

This is an example of the pyramid honing technique as described by Randy Tuttle (randydance@visi.com).

Conservative Honing Ratio

This is a suggestion for a straight razor that is almost keen. It shaves but it pulls at the whiskers. I use the thumb test to see when the edge has attained a noticeable change in feel. Then strop for 35 laps on plain leather and test shave. Repeat as necessary.

Please note that this only applies to the use of a Norton waterstone. It does not apply to Japanese waterstones, a Belgian stone, Arkansas stones, classic barber hones, pasted stroppers or sandpaper.

Set #	Norton 4000	Norton 8000
1	1	5
2	1	5
3	3	5
4	5	5
5	3	5
6	3	5
7	1	5
8	1	5
9	1	5

use the thumb test at any point during this sequence and stop if you feel the edge is now keen

Aggressive Honing Ratio

Use this sequence when the razor is not shaving at all.

Set #	Norton 4000 Laps	Norton 8000 Laps
1	15	5
2	10	5
3	5	5
4	3	5
5	1	5
6	1	5

Be sure and use some sort of test before starting so you can evaluate the rate of change that is occurring. I use the thumb test and the hanging hair test. Repeat the honing sequence as necessary and move to the conservative sequence when you think you are getting close. The goal is to avoid over-honing which can make the edge act like a piece of aluminum foil because it is too thin and weak.

Credit for devising the honing pyramid technique goes to Lynn Abrams, the founder of the Yahoo Straightrazorplace forum and the www.straightrazorplace.com website.

To Lynn and all the other razor guru's "THANKS !"

