

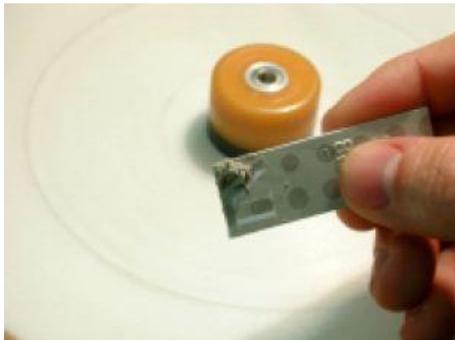
The Faceting Academy



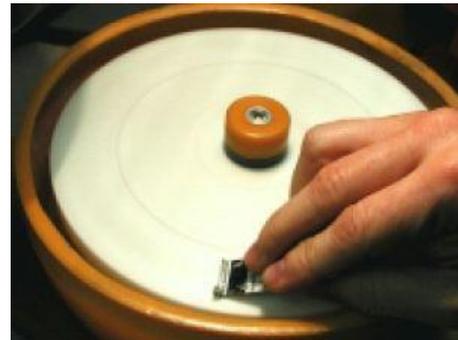
Polishing like Magic

Polishing like Magic is easy with Voodoo Magic Polish:

1. Prepare your composite lap. You want a surface that is porous and not shiny. Use wet sandpaper if necessary under water and wash and dry thoroughly before charging. I prep Corian laps using 120-grit or 220-grit wet paper. Use a block of wood and sand just enough to remove the glaze. You can also de-glaze some lap surfaces by scrubbing with Acetone on a clean rag (ventilate appropriately).
2. Apply Voodoo Magic Polish to a clean and dry composite lap surface using a plastic spatula tool. (I use $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch wide strips cut from old credit cards.) Apply polish liberally across the surface of the slowly-running lap, pressing into the lap surface for several revolutions to create a uniform coating that's well-stuck to the lap. Then, using the edge of the plastic spatula, remove all but a thin film of polish. The lap should look almost naked. Preserve the removed polish – I store the spatula in a small baggie. Do NOT put scraped polish back into your container, lest you contaminate the store...



Plenty of Polish for at least two charges.



Charging the lap...



Scrape off all excess Voodoo.



This is a fully-charged lap.

3. Polish your stone:

- A. Sweep your stone as you would with any other polish. Experiment with combinations of speed and pressure.
 - B. Composite laps charged with Voodoo may sound terrible to the point of being very alarming, even at slow speed. Experiment slowly until you are accustomed to “right” and “wrong” sounds for this lap / polish combination.
 - C. You can use high speeds and a wide variety of pressure with Voodoo Magic Polish. (The polish is very sticky and a proper charge will NOT sling off, even at 600+ rpm.) Faster lap speeds will dramatically increase the speed of polishing and meet-adjustments, usually without excessive scratching or streaking. Feel free to polish at up to 600+ rpm, but be careful as you speed-up the lap because Voodoo will start to cut FAST, and can build heat.
 - D. Changes of friction will also change the lubricity and firmness of your polishing surface. A softer and more scratch-prone stone may prefer greater speed and/or pressure than a harder stone – You can safely try it because Voodoo will seldom furrow a stone the way Alumina can.
 - E. Monitor your stone for heat build-up, which can occur rapidly with higher speeds and pressures and with some species more than others.
 - F. Scratches usually indicate either contamination or too much polish. If you’re getting scratching (at almost any speed), first wipe the lap aggressively with a tissue to remove as much polish as possible. If that doesn’t solve it, strip the polish with alcohol and perhaps condition the surface of the lap (see below).
 - G. On the OMF, you may have to freshen the charge on the mandrel frequently due to the small polish-carrying surface area. This isn’t troublesome, as a quick “touch & scrape” with the spatula does it. Polishing often works best with moderate pressure and full-throttle...
4. No water – no oil – no lubricants – no trouble – Just polish your stones. The Magic Polish generates its own lubrication. I typically get 2 to 3 pavilions of a 12mm stone on 14k, and much more from the 50k before freshening the polish (when you prep using 3k or 2k Voodoo). 3k Voodoo uses-up much more rapidly than the polishing grades.
 5. If the polish becomes too “sticky”, or the friction too great or the stone isn’t polishing just the way you want, after trying different speeds and pressures, you can experiment adding a tiny amount of water.. Alternately, you can add a drop or two of very light oil. I like sewing machine oil, trombone slide oil, or 3-in-1 oil to thin the polish. I use my spatula to spread the oil across the lap, mixing-in fresh polish to keep a thick consistency. This amounts to a slightly-thinned recharge of the lap. Again, remove the polish to a thin layer, then go back to polishing.
 6. Voodoo Magic Polish is very sticky – Protect your lap from contamination, dust, etc. Wash your splash-pan between cutting and polishing, etc.
 7. If your polish becomes contaminated, use dish soap, and window-cleaner and scrub the surface of your lap. Dry the lap thoroughly and recharge. If necessary, you can use wet type sandpaper to dress the surface of your lap under running water before drying and recharging. Or, you can etch the surface of some laps using Acetone.

8. Did I mention that it's sticky? Voodoo Magic Polish will stick to your hands, so wash them carefully between handling of laps. The polish is very diamond-rich, so the tiniest amount will contaminate whatever you touch.
9. **Recommended application:**
 - A. Use 14,000 Voodoo to finish after a well-worn 600 or red Raytech Newbond. It will finish most materials with a fine polish, and quite quickly.
 - B. Use 2,000 or 3,000 Voodoo after a 600 lap and follow by removing the remaining haze with 50,000 Voodoo. I like to use a double-charged lap for this, with 2,000 or 3,000 on the outside and 50,000 on the inside. This combination is especially useful for scratch-prone or problem stones, for repair work, and for stones (like Spinel) that can tend to under-cut or orange-peel on the Newbond lap.
10. **Using Double-charged laps is easy:**
 - A. Use a Sharpie pen to mark your lap and then apply Magic Polish to the zones. Because the polish is very sticky and does not flow around, contamination is easily prevented by careful handling of the lap. You can leave the charge on the lap between uses.
 - B. Remember to clean stones carefully between grits. Clean carefully, using alcohol and examine for cat-hairs before changing settings, as the sticky polish can occasionally hide scratches. I use 99% isopropyl alcohol on a tissue for cleaning stones.
11. Voodoo Magic Polish likes big faces, and will last longer polishing larger faces. This is because the polish is soft, and smaller faces will scrape it off the lap more quickly. Start with light pressure – and use an even lighter touch for smaller faces, while large faces and tables can tolerate more pressure without gouging the polish. Unlike other polishes, you can safely increase pressure to maintain polishing speed as one charge slows down – but always remember to use very light pressure on a fresh charge because Voodoo Magic Polish cuts FAST, and produces nice flat faces when used properly.
12. For very large faces or stones that take a long time polishing, you can operate the stone with one hand and hold the spatula in the other, periodically touching the lap with the edge. This will deposit enough polish to keep the lap lubricated.
13. Voodoo is so sticky that on some faces it can cause pitting. If that's ever a problem, thin the polish, and/or change your speed / pressure combinations to reduce the friction. I've found that very thin polish and higher speed can keep the progress going, and wiping the lap at slow-speed can remove any cat-hairs caused by overly-thinned polish.

14. Corian Lap Maintenance:

- A. Occasionally, you will want to strip-off the build-up of old polish and swarf. Use 99% isopropyl alcohol or ever-clear as a solvent. Wet a paper towel or a clean rag with the solvent and wipe the running lap aggressively until the rag comes away without polish. Wipe a bit more, let dry, and recharge.
- B. This is not often necessary, but helps the polish to keep working scratch-free. I do this perhaps every one or two-dozen stones – and whenever shifting from a harder gem to a significantly softer gem material. The amount of polish thus wasted is negligible.
- C. Occasionally, the surface of your lap may also become “polished” – slick and shiny, degrading the lap’s grip on the polish. Recondition such laps by etching the lap surface with solvent, or by sanding:
 - Acetone Method: I use Acetone on a clean rag or dish-pad, and run the lap, slowly, scrubbing aggressively until the surface becomes sticky and the glaze disappears. Let dry for a few minutes, then recharge the lap and go right back to polishing.
 - Sanding Method: I use 120 or 220 (wet-type ONLY!) on a sanding block to remove the top surface of the lap. This is a 2-minute operation, per lap, taking off just enough to break the “glaze” or shiny surface.

15. **Safety and Legal Issues:** Voodoo Magic Polish is combustible, and should be protected from heat, sparks, or flame. HARMFUL OR FATAL IF SWALLOWED. Contains petroleum distillates and abrasives. If swallowed, do not induce vomiting and call poison control or physician immediately. Use in a well-ventilated area. Keep out of reach of children. Voodoo Magic Polish is offered without warranty or guarantee of any kind. Use at your own risk, and perform tests on sample materials.