

FLEXIBLE GRINDING PADS FOR HAND HELD MACHINES

BY: Ian Hughes

Diamond Products are leaders in the manufacture and supply of diamond tools and other associated equipment for industrial applications.

They specialize in catering for the construction, glass, flooring and quarrying industries and regard themselves as 'unique' in their ability to assemble and support their product range. "Moreover," declared Diamond Products director Brian Clark, "we are the only diamond tool company in South Africa with laser welding facilities for the manufacture of diamond blades and core drills.



In an interview with Hardware Retailer, he stated that the company had recently decided to move into the supply of a new range of flexible grinding pads for use on hand held grinding machines. "This is a brand new sector for us," said Clark. "Basically we are offering a range of flexible metal dot pads which consist of rough diamond segments which are housed in a flexible rubber pad and operate on the same system as the company's range of flexible polishing pads. These pads are designed to be used on damaged concrete floors, or floors, which need the removal of markings, paint or epoxy or whatever other material may be on it.



"These grinding pads offer far greater flexibility compared to cup grinders and are currently available in 30 grit, 60 grit, 150 grit and 300 grit sizes," explained Clark. Basically, they are designed to

grind off excess or unwanted foreign material on concrete surfaces. So one can floor grind, remove tool marks and even pre-grind in preparation for polishing. These tools simply enable one to get back to a clean, even solid concrete floor. "Once the concrete floor has been prepared in this way, then the client can decide what he wants to do. For example, he may want to lay vinyl down or prepare a screed or even repaint. Our tools offer a faster grinding speed and considerably longer product life.

Although designed for concrete the pads are also suitable for marble, granite and terrazzo. "They're actually brilliant for marble," Clark continued, "as unlike a cup grinder, they do not have rigid segments, so one can achieve a lovely smooth finish on rounded surfaces. And the finer grit pads can even be successfully used on delicate materials such as porcelain tiles. These grinding pads form part of the company's ever growing range of flooring and polishing pads, and their flexibility allows clients many more options to add to their existing polishing systems. Another example, because the pads are flexible they can be used for delicate work on decorative concrete and concrete furniture. They are also ideal for grinding on curved projects such as swimming pools etc., and of course they are really tough and long lasting.

Brian Clark emphasised that the products could take surfaces to a 'very high degree of polish if desired and to all stages in between. "It all depends on what the surface is to be used for," he said. "obviously if the floor is to be used for a reception area or a boutique one would require a high degree of smoothness and polish. Even to a high gloss finish if needed. Before we

brought in this new range, our tools were designed for large industrial projects and areas and if you attempted to use them on smaller, more delicate areas, you ran the risk of chipping or breaking the material.



"Currently, these flexible grinding pads are only available in a diameter of 100 mm, solely for use on small grinding machines. However, down the line if it becomes clear that the demand exists for larger flexible grinding pads, then we may look at expanding. We know that there are certain operations which make use of larger pads, so let's see. For the time being, I think the message from Diamond Products is that, with this range, we can now cater for consumers' needs right up to huge industrial sites," he confirmed. With agents in various African countries, Clark firmly believes that this is where exciting growth prospects lie. "That is not to say that we are not growing here in South Africa. On the contrary, we are in a strong growth phase locally, and the market is set to grow much further. We also run an online shop where customers can check on our ranges and even purchase. Moreover," concluded Brian Clark, "we offer a training video to customers to educate them in using our tools effectively."

Under the name Diamond Products, the company – which only supplies and manufactures diamond tools – has been around since 2007. For the previous 25 years, and prior to assuming its current identity and ownership, it was known as Boart Longear owned by Anglo American.