**GRAINING CENTURY PLATES**

**USING A 5” RANDOM ORBITAL SANDER**

**Much easier and more uniform results than hand sanding using a sanding sponge.**

* **Sander can be corded (120 volts); cordless (rechargeable); or air powered.**
* **Cost of sander can be as low as $30. Lower speed orbits are preferable to high speed.**
* [**https://www.amazon.com/orbital-sanding-discs/s?k=orbital+sanding+discs**](https://www.amazon.com/orbital-sanding-discs/s?k=orbital+sanding+discs)**.**
* **Grain can be customized from Coarse to Super Fine and any grain in between.**
* **Simply match grit of sanding disc to carborundum or silicon carbide grits.**
* **Sanding disc grits available from 60 through 320 grit @ under $0.20 each.**
* [**https://www.amazon.com/orbital-sanding-discs/s?k=orbital+sanding+discs**](https://www.amazon.com/orbital-sanding-discs/s?k=orbital+sanding+discs)**.**
* **Start with Coarse Grit (60-80) to establish ‘tooth’, then go finer (100-320) for Finish.**
* **Use a shallow plastic tray slightly larger than plate size. Here is one of many sources.**
* [**https://www.amazon.com/confote-eplacement-Plastic-Kennels-Critter/dp/B083DFJH3K/ref=sr\_1\_11?dchild=1&keywords=dog%2Bcrate%2Bplastic%2Btray&qid=1624473020&sr=8-11&th=1**](https://www.amazon.com/confote-eplacement-Plastic-Kennels-Critter/dp/B083DFJH3K/ref=sr_1_11?dchild=1&keywords=dog%2Bcrate%2Bplastic%2Btray&qid=1624473020&sr=8-11&th=1)**.**
* **Put sheet of rubber drawer liner under plate to prevent slippage (optional).**
* **Place plate in tray with at least 1” clearance all around. Sprinkle entire surface liberally with Bar Keepers’ Friend. Use a spray bottle to apply water so that BKF becomes a thin paste.**
* **Sprinkle Coarse Grit uniformly on plate surface.**
* **Place Sander on one corner and turn on. Using sander weight only for pressure, move sander slowly from far corner to adjacent corner to create edge stripe; move down about 2” and go back. Each pass should overlap previous pass by half. Continue until at final corner. Then repeat from top to bottom, and along both diagonals. Plate should look uniformly matte finish after all 4 passes. Okay to ‘touch up’ if not uniform.**
* **Put sander down and unplug from outlet if corded. Place ¾” wood strip under one edge of tray to create a slight slope.**
* **Flood plate with water and gently wipe surface with wet rag or sponge to gently transport grit to downhill end. Pour more water onto plate until grit is off plate and all settled at downhill end. Gently raise upper edge until water flows off into another tray or sink. Since grit is much harder than aluminum sheet, it can be collected, dried, and re-used many times.**
* **Repeat graining process with Finish Grit, depending on desired surface texture.**
* **Rinse plate thoroughly; wipe or squeegee to damp dry; finish dry thoroughly with hair dryer.**
* **Plate is now ready for artwork or photo coating.**
* **Subsequent re-graining will take less time and effort than original graining of smooth plate.**
* **May skip ‘Coarse’ graining step on re-grains if ‘tooth’ is not damaged during previous use.**