

A MESSAGE FROM MICHEL AURIOU USE & CARE INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR RASP OR RIFFLER

Dear Woodworker

Congratulations and thank you for purchasing one of my hand made rasps. I believe you have bought a tool of rare excellence in today's world of mass production. I hope that this tool will add value to your personal woodworking experience.

I would like to explain a few things about your rasp and let you in on a few secrets that help make my rasps the most sought after rasps made in the world today.

Only a hand made rasp can be shaped with such precision and have cutting teeth that are fine and sharp enough to cut efficiently so as to give an incomparably neat finish.

Your tool is **a precision cutting tool** that cuts quickly, with little effort and leaves a smooth surface. The finish achieved will save you time when roughing out shapes and finishing.

Remember Rasps and Riffles are **shaping tools** and you will be able to achieve great accuracy in this respect. Whether you are shaping blanks or making final corrections to small curves or details one of my rasps or riffles will make the task much simpler. Some timber is very expensive and craftsmen are tentative about using rasps where delicate shaping is required but you can work with confidence in my rasps – you will not split or tear the edge of your work.

My rasps and riffles are made entirely by hand in our own factory in South West France (you are welcome to visit if you are ever in this area) – our secrets lie in:-

Steel Quality – Auriou use a fine grade high carbon steel

Our unique forging process – for instance our riffles are hand drawn using a spring power hammer and then shaped by hand on an anvil by our blacksmith – they are not stamped and cut by machine. This method may be considered old fashioned – I don't care - I believe that we are correct in preserving the integrity of the steel's fibre. None of the steel is discarded from the original blank we use.

Our skill in grinding, polishing and heat treatment - after forging we aim to produce a perfect shape with a polished surface which is ready to take cutting teeth that are stitched into the surface. If the surface is irregular or not polished correctly you will get a poor rasp as the teeth will not be able to cut efficiently.

The quality of our stitching – it can take up to 2 years to train my stitchers to the required level of competence. My stitchers are highly skilled and they are able to produce uniform cutting teeth whether for coarse cut rasps or the finest cut. The sharpness of the teeth is continually checked by a special tool. My rasps are stitched to the edges and to the tips. Pause for a moment and look at the stitching and shaping on one of our riffles. I hope you can appreciate the level of skill involved in making such a tool.

Tools hardening – this is an exacting process – My rasps are oil hardened one by one. They are hand dipped in an oil bath so that any deformation of shape can be detected by my skilled workers.

Cleaning - after hardening my rasps are cleaned and checked individually before rust preventative treatment and packing.

Note because of the above unique processes you will discover that my rasps will cut much more effortlessly than a machine made rasp. My rasps are precision shaping tools. You will discover that one of my fine grade rasps will cut much more efficiently than a medium cut machine made tool.

Cost – I can make no apology for the cost of my tools. We know they are high but you have to try and compare **like with like** and you cannot with our product as it is alone in its quality and performance. I continue to believe in our methods and receive many compliments from internationally recognised cabinet makers, chairmakers, woodturners and woodcarvers. More importantly for me is that I receive compliments from hundreds of ordinary woodworking enthusiasts from all over the world.

This is my inspiration and I hope you will also enjoy my tools

Care & Protection

Keep your Auriou rasp separate from other tools.

If you are not going to use your rasp or riffler for a while then wrap it in an oily rag to prevent rust. Clean with camelia oil before re-use to prevent clogging.

Use a stiff brush to clean the cutting teeth from time to time – a stiff toothbrush is perfect (but use an old one please!). A shoe brush will work but do not use a wire brush (contrary to what you may read elsewhere!)

Use

Do not exert too much pressure – note the miniature shavings (not dust) that your rasp removes.

Cut at a skew angle – angle the tip of the tool slightly to the left and push forward and to the right. With rounded section rasps roll the rasp slightly when pushing forward – this means you use the maximum amount of cutting teeth in one pass.

Left handers can order specially cut rasps for left handers – alternatively it will not take many minutes to get used to rasping as a right hander.

Merci bien



Michel Auriou – Forge de Saint Juery – home of Auriou Toolworks – September 2008

www.forge-de-saint-juery.com