

DIAMOND AND SAPPHIRE KNIFE CLEANING TOOLS AND BLOCK

Product No. 122-11, 122-20

Description:

The material of the 122-11 Cleaning Tool and 122-20 Cleaning Block is specially developed for cleaning debris from diamond knives. It also works very well on sapphire knives, scalpel blades, microtome blades, Vibratome blades, diamond scribes and minitools.

They can be reused multiple times and are made of a PVA sponge material, which wicks liquids instantaneously. This makes them much safer to use than wooden sticks and most other cleaning tools.

The PVA does not expand with alcohol so it can be used either in its rigid form by dipping in reagent alcohol only, or it can be expanded using clean water and then dipped in reagent alcohol. The PVA sponge material can be allowed to dry and stiffen, then dipped in reagent alcohol. Dipping the expanded PVA in alcohol can speed up the drying time required to make it rigid.

They are available in two forms:

- 122-11 Wedged tip on a plastic holder (pk/5) for safest use.
- 122-20 Block with rounded ends (pk/5) 1-1/2 x 3/4 x 1/2" (38 x 18 x 13mm)



122-11 Cleaning Tools (Dry)



122-20 Cleaning Block



122-11 Cleaning Tool
(Expanded After Dampening with Water)

General Instructions for your Diamond or Sapphire Knives:

Your diamond or sapphire knife is made from a single crystal. It has a remarkably sharp and uniform edge because it is extremely hard and its crystalline structure is very regular.

Nevertheless, these characteristics also result in an edge where the tip of the edge is very thin and delicate. To prolong the life of this edge, never touch it with any solid object. Use the following guidelines:

1. Avoid touching the edge when inserting or removing the knife.
2. Don't contact the edge with any tools when operating your microtome.
3. Safely store the blade in its box when not in use.
4. If you have sectioning problems, especially knife marks, a dirty knife may be one of the causes.

The best sections come from a clean environment. Keep your knife clean by:

1. Using clean water, buffers or reagents in your microtome.
2. Rinsing and wiping the reservoir and stage of your microtome between uses.
3. Preventing sections from drying on the knife.

Instructions for Cleaning with 122-11 Cleaning Tool and 122-20 Cleaning Block:

1. Pre-moisten the PVA sponge material with clean water and dry, if desired, to achieve the preferred shape and stiffness.
2. Dip the PVA sponge material in reagent alcohol.
3. Gently drag the tip of the PVA sponge along the side of the knife, parallel to the edge, as shown below:



4. Repeat on the other side of the blade and allow to air dry.

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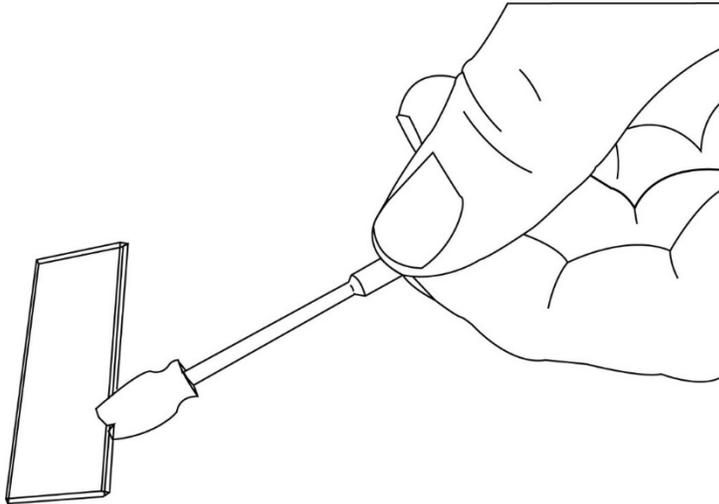
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For cleaning while viewing the knife edge under a dissecting microscope:

1. Pre-moisten and expand the PVA sponge material with clean water, dip in reagent alcohol, and dry to achieve the desired shape and stiffness. **DO NOT USE DRY.**
2. Dip the expanded and dried PVA sponge material into reagent alcohol and shake or blot on filter paper to remove excess.
3. Press the PVA sponge against the edge of the knife as though to split the tip (see illustration below).



4. With little force, wipe the spear tip parallel to the cutting edge, never obliquely or at a right angle.
5. Move across the entire length of the knife edge.
6. Use a fresh part of the spear and repeat in the opposite direction and allow to air dry.

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