you'd like to learn more about the tester and how it is helping Wolff set new standards in sharpening industry, give me a call at 800-888-3832.

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HOW TO CUT A TORSIONALIZED EDGE WITH THE OOKAMI GOLD®

By Jim O'Donnell

Shears come in all shapes and sizes. They also come with varying degrees and some have degrees that vary along the edge. In the industry this is called a torsionalized edge. On beauty shears it is usually the case that the edge starts at a higher degree of angle at the throat and progressively decreases in

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