

Sandpaper “Notepads”

Making convenient sandpaper “notepads” for penturning



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I like to use smaller piece of sandpaper when turning pens. In the past, I have just taken large sheets and tore off a piece as needed. The problem with this method, though, is that I tend to waste more sandpaper by tearing off too big of a piece. There is a simple fix to this and that is to actually cut up the paper into strips first.

This presents a couple of new problems. First, many of the pieces will not have the grit printed on the piece I am using and it is sometimes difficult to determine if the paper is 320 grit or 400 grit! Second, all of the little pieces that I cut up tend to get scattered all over the place and are harder to keep organized!

Here is a real easy to make solution that I came up with. Make mini sandpaper notepads that keep the paper organized and handy, makes it easy to recognize the grit, and makes the piece just the right size for one pen without wasting any sandpaper. Here is how I do it.

Things you will need:

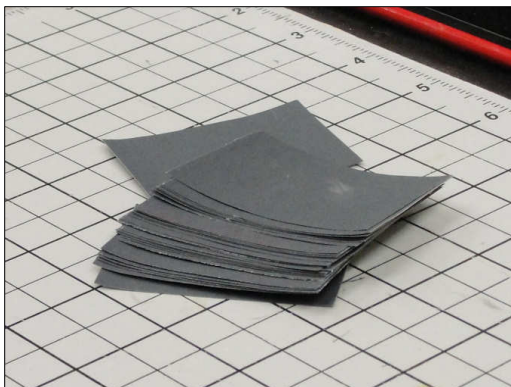
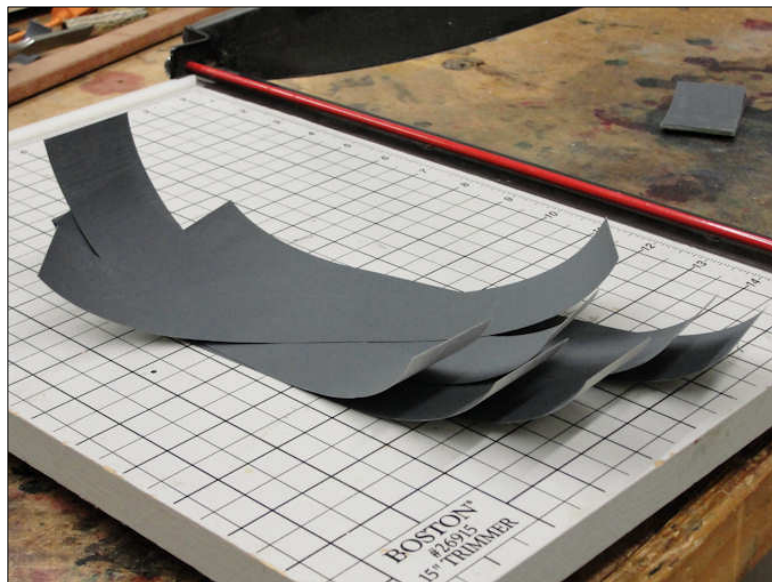
- Sandpaper in various grits
- Paper cutter, scissors, or a razor blade and straight edge
- Spray paint in various colors
- Ordinary wood glue
- Clamp

I use silicone carbide wet and dry sandpaper in 320, 400, and 600 grit before I get to Micro Mesh but any sandpaper will work just as well.

Lightly spray the back of the paper with spray paint to color code each grit. I use red for 320, blue for 400, and no paint for 600.



Next, cut the sandpaper in landscape orientation approximately $1 \frac{9}{16}$ " wide. This will give you 7 strips that are 9" long. Now cut these strips $2 \frac{1}{4}$ " long. If you have a paper cutter, you can stack all of the strips together and cut them all at once. You should end up with 28 pieces. Some will be a little bit smaller but that's not a problem.



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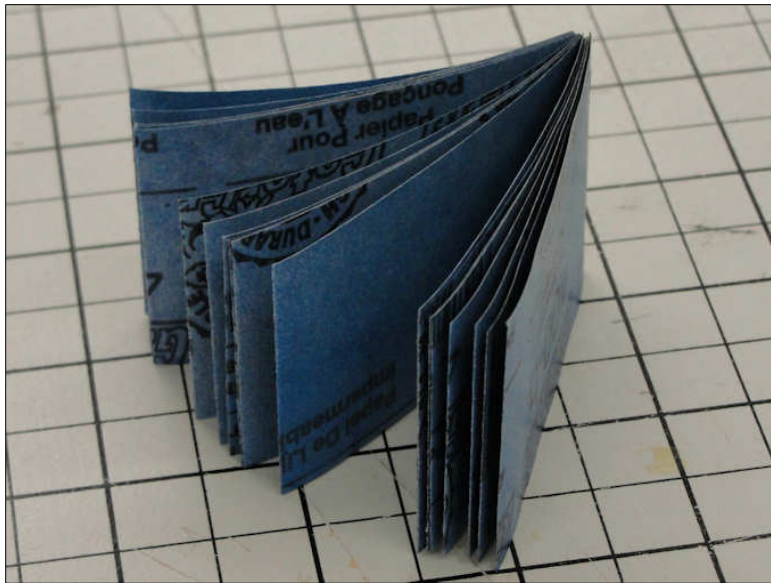
Now, arrange the pieces so they are even on one of the short sides and place them in a clamp.



Next, apply a liberal amount of yellow wood glue of your choice to the edge.



When the glue has dried, remove the “notepad” from the clamp and trim off any excess glue. Wood glue has enough “give” that it will allow the “notepad” to be flexible and individual pieces can easily be removed as you need them.



Make a set for each grit that you use and keep them near your lathe. You could even put some double sided tape on the last piece and stick them to your lathe stand or tool holder for convenience. You will waste less sandpaper and will not have to be chasing down little piece of sandpaper all over the shop!

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to e-mail me at the address shown at the beginning of this article.