



TIPS & TRICKS

Another helpful idea that will simplify and improve your engraving and routing projects.

BURNISHING

Burnishing is an engraving technique that produces distinctive, highly visible results on metal, particularly color coated metal. Burnishing removes the top layer, or color coating, exposing the base metal. The best results are obtained by using very light spindle pressure, preferably with an EZ-Rider or Featherweight burnishing adapter (see below).

Here are some tips on choosing the right burnishing tools:

Diamond and Carbide Burnishing Cutters

There are two types of burnishing cutters (also known as burnishers). One has a faceted shaped, carbide tip and the other has a diamond tip (these are referred to as diamond burnishers or rotating diamonds). The advantages of the diamond burnishers are:

- They last longer
- They produce a cleaner, smoother cut than carbide cutters, especially on soft metals like aluminum
- If you are oxidizing the metal afterwards, it typically works better with a diamond

Disadvantages are price and the sizes (the largest is only .060"). You can have the diamonds replaced if and when they wear out.

Burnishing Adapters (also known as EZ-Riders & FeatherWeight Tools)

When burnishing, you should use a very light touch. An adaptor solves this problem by using an adjustable spring mechanism to relieve excess downward pressure from the spindle. This allows the cutter to glide over the engraving surface without cutting too deeply. This is particularly important when engraving soft metals.

BURNISHING (Cont.)

Burnishing vs. Diamond Drag

This one you will have to experiment with since much of the decision is mostly a matter of taste and preference. However, we typically recommend diamond drag for bare or uncolored metals such as brass, gold, and silver. When you are working with coated or colored metals including coated pens, glass, acrylic, or painted or varnished wood such as jewelry or music boxes, a diamond burnisher is the way to go. Burnishing adds a beautiful smooth look to your work.

Happy engraving!