

Technical Notes

PVA Quick Change Style

Alpha® PVA Quick Change System is a low speed version of the original “Makita® style” PVA and is designed for use on an aluminum snail-lock backer plate specifically developed for low speed polishing tools such as the AWP-158 and the AIR-658. Alpha® PVA Quick Change will work on all of the same applications as the “Makita® style” PVA with the same excellence and quality. Marble shops, tile installers or anyone else that already has access to a low speed polishing tool will find that the Alpha® PVA Quick Change system will speed up their productivity. The aluminum backer plate is attached to the polishing tool and each of the pads has a snail lock adapter. The adapter simply fits into place and locks on with a twisting motion. To remove the pads simply untwist and remove, then replace with the next grit. This “Quick Change” process saves time, increases productivity and is an Alpha® exclusive.

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Part No.	Size	Maximum RPM	Type	Arbor	Finish	Grit
PVAQCW	4"	4,000	Snail Lock		Extra Coarse	40
PVAQCR	4"	4,000	Snail Lock		Coarse	80
PVAQCB	4"	4,000	Snail Lock		Medium	220
PVAQCG	4"	4,000	Snail Lock		Fine	400
PVAQCY	4"	4,000	Snail Lock		Extra Fine	600
PVAQCK	4"	4,000	Snail Lock		Assortment	All
SPVAQCW	4"	4,000		Snail Lock	Extra Coarse	40
SPVAQCR	4"	4,000		Snail Lock	Coarse	80
SPVAQCB	4"	4,000		Snail Lock	Medium	220
SPVAQCG	4"	4,000		Snail Lock	Fine	400
SPVAQCY	4"	4,000		Snail Lock	Extra Fine	600
PVA-5/8	4"	3,000			Snail Lock Adapter	5/8"-11

How to Use

1. Mount the PVA Quick Change onto your choice of high-speed grinder.
2. Cut work piece to size.
3. Clamp work piece securely to prevent vibration.
4. Shape edges to desired pattern with Alpha® PVA Extra Coarse (White), or other Alpha® products such as: Alpha® Profilers, Alpha® Profile Wheels or Alpha® Dry Grinding Wheels.
5. Take time to carefully prepare the work piece as much as possible. Alpha® PVA Finer Grit Wheels will not work properly over gouges, scratches and rough areas.
6. Starting with PVA Coarse (Red) lightly run the wheel over the marble. Do not push down, and don't use water.
7. Continue polishing with Medium (Blue), Fine (Green), and finally Extra-Fine (Yellow).

Refer to the power tools owner's manual for proper attachment of accessories.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Can I use water while polishing with PVA?

No. PVA is designed for DRY polishing only. If you get the PVA wet, it will act like a sponge and expand. PVA will be dangerous to use in this condition and may possibly disintegrate.

Can I polish granite using PVA?

No. PVA is designed to polish soft material such as marble, travertine and onyx. Granite is a dense material and will wear away the PVA by causing the wheels to heat up and melt away. For Granite polishing, we recommend using Alpha® Ceramica or Ceramica EX which are wet polishing systems.

How do I mount PVA Quick Change (QC) onto the grinder or polishing tool?

You need to attach the Alpha® PVA-5/8 backer pad (sold separately) onto your grinder or polishing tool. This PVA-5/8 backer has 5/8" -11 threads on one side and uses a special snail lock (SFAT) adapter to hold the PVA Wheel. The PVA QC series easily snail locks right into the adapter making it easy to change grits. It is very important not to use this product on a high-speed tool.

What are the grit numbers of the PVA and which order do I use them?

The grit and color sequence is as follows: White (40), Red (80), Blue (220), Green (400) and Yellow (600).

Can I skip grits?

No. PVA is designed to be used in sequence, as each higher grit disc removes the scratches left by previous grits. Skipping certain grits will make the time process longer and the life of your abrasives shorter. Also, the final polishing results on the material may not be satisfactory.

What is the maximum rpm which these PVA Quick Change wheels can be used?

The maximum rpm is 4,000, therefore, it must be used only on low-speed polishers and variable-speed grinders which can be adjusted down to 4000 RPM maximum.

Should I use a buffing compound or wax to finish up?

No. One of the advantages of PVA is the beautiful finish it gives without using any wax.

Can I use this product on a high speed grinder?

No. The maximum safe speed is 4,000. Alpha® sells a high speed PVA for use on high speed grinders.

I am using a PVA assortment kit and the white wheel wore out before the others, can I purchase individual pieces of PVA?

Yes. Alpha® offers PVA for individual sales, we call these "Single Packs". You can also purchase PVA QC in boxes of five for each particular grit. (Please refer to the chart)

Can PVA be used on metal?

Yes. PVA works very well on many different type of metal especially stainless steel. As a matter of fact, PVA was initially designed for the metal industry.

Can I use PVA on glass?

Yes. After you cut or score the glass to size, we recommend using the PVA Red and PVA Blue to ease the edge of the glass.

Does the backer pad come in other arbor sizes?

Yes. Please call for availability for optional arbor sizes.

On which tools do these quick change wheels fit safely?

These wheels will work on the most common variable speed tools when used at the lower RPM ranges (less than 4,000 RPM). Aside from low speed polishing tools such as the Alpha® AWP-158 and AIR-658, the following is a list of common popular tools that PVA Quick Change will work on. Makita # 9207 SPC 7" Sander/Polisher, Bosch # 9250 5" Angle Sander/Grinder, AEG # WP1900 7" Polisher, and Milwaukee # 5460, 5540, 5455, 5535 Polishers.

What is in the little bag that is packed with each PVA wheel?

It is drying compound of silica gel desiccant that prevents the PVA wheels from absorbing moisture.

Helpful Hints

- PVA should be used to polish in one direction making sure the you remove all prior scratches before moving on to next grit.
- Shape the stone to the desired pattern using the Alpha® Profilers, Profile Wheels or Dry Grinding Wheels. On very soft marble you may use the PVA Extra Coarse (white) grit to help shape and blend.
- Use just a light touch and let the wheel glide along the stone. Pressing too hard will cause the PVA to heat up.
- PVA is a special cushioned material which prevents bouncing. If bouncing occurs, check to make sure that the backer pad is properly attached to the spindle and the PVA MS wheel is properly locked.
- Polishing to a high degree is accomplished very quickly. Always use the wheel at a slight angle (15 degrees) never flat.
- The product is simple to use; however, new users should practice on scrap materials to develop the skill.
- For wet polishing of Marble, Granite, Porcelain and Engineered Stone, try Alpha® Ceramica and Ceramica EX Diamond Discs. Alpha® Sandpaper can also polish Marble for wet/dry polishing applications.
- Always wear eye protection and proper personal safety equipment when using this product.

Reference

For more product information, visit us on the web at www.alpha-tools.com.