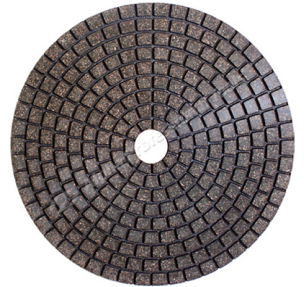


### Ceramica EX

Alpha®, the manufacturer of the “Original Ceramica Polishing Discs”, has created the next generation of polishing discs, Ceramica EX. With the proliferation of engineered stones, Alpha® recognized the need for polishing discs that could work effectively on these challenging new surfacing products. After extensive research and development, Alpha® established the diamond and bond formula best suited for today’s engineered stones, the result: Ceramica EX. Our research determined something else; Ceramica EX works extremely well on all natural stones, too. As a result, Ceramica EX can fulfill all the needs of all stone fabricators; one set of polishing pads that can produce a high quality shine on granite, engineered stone, quartz surfaces, marble (including hard to polish black and green), terrazzo and porcelain tile and slab. Ceramica EX pads work quickly to achieve desired results. They are cost-effective, long-lasting and made from the highest quality raw materials. As an added bonus, they are priced more competitively than the original Ceramica. Ceramica EX pads are extremely flexible, too. They are great for polishing inside corners and a tight radius. Use the Alpha® 2” Flexible hook and loop Backer Pad on really tight curves. Available in 3”, 4” and 5” size discs.

**Sections:**

- How to Use
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Helpful Hints
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Part No.	Size	Grit	Color
EX30200R	3"	200	Yellow
EX30500R	3"	500	Red
EX31000R	3"	1000	Dark Green
EX32000R	3"	2000	Light Green
EX33000R	3"	3000	Brown
EX40200R	4"	200	Yellow
EX40500R	4"	500	Red
EX41000R	4"	1000	Dark Green
EX42000R	4"	2000	Light Green
EX43000R	4"	3000	Brown
EX50200R	5"	200	Yellow
EX50500R	5"	500	Red
EX51000R	5"	1000	Dark Green
EX52000R	5"	2000	Light Green
EX53000R	5"	3000	Brown

## How to Use

Shape the edge of the stone using an Alpha® Profiler, Alpha® Grinding/Shaping Wheel, or Alpha® Router Bit.

Use Alpha® Ceramica Vitrified or Alpha® Ceramica Metal 60 Grit with care to eliminate all scratches and saw cut marks. Rubbing a yellow lumber crayon or grease pencil will aid in finding scratches, even while the stone is wet.

Once prepared, very light contouring and blending, as well as preliminary polishing can be done. After each step, you should dry the area, using compressed air, a hair dryer or a heat blower gun, to look for scratches and imperfections. Make sure the area is smooth and there are no grinding marks or saw cut marks left over from the previous grit.

Polish with the Ceramica Resin discs: 500, 1000, 2000, and 3000 Grits in order. Do not skip any grits.

For granite, use the Ceramica Buff polishing pad. Choose Black for dark colored stones and White for light colored stones. Wet the workpiece and run the disc semi-wet with very low water for lubrication to generate heat. When the water is consumed, the process is complete. Repeat as necessary to improve the luster. Note: The special impregnation in the Ceramica Buff pads will help you achieve the best results, including color and luster “pop” only after being allowed to consume the small amounts of water and heat up.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### What materials can I use Ceramica EX on?

Ceramica EX is designed for Engineered Stone; however, it works great on granite, marble, terrazzo, and porcelain. For granite applications, we recommend using our Alpha® Ceramica Buff discs after the 3000 grit of Ceramica EX.

### Why do I need to use the 60 Grit Ceramica Vitrified or Metal Bond disc?

The 60 grit Ceramica Vitrified disc is necessary to remove saw marks and grinding marks. If the 60 grit disc is not used, the 150 grit will have to work exceedingly harder than necessary and will have a reduced life.

### Can I use Ceramica EX discs on my Makita tool?

Alpha® Ceramica EX is designed to be used wet and at a low RPM. Ordinary angle grinders are much too fast and will cause the discs to burn. Only a water-feed machine will supply enough water to the Ceramica EX discs. Do not try to run on high-speed machines that run above 4,000 RPM.

### Do we really need a center water-feed or can we sponge on water when needed?

Alpha® Ceramica EX is designed to be used on a center water-feed tool. This tool distributes water evenly on the disc. Trying to get the job done any other way will only guarantee you frustration, lack of polish, and a waste of time and money. We recommend using the Alpha® VSP-120, AWP-158 or AIR-658, since all of these polishers have a center water-feed system.

### How long does Ceramica EX last?

Due to the many types of materials these discs are capable of polishing, it is very hard to say exactly how long a Ceramica EX disc will last. However, if used properly your pads will last a long time. Studies have shown that no other disc comes close to the lifespan and quality of the Alpha® Ceramica EX disc.

### Can Ceramica EX be used on marble?

Yes, Ceramica EX can be used on marble as well as travertine, terrazzo, porcelain, ceramic tile and many types of engineered stone.

### What sizes are Ceramica EX offered in?

Ceramica EX is available in 3”, 4” and 5”. The 4” diameter is the most common size of polishing discs and can be adapted for many applications by using smaller-sized backer pad.

### My 200 grit seems to wear faster than I expect it to. What can I do?

If you are using the Ceramica EX 200 grit right after the grinding wheel or saw cut, then what you are experiencing is normal. We recommend using a 60 grit Ceramica Vitrified or Metal disc before using the 200 grit Ceramica EX disc. This sequence will ensure less work for the 200 grit, since deep scratches were removed by the 60 grit Vitrified or Metal disc. Adding the 60 grit Ceramica Vitrified or Metal disc will work a lot faster and save the valuable life of your 200 grit Ceramica EX.

**How many passes do you have to make?**

It is important to make sure all prior scratches are removed before moving onto another grit. An average of 2 to 3 passes is all that is needed. Polishing two across and one up and down is a good technique and will usually provide an adequate amount of time. Never rush the grits! You will only risk having to do your workpiece over again.

**What RPM speed is best, I've been told many answers?**

Alpha® Ceramica EX is designed to operate in the range of 2,000 to 2,500 RPM. However, Ceramica EX will work at a maximum of 4,000 RPM for people who prefer to work at a higher RPM. Exceeding 4,000 RPM will only wear the discs quicker and quality of polish will be disappointing.

**Sometimes when polishing engineered stone, I notice slight burn marks. How can I prevent these marks so I don't have to re-polish my workpiece?**

First, make sure you have ample water supply during your polishing process. Second, try reducing the RPM of the polisher. Using a slow RPM will reduce friction and drag (heat) during the polishing process (which usually burns the engineered stone). Using the Alpha® AIR-658 (pneumatic polisher) or VSP-120 (variable speed electric polisher), can allow you to reduce the RPM for use on engineered stone materials.

**Can these discs be used on my floor machine?**

Although the Ceramica EX and floor discs may look similar, they differ greatly. Ceramica EX discs are designed only for hand polishing applications. Do not try to use these discs on a floor machine. Floor polishing can use the Alpha® Advantage Floor discs to accomplish your grinding and polishing needs.

**What are the different Backer Pads used for?**

Alpha® Flexible Backer Pads are rubber and used for curves and bullnoses. Alpha® Rigid Backer Pads are for flat areas and straight edges.

**We followed your instructions and the stone is shiny, but Absolute Black Granite looks gray?**

To get a good deep polish, all discs need to be used in the proper sequence, all the way from 60 grit to 3000 grit followed by the Final Buff disc. Polishing at the wrong RPM or not spending enough time on each grit can cause hazy areas to be noticed. Follow step by step instructions listed above to avoid cloudy and hazy areas. Note: cloudy and hazy areas usually indicate that a lower grit did not successfully remove scratches from the preceding grit.

**I used Ceramica EX on engineered stone. The edge doesn't match the polish on the surface. What can I do?**

In some cases, Ceramica EX provides too much of a polish for engineered stone. Polish as the instructions indicate above. Stop after the 2000 grit and examine your work carefully. You may have gone far enough for this particular type of stone. If you used the 3000 grit and your work still isn't as shiny as the surface, you may need to restart from the 500 grit. This should ensure an excellent finish. Do not use the Final Buff disc on engineered stone as you may burn the edge.

**Will Ceramica EX create the "Leather Finish" look/texture which some engineered manufacturers produce today?**

No. Ceramica EX will not produce this "Leather Finish" texture, it will only create a smooth high gloss shine on the edge of the material.

**Do we really need all of the discs, somebody told me you only need three grits?**

Yes. Using anything less than the full system will not ensure the high quality finish. Skipping grits or not spending enough time on each grit does not work and always yields unsatisfactory results. Alpha® Ceramica EX is a complete modern and effective system, which can prove its value under the toughest of work conditions and the most demanding inspections.

**What kind of polishing powder should we use to finish up?**

We don't recommend the use of any sloppy and hazardous chemicals and loose powders. For granite, Alpha® designed the Ceramica Buff Final Polishing disc which works better and quicker than any traditional final polishing method. Use the Ceramica Buff Black for dark granite or Ceramica Buff White for light colored granite. All other materials will have an excellent finish after the 3000 grit.

**My employees don't like to get wet when polishing! What can I tell them?**

Fabrication is easier, faster and much healthier when the material is worked wet with a quality diamond system. Breathing dust generated by dry polishing techniques is very unhealthy. A higher quality polish is obtained with wet polishing. Using proper attire and equipment such as rubber boots, safety glasses and the Alpha® Apron, will keep them dry.

## Helpful Hints

- Ceramica EX is WET USE ONLY!
- Avoid sharp corners of the stone to prevent damage to the disc.
- On Absolute Black Granite, use the Ceramica Buff Black disc longer than you normally would on other granites. This will enhance the depth of color and increase the gloss.
- Very little pressure is needed when using Alpha® Ceramica EX, the high quality diamond grits will do the job for you.
- 60 grit Ceramica Vitrified or Metal is recommended for use after a router bit application.
- For tight areas such as corners, we recommend using an undersized backer pad to give the Ceramica EX more flexibility.
- Polishing granite successfully requires practice. We suggest you hone your skills on scrap pieces.

## Reference

For more product information, visit us on the web at [www.alpha-tools.com](http://www.alpha-tools.com).