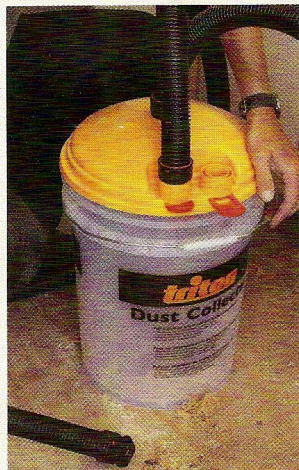


## Questions



I want to build a cyclone dust collection unit. Is there anyone who makes a similar plastic cone system in the UK to the Dust Deputy?

**Chris Ricketts**

The Dust Deputy is no longer available in the UK, but Triton sell a Dust Bucket, which works really well and is economical. It is a bit lightweight, so tends to fall over a fair bit, but it has two inlet ports, with gates so that you only have to have one open at a go. The third port is for a hose to go to your vacuum. We have it in line between our Scheppach tablesaw and an old Bosch workshop vac. It is much easier to empty than the vac, and the dual ports mean that we can have it permanently fitted to a router table and the tablesaw all the time for fine and medium dust/chippings.

That said you could make one of these easily enough yourself. Get hold of a bucket with a lid (it doesn't have to be as large as a large dustbin), and make a hole in the lid for the hose to the vacuum. Then make a hole in the side for the inlet. It can help dust collection if you add a baffle near the dust inlet to direct the flow of waste downwards so that dust drops to the bottom.

## Choosing abrasive coatings

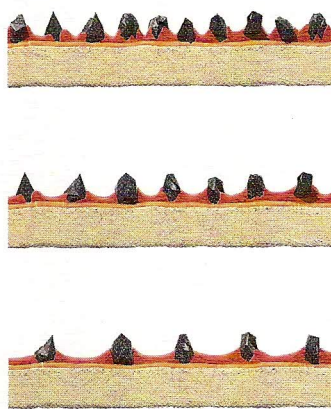
In the second part of his study of abrasives, Peter Sefton looks at abrasive coatings, and promotes the use of Mirka's Abranet

The density of the sanding material decides the sanding result. The basic rule is that the denser the coating, the larger the stock removal and better surface finish. However, in order to prolong the lifetime of the sanding material as well, a more open coating can be better when sanding soft clogging materials and lacquer finishes.

A semi-open coating can also be a very useful product as it is halfway between the two extremes of grit density. A closed coating provides maximum cutting and best surface finish but tends to clog. It is best used on hardwoods. A semi-open coating is a good all-rounder, while an open coating gives greater paper flexibility and is resistant to filling or clogging when used with resinous timbers and lacquers.

### Sanding with Abranet

Sanding dust is a major health problem in furniture making. Dust from lacquers and hardwood can be carcinogenic. Abranet has helped the dust problem with a simple but clever sanding net with thousands of holes providing dust extraction. Because the dust is being continuously sucked away,



Coatings Open (top), semi-open (middle) and closed (bottom) coatings on abrasive

sanding is virtually dust free. The flip side to not seeing the sanding dust you produce is that it is very easy to 'over sand'. Do be mindful of this, as before you know it, you could be through the veneer and into the substrate! In many cases, it can be useful to use a grit size that is finer than that you would normally use. The reason is that Abranet is more aggressive than conventional products and so is quicker cutting (saving you a bit of elbow grease!).

Abranet helps the problems of 'toffee build-up' or 'dust pills'

(found on paper sheets), and clogging. As dust does not collect in lumps on the Abranet surface, there is no danger that sanded dust will build up and create grooves on the sanding surface.

The improved dust extraction leads to less dust contamination between contrasting veneers. One of Abranet's advantages is that the sanding sheets or discs have a longer lifespan than traditional sanding materials although it has to be said, it is an expensive product in the first instance, it does last longer so is worth the extra expense. I use Abranet on extracted hand sanding with a sanding block Abranet tool which I attach to my Fein vacuum.

When using Abranet you find that you can complete much of your sanding whilst still staying at your workbench (in my workshop, without being ousted by other students, for creating dust!). There will be less airborne dust and tidying up afterwards, which is a bonus for any woodworker.

*Details Peter Sefton runs long and short courses in woodworking and furniture making at his workshops in Worcestershire (peterseftonfurnitureschool.com).*



Vented Abranet's new sanding block with rotating vent hole to reduce pressure on vacs