

Don Jones makes home made sanding pads.



A little time and less than a dollar can achieve the equivalent of a \$10.00 Velcro sanding disk.

The sanding disk can be made to what ever shape you want with in reason. First get a round block of dry hard wood about 3 1/2 in dia. and 4" long. About means what ever you have that works. I used dry wood so I would avoid problems with the glue. Chuck the piece of stock in a 4 jaw chuck and trued the sides and end. Drill a 5/16 hole in the center of the block and counter sink the hole about a half inch in diameter and deep enough to hide the head of a 1/4 inch stove bolt. Make sure the threads on the screw reach to a 1/2 inch from the head.

Measure back an inch from the end of the block and part off the end. If you want to make several from the chucked up block even off the end counter sink the hole and part off another one inch long piece. Next put the screw though the whole in the 1 inch piece with the head of the screw in a counter sink. Put a nut and washer on what is the back and snug the nut down secure.

Now a collect chuck or Jacobs chuck replaces the 4 jaw chuck and the screw is secure in the chuck. The sides and the ends are trued up and the piece is turned to three inches and the pad prepared.

The pad is made of a flexible material that will stand up under reasonable sanding. I used floor mats that are used to make a concrete floor a little easier to stand on. They are about 2 foot square and come in several colors 4 to the pack from Lowe's Home Center. The pads can be cut with a knife, scissors, or a band saw. I used a jig saw with a 1/8 inch blade. To make a 3 inch sanding disk a piece of mat should be cut to about 3 1/2 inches. After the glue dries the wood disk and pad will be turned and sanded to the desired shape and diameter.

Goop glue is the glue to hold the disk and the pad together. With the disk still in the chuck cover the face of the wood completely with glue and press the pad solidly against the wood. Bring up the tail stock and with a block of wood to keep the pressure even between the pad and the tail stock apply enough pressure to cause glue to come out between the disk and the pad. Let the glue set for about an hour then set the disk a side for at least 12 hours to cure.

Now comes the fun part of turning it to what ever shape you want (again within reason). Chuck the 1/4 inch screw in a collet chuck or a Jacobs chuck leaving clearance in the back. The pad can be turned with a very sharp gouge. The top should be turned to 2 7/8 tapering all the way to the bottom of the wood. The steeper the taper the more flexible the sanding surface. Sixty grit paper is the easiest way to shape the pad. Finish the wood with what ever you like or just leave it unfinished.

The final step is putting the Velcro tape on the pad. Wal-Mart sells a 15ft roll that is 2 inches wide. Splice two pieces on the pad to achieve the width and trim the edges flush with scissors. Be ready for a battle because as soon as the sticky surface is freed it seems to want to stick to everything especially the scissors that cut it. Unless you come up with a use for it the fussy strip it is discarded because the baking on the Velcro sanding disk that you have been using on your ten dollar unit works fine.

Experiment with this as your starting place and there is no telling what you will come up with.

Don Jones