

Kit & tools

A collection of tests and press releases showing the latest tools and products on the market

All prices are correct at time of going to press but are subject to change without notice. Products from US & overseas to UK are subject to shipping & taxes

ON TEST

Carbide cutters

Kurt Hertzog tries out a range of carbide cutters for turning tools for Arizona Carbide

With the ongoing popularity of carbide cutter tools, many tool companies that don't exclusively offer carbide cutter tools have added them to their traditional steel tool product lines. The latest entry into the carbide cutter world is Arizona Carbide (AZ Carbide). At this point only offering replacement carbide cutters, it bills itself as 'your one and only source for carbide Inserts'.

Its product line is very extensive. While I'm not sure it offers a cutter to replace every carbide cutter currently on the market, it must be close. I received its entire product line of flat-topped cutters and its contour ground cutters to evaluate. Also, I had a chance to try out its latest offering of a carbide scraper insert. Stacking them up face to face with the replacement cutters offered by the original equipment manufacturers, they match up with no discernible difference. Each one that I used fitted perfectly in the nesting (when there



The flat-topped product offering with a host of diamond shaped, square, and round sizes to fit nearly every application



PHOTOGRAPHS BY KURT HERTZOG

was one) and the mounting fastener fitted perfectly.

Flat-topped cutters

The flat-topped cutters, both square and round, cut nicely with no noticeable difference from the original cutter. The sharp-cornered cutters were sharply cornered and the radius-edged cutters worked as the original radius-edged cutters. I didn't have any of the AZ Carbide cutters that didn't fit their

intended application. I used them extensively to see if they would wear out faster than the OEM (original equipment manufacturer) cutter but never saw a difference I could quantify. Good practices of keeping tabs on your workhorse edge and using them appropriately extends the lives of the cutters considerably.

French-curve scraper

The AZ Carbide scraper is an interesting



AZ Carbide offers contour ground cutters for most hollowing rigs, as well as a shaft/mounting system

bit of kit. It is big enough to be used on larger work and has many different curves that lend themselves. You never engage too much surface but rather find the best fit along the French curve of the scraper for your needs. It did a wonderful job on the faceplate-oriented grain work I used it on.

Contour-ground cutters

The contour-ground cutters matched up with the OEM cutters and were easily interchanged. The nesting fits were all good and the screw mounts fitted perfectly. I tried them on my hollowing rigs from various manufacturers and they performed identically. The cutters that fitted my existing handled tools were also mounted and tested. I could not tell any difference in cut surface finish when the cutters were new. The engagement and generation of nicely formed curls was easily attained. There was no difference in ability to feather the cut or lean into it more aggressively.

My testing wasn't scientifically designed to gauge any differences in longevity between the OEM cutters and the AZ Carbide offerings. The AZ Carbide cutters provided good life and I didn't make attempts to rejuvenate them with a diamond hone. I used them until I needed a fresh edge and then rotated the cutter. Again, doing the heavy cutting in one area and then rotating for the primo edge and back and forth as needed.

Once the primo edge becomes a bit haggard, it now becomes the workhorse cutting area and the virgin cutter area next in the rotation becomes the primo area.



AZ Carbide's newest offering is a large carbide scraper that mounts to many systems, offering a host of contours to engage

Conclusion

Overall evaluation of the AZ Carbide cutter line is very favourable. They fitted all of the applications I tried them in and cut very nicely in all. The lifetime of the edges was acceptable and the pricing of the product is extremely attractive. I recommend you give them a try in your own shop.

Prices from \$6.50
 Contact: AZ Carbide
 Web: <https://azcarbide.com>

Conversion chart	
2mm	(¹ / ₁₆ in)
3mm	(¹ / ₈ in)
4mm	(¹ / ₄ in)
6mm	(¹ / ₂ in)
7mm	(⁷ / ₁₆ in)
8mm	(¹ / ₂ in)
9mm	(⁹ / ₁₆ in)
10mm	(³ / ₈ in)
11mm	(⁷ / ₁₆ in)
12mm	(¹ / ₂ in)
13mm	(¹ / ₂ in)
14mm	(⁷ / ₁₆ in)
15mm	(⁹ / ₁₆ in)
16mm	(¹ / ₂ in)
17mm	(¹¹ / ₁₆ in)
18mm	(³ / ₄ in)
19mm	(³ / ₄ in)
20mm	(¹ / ₂ in)
21mm	(¹³ / ₁₆ in)
22mm	(¹ / ₂ in)
23mm	(²³ / ₃₂ in)
24mm	(¹⁵ / ₁₆ in)
25mm	(1in)
30mm	(1 ¹ / ₈ in)
32mm	(1 ¹ / ₄ in)
35mm	(1 ³ / ₈ in)
38mm	(1 ¹ / ₂ in)
40mm	(1 ⁵ / ₈ in)
45mm	(1 ³ / ₄ in)
50mm	(2in)
55mm	(2 ¹ / ₈ -2 ¹ / ₄ in)
60mm	(2 ³ / ₈ in)
63mm	(2 ¹ / ₂ in)
65mm	(2 ⁵ / ₈ in)
70mm	(2 ⁷ / ₈ in)
75mm	(3in)
80mm	(3 ¹ / ₈ in)
85mm	(3 ¹ / ₄ in)
90mm	(3 ³ / ₈ in)
93mm	(3 ⁵ / ₈ in)
95mm	(3 ³ / ₄ in)
100mm	(4in)
105mm	(4 ¹ / ₈ in)
110mm	(4 ¹ / ₄ -4 ³ / ₈ in)
115mm	(4 ³ / ₈ in)
120mm	(4 ³ / ₄ in)
125mm	(5in)
130mm	(5 ¹ / ₈ in)
135mm	(5 ¹ / ₄ in)
140mm	(5 ¹ / ₂ in)
145mm	(5 ³ / ₄ in)
150mm	(6in)
155mm	(6 ¹ / ₈ in)
160mm	(6 ¹ / ₄ in)
165mm	(6 ¹ / ₂ in)
170mm	(6 ³ / ₄ in)
178mm	(6 ⁷ / ₈ in)
180mm	(7in)
185mm	(7 ¹ / ₄ in)
190mm	(7 ¹ / ₂ in)
195mm	(7 ³ / ₄ in)
200mm	(8in)
305mm	(12in)
405mm	(16in)
510mm	(20in)
610mm	(24in)
710mm	(28in)
815mm	(32in)
915mm	(36in)
1015mm	(40in)
1120mm	(44in)
1220mm	(48in)
1320mm	(52in)
1420mm	(56in)
1525mm	(60in)

MOTHER-OF-PEARL AND CALCITE INLAY

Imaginlay has introduced a range of inlay material in either mother-of-pearl, available in flake or fine grades, and crystal calcite, in coarse grade in 10z jars. Imaginlay comments that the mother-of-pearl and calcite '...can be used as is, or dyed to emulate a variety of luxurious gem stones, such as sapphire blue, ruby red, jade green and more. You can also mix it into our other inlay materials to add a shimmering translucent chatoyance effect. These grains add iridescent, colourful shimmer to any inlay design. It comes from the inner layer of the shell of some oysters and abalones.'

The website has a nice gallery of examples of work using these items and instructions for how to use and colour them.

Price \$12.95 for 10z jar
 Contact Imaginlay
 Web: www.easyinlay.com



TREND AIRSHIELD PRO RESPIRATOR

The Trend Airshield Pro powered respirator offers combined respiratory and eye/face protection. Powered by an eight-hour a battery that lasts eight hours the Airshield Pro uses a fan to provide a constant positive airflow through the visor, allowing unrestricted breathing. The polycarbonate flip up visor is Optical Class IB3 rated and provides impact resistance for high speed particles, medium energy impact and liquid droplets and splashes. The visor viewing area can be protected with the visor overlay supplied and replacement overlays are available to be bought too. A removable brow guard houses the battery pack, motor, fan and twin TH2P replaceable filters, all of which are distributed around the brow guard to provide balance and reduced noise levels in use.

The filters give an Assigned Protection Factor of APF20, suitable for use with MDF. The AIR/PRO is certified to approved standard BS EN 12941 TH2P-S for respiratory protection and BS EN166 for eye protection.

Price £269.96

Contact: Trend Machinery & Cutting Tools Ltd

Web: www.trend-uk.com



CBN WHEELS

The Toolpost has introduced a dual recessed 150mm diameter CBN (Cubic Boron Nitride) wheel providing 25mm width sharpening potential on grinders designed for 19mm wide wheels.

The centre of the recessed 25mm wheels is reduced to 19mm wide so that the hub width directly fits into the space occupied by a 19mm wide wheel. Provided that the grinder side guards have 3mm of space either side of the standard 19mm wheel, then the recessed 25mm wheels can be fitted. (Be aware that guards should never be removed to permit the fitting of a wider wheel regardless of whether the wheel is of CBN or AlOx type: full guarding of all grinding wheels is essential.)

This addition brings to 17 the total number of different CBN wheel configurations that The ToolPost supplies. Wheels are available in 150mm and 200mm diameters in widths from 19mm to 40mm. There is a choice of three grits; coarse, standard and fine.

Aluminium precision wheel mounting bushes and flanges, to suit 1/2 inch (12.7mm); 15mm and 5/8 inch (15.88mm) diameter grinder shafts are also available.

Prices from £99.50

Contact: The Toolpost

Web: www.toolpost.co.uk

250MM WET STONE SHARPENING SYSTEM

Record Power has introduced a package deal comprising their 250mm wet stone sharpening system and a range of useful sharpening accessories. The package includes: Sharpening system tutorial, a straight-edge jig, diamond truing tool, support arm, stone grader, honing compound, angle setting gauge and angle finder.

The sharpening system features variable speed, adjustable torque and leather wheel for honing cutting edges. There are a host of optional extra jigs to augment and enhance the system's capabilities for sharpening tools even further.

Price: £259.99

Contact: Record Power

Web: www.recordpower.co.uk

