

Benefits of Acrylic Flame Polishing

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***What exactly is acrylic flame polishing and what are the benefits of using it?**

- When cutting acrylic with a saw or router bit it can leave scratches and tool marks on the edges. When buffing you have to use a buffing compound and when sanding you are producing dust which can become quite messy and can take a long time to get the finish you want. Using the flame polishing kit will not only save you a lot of time but it is also cleaner. Flame polishing also yields flawless edges without introducing contaminants or discoloration.

***Does certain types of acrylic polish better than others?**

- Yes, extruded and cast acrylic do not polish the same. Acrylic flame polishing works best with extruded acrylic but can be used on cast acrylic as well. Colored acrylic and thickness can also change the technique for polishing. It is best to practice on a piece of scrap first.

***How difficult is it to polish on your own?**

- It is highly recommended to practice first on a piece of scrap. It is also important to note the type of acrylic that you are working with. The most important key with flame polishing is to keep the flame constantly and consistently moving across the plastic. If the flame is held in place the acrylic will have a tendency to form bubbles, melt, and turn black, which can also be a result of too much heat from holding the flame too close to the work and/or moving the torch too slowly. If after the flame is passed over the surface and the finish is still not perfectly clear, allow the plastic to cool before passing the torch closer or slower over the object. Make sure to hold the torch at an angle and always direct the flame away from the work with a non-obstructed area for the flame to flow. Once you have the feel for it, acrylic flame polishing can be quite easy.

***What is in the acrylic flame polishing kit?**

- The acrylic flame polishing kit includes the 3H hand torch, RB-0 and RB-22 polishing tips, the 2500.540 oxygen regulator, the 2500.350 hydrogen regulator, the FA-30P flashback arrestors and the CT-12-3AB hose kit. Hydrogen and oxygen are non-carbon gases which do not produce discoloration when used. If you have a true mix of hydrogen and oxygen then the flame will be invisible. To adjust the flame hold it against a black background. We also offer a variety of tips which can be used when dealing with different sizes of acrylic and on different projects. Flashback arrestors are highly recommended because on rare occasions a flame can travel back down the hose to the gas tank and cause an explosion. A flashback arrestor uses a reverse flow check valve and a flame arrestor that stops the flashback flame.

***What caution should I use when using acrylic flame polishing?**

- There are some precautions that one should take when using acrylic flame polishing. When used properly hydrogen and oxygen are relatively safe. However it is important to note that if you have been sanding or buffing acrylic it produces dust. Using hydrogen and oxygen in a dusty environment can be extremely explosive. It is also not wise to use the product in a wood shop. When using hydrogen you must use a release valve which has a treaded connection on it and must be vented in an outside atmosphere. Do not vent it inside the building. Check first with your local authorities in regards to any restrictions when using the two gases.

For more information please feel free to contact us by phone, email
or
check out our website at www.acrylicflamepolishing.com