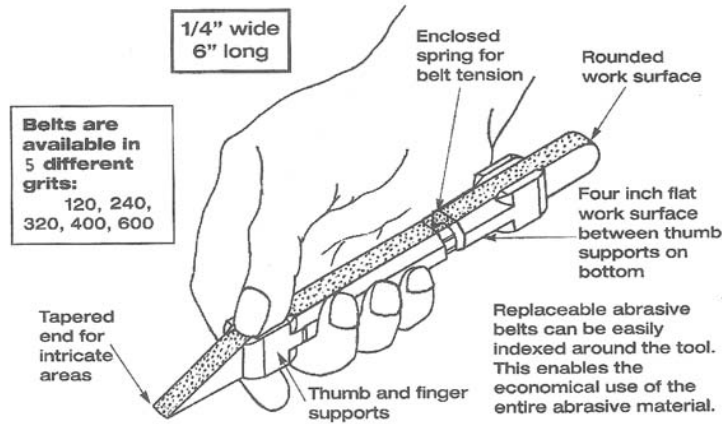


TYRO TOOL OF THE MONTH - THE DETAIL SANDING STICK



Sanding sticks are spring loaded 12 3/4 x 1/4 inch Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> sandpaper belts that loop around a 6 1/4 x 1/4 inch handheld plastic "pencil" that is wedge shaped on one end and cylindrical on the opposing end. An internal spring pushes the ends apart to provide tension to hold the sandpaper in place. The tapered wedge fits into tight spaces for sanding while the opposing curved end has a nice radius suitable for sanding concave areas. The flat area of the wedge is also very useful. The spring may be compressed to permit shifting the loop to expose fresh sand paper to the wedge or curved end surfaces. Release of the compression allows the internal spring to push the ends apart locking the sandpaper in place. Sandpaper loops are available in seven different grit sizes: 80, 120, 180, 240, 320, 400, and 600 grit. Similar style sanding sticks are also available in different widths and lengths e.g. 8 x 1/2 inch, 10 x 3/4 inch and 2 x 20 inch stick sizes.

These detail sanding sticks are available under different brand names from multiple suppliers individually and in sets and pricing is over a broad range e.g. \$2.50 - \$7 each. Different grit sizes are matched with different color sticks to make it easy to find the desired grit. Most suppliers **usually** follow the same color coding of grit size to a colored stick (see chart). Locally a few sizes are available for purchase at Hobby Town on Oregon Street in Oshkosh, or at Woodcraft in Appleton. I wish our friends at Krueger's Hardware would carry these sticks and their replacement belts (though the belts seem to last forever). For now your best bet may be online where pricing for the 6 x 1/4 inch style was surveyed to be :

- Amazon - \$24.24 - Lumberjon brand Finishing kit of 4 with 5 belts in each size (240, 320, 400, and 600 grit). The similarly priced Lumberjon Standard Kit has 80, 120, 180, and 240 grits).
- Supergrit.com - \$4 - single stick (larger dimensioned, i.e. longer and wider, sticks are available here).
- ptreeusa.com (Peachtree) - \$19.99 - Kit of 4 with 6 belts in each size (80, 180, 320, and 400 grit).
- artcotools.com - \$2.50 single stick (80, 120, 240, 320, 400, 600 available) Larger sizes also available.
- mountainwoodcarvers.com - \$3 or \$16 for Kit of 6 with 1 belt each (80, 120, 180, 240, 320, 400 grit).
- jaymescompany.com - \$24.95 Kit of 7 sticks with 2 belts each (80, 120, 180, 240, 320, 400, 500 grit).

SANDING STICKS DETAIL SANDERS	
GRIT SIZE	COLOR
80	GRAY
120	RED
180	ORANGE
240	BLUE
320	GREEN
400	YELLOW
500 OR 600	BLACK

