

# Trend Single-Sided Diamond Whetstones

Start sharp and flat, stay sharp and flat



initial plate is flat, so it stays flat, eliminating the need for extra work before you even start to sharpen.

The leather cases the stones come in are a bonus, too. Although a little soft, they make a decent-enough strop and, with a little honing paste wiped on the leather, the tool can be pushed to a keener edge, if you don't mind dirtying the case!

The width and length are good enough reasons to consider these stones if you often work a wider blade. Plus the monocrystalline diamonds will ensure the stone stays as sharp as the tools you put to them.

Yes, they're expensive, but being quick, easy and less messy than other sharpening options, the investment is well worth consideration. ➔



stone I use regularly, such a coarse grit rarely gets an outing, so the finer one is the better choice for joiners and cabinetmakers.

Japanese waterstone buffs will probably tell you that you need to be polishing finer than even 1000grit diamond to get an edge. But having been asked if the micro-fine shavings I produced from some rock maple at a tool show were down to David Charlesworth sharpening the irons (it was me, on a Trend 1000grit diamond stone in about 45 seconds) I think the finer grit gives a good enough result for most general work. Only the trickier hardwoods or exotics need a finer edge.

You also don't have the problems of flattening; these stones are guaranteed flat to within 0.0005in, so your backs stay flat. The

of chisels or irons that need a bit of work on the backs, now's the time to do it, breaking in the stone at the same time. But even after the stone has been broken in, the speed of the cut is very fast. Working a wire edge takes a lot less than a conventional stone.

The two stones offer a coarse 350grit and a fine 1000grit. But even on the double-sided

**T**radition, it seems, determines that double-sided stones are aimed towards the site worker, with the single-grit type pointed towards the workshop. It's certainly the case for the carborundum and aluminium oxide types, anyway, and Trend also do a diamond stone following the same, er, trend.

That's common sense, of course: a site worker can easily encounter stray bits of grit or odd nails, so he needs to be able not only to dress a bevel quickly but also to re-hone.

These two stones follow the single grit route, so I would assume they're aimed for the bench rather than the site. Also, they're slightly bigger (8x3x1/4in) than Trend's double-sided diamond stone, which is 7x2 1/2x3/8in, making them better-suited for the wider irons found in planes usually associated with bench joinery.

As with all new diamond stones, the initial cut is very aggressive, so if you've got a couple

## Good The Woodworking Verdict

- + Superb performance, guaranteed flat
- Initially expensive

Rating ★★★★★

Typical Price: £85

Made in: UK

Grits: 350 and 1000

Flat to within: +/- 0.0005 inch

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