

## Shaping Sharpening Stones to a convex elliptical surface

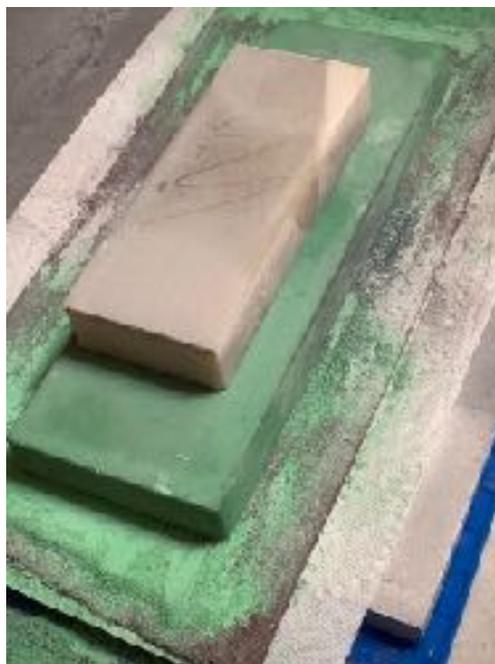
This selection of stones can be used to grind the concave bevels on razors. A Norton 1000 Waterstone, Norton medium and fine India stones, a Hard Arkansas novaculite, and Naniwa Professional 1000 and 3000 grit Waterstones. These stones have been shaped to the 6.5' dimension of The Superior Shave's elliptical form.



Stones can be roughly shaped with a belt grinder, always using water or oil as a cutting fluid. It is easy to overheat the stone, causing fractures, so grinding should be done very slowly. Stones will also ruin the belt within a few minutes.



After rough grinding, the stones can be refined on The Superior Shave's CNC-formed 11 x 9 inch elliptical lapping plate, which forms an elliptically convex surface on the stone. The stone then makes a concave bevel behind the razor's edge.



This White Translucent Arkansas novaculite stone is being shaped to 6.5' diameter along the length and 25' across the width using The Superior Shave's elliptical aluminum plate as a form for the abrasive paper.







It takes several hours of grinding on 36-grit abrasive paper to shape the stone into the elliptical form. Making maple wood blocks with an elliptical surface is much easier. Adhesive-backed abrasive paper, or film, can be applied to the wood blocks to make a convex sharpening surface for knives.





This image shows a progression of 6.5' elliptically surfaced razor honing stones, starting with an India Fine, Hard Arkansas, Jadeite for ripping off the burr, Blue-Black or White Translucent Arkansas for polishing, and finally a Jende diamond pasted stropp for the keen toothy edge. Mineral oil, with a drop of oud for scent, is used as the cutting fluid for all the stones.





The thin, concave bevel created by the convex elliptical surface makes a keen edge for a close and pain-free shave.

