

# The Natural Angle

VOLUME 13: ISSUE 2

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## Belt Grinders and Everyday Work

By Doug Workman, APF, CJF

A belt grinder is one tool that I, and most of the farriers I know who use them, will not live without. When you consider the tasks that you can perform with a grinder, only your hammer, anvil and forge are more important. My goal is to give you ideas for what you can do with a belt grinder in your everyday work if you are unfamiliar with them; or maybe give you a new idea you can use with your own.

I use expander wheels everyday so I will start by covering their use and safety. Most of this information can be applied with any style belt grinder you may use. The expander wheels come in two sizes - 10" and 6" models. The 10" wheel turns the fastest and is the most aggressive at removing material. The 6" wheel gives a smaller radius that is great for dressing tools or precise grinding. First, expander wheels must turn in the proper direction or the belt will not stay on. They come with an indication arrow showing the proper direction of rotation they must turn. Secondly, you must have the safety guard on and in the proper position (*refer to photo*). Having the guard in this position keeps the sparks from burning you and anything else that may be nearby, as well as making sure you are using the proper section of the wheel while grinding. I can't stress enough the importance of always wearing safety glasses, and when grinding aluminum always wear a good safety mask. When you inhale aluminum dust, you have it for life.

**Belts** - There are three types of belts available for most belt grinders: Aluminum oxide, zircon and ceramic. Aluminum oxide belts are the cheapest and the least durable, they do not hold up very long.

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**Above:**  
Baldor  
Grinder  
with  
expander  
wheels.

**Left:**  
Suggested  
guard  
position.

## THE NATURAL ANGLE

Zircon belts cost a bit more and are more durable and a good choice. Ceramic belts cost more than zircon but they will last four times longer; these are the only belts I use.

There are many applications for modifying shoes with a grinder and I will cover the ones that are most common in my business.

**Boxing and Safing** - Boxing refers to grinding the foot side of the shoe and safing is grinding the ground side. I box and safe every shoe I nail on to protect the shoe and the horse. Using a belt grinder is much faster and less work than hot rasping.



**Deep seating a shoe** - Seating out a keg shoe by forging can be a tricky task if you need a lot of space. With a belt grinder all you do is seat out the shoe to the desired depth, shape it up and nail it on. I deep seat shoes for flat or dropped soles or when I use a pour-in pad so I don't have to use mesh to keep it in place.

**Clips** - There is no need to put on a windswept clip or you may want to shape up factory clips to aide in fitting. Using your grinder, you can shape it up any way you like.

**Heel checks** - It takes no time to ensure there are no rock or manure traps in the heel area. I find if the owner can easily get their hoof pick through the heels they tend to clean them more, as well as the feet being self cleaning (*all bets are off when they live in a mud hole*).

**Rolled toes** - Rolling the toe with your hammer on a keg shoe causes the shoe to grow and the nail placement will move. I shape the shoe and put the roll wherever I choose with the grinder.

**Pads** - After applying the pad and removing the excess with your pad cutter or nippers, the belt grinder will clean up the edges and set the angle perfectly to the angle of the wall. Whenever you grind a pad of any kind, whether plastic or leather, it will tend to clog up your belt.

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**DRESSING CLIP**



**FINISHING PADS**



**SEATING OUT**



This makes the belt slick and it will not cut very well, creating a dangerous situation. Using a rubber belt cleaner after each pad you grind will remove the material from the belt, ensuring a faster cut and safer operation. You can get a belt cleaner from most farrier supplies or the hardware store.

Grinding aluminum can be a pain because of the dust and clogging of your belts. The clogging problem is easy to remedy. Take a bar of soap and apply it to the belt like you would buffing compound and you have no more clogging. I like ivory soap best, it sticks to the belt really well, but any bar soap will work. I reapply before each shoe and it doesn't take much. Remember, always wear a good safety mask. You can get them at any hardware store. There are already enough things that can kill us in our profession.



Use a safety mask



HEEL CHECK AND FINISH

Hopefully you find something in this information you can use that will make your day a little bit easier. ■



ROLLED TOE



GRINDING ALUMINUM



CLEANING AND COATING BELT

# NEW LIBERTY NAIL SIZES

5 CITY | 5 COMBO | 5 RACE



# Another Way to Pay:

## MOBILE PAYMENT DEVICES OFFER FARRIERS AN EFFICIENT WAY TO COLLECT PAYMENT

By Andrew Morales, AFA CF

Advances in technology greatly benefit the farrier business in the 21st century. The assortment of tools, shoes and other equipment currently used in our trade is astounding. In addition to making the actual job of shoeing a horse easier, technology can provide benefits in other areas of your business. With the advent of Smartphones, mobile payment devices now make accepting payment from your clients more efficient and customer friendly. A mobile payment device is designed to attach to your Smartphone and allows customers to pay via their credit or debit card.

There are many benefits of using a mobile payment device. First, it allows another way for you to accept payment. As we move to a paperless society, checks are becoming less common. The ability for you to take debit and credit cards gives the client another easy way to pay you, and pay you on time. This saves you from the hassle of billing after work, or hiring someone to do it for you. Also, it allows you to have the money transferred to your bank account directly. This saves time and fuel; as you don't have to drive to the bank to deposit your checks. Lastly, the mobile payment device can email professional receipts to clients and track your earnings through business programs such as *QuickBooks*.

Companies that provide devices are: INTUIT, MOTOROLA, HEARTLAND PAYMENT SYSTEMS and SQUAREUP. The device and application to use it are often offered for free or at a low cost. To use it you are charged a small swipe fee, most often less than 3% per transaction. The current Smartphones made by APPLE, MOTOROLA, HTC and SAMSUNG are able to use this technology.



1st Lt. Andrew M. Morales  
Farrier from Texas -  
currently deployed in  
Afghanistan.

In sum the mobile payment device saves you time and money when collecting payment, as well as providing clients a hassle free payment option. I hope this article provides you with another way to help make your business a greater success for you, your clients, and most importantly the horse.

### REFERENCES:

- [www.gopayment.com](http://www.gopayment.com)
- [www.squareup.com](http://www.squareup.com)
- [www.motorola.com](http://www.motorola.com)
- [networkworld.com/news/2011/081111-heartland-mobile-payment.html](http://networkworld.com/news/2011/081111-heartland-mobile-payment.html)



## When Change is Good.

### Kerckhaert Standard Rim Series Now with V-Crease

The Standard Rim is versatile - it can be easily shaped to fit front or hind - but doesn't have the pointed toe shape of other brands that makes fitting difficult. Bevels offer good breakover and grip in arena surfaces, trails and cross-country terrain. The full crease from heel to heel offers maximum traction and, the addition of V-Crease ensures better nail fit.

### Also try the enhanced Standard Extra

- Wide web pattern for protection and support in rough terrain
- Bevel on ground side
- Sole relief
- V-Crease



# New Products

## Kerckhaert Syntra Race Plate

- A hybrid design of the Tradition/Synergy
- Excellent choice when horses are racing and training on synthetic and dirt surfaces
- 5.5 mm insert
- Hind - Toe Clipped
- Available in sizes: 4, 5
- Toe design features aluminum coming to the top of the insert in front of the grab; helping with landing and breakover
- Punched for 3-1/2 Race, 4-1/2 Race and 4-1/2 Slim



## FootPro™ Rounding Hammer

- Fully polished
- 2 lb. and 1-3/4 lb.
- Forged by highly skilled craftsmen
- Made in the U.S.A.
- Replacement handles available



## Allen's Blue Powder

- Medicated thrush preventative
- Developed by farrier Todd Allen
- Active ingredient is copper sulfate
- Use as preventative measure and/or treatment of thrush
- 9 oz. bottles



## Liberty Horseshoe Nails 5 Race

- High quality nail designed by Kerckhaert Horseshoe Company
- Excellent points
- Good choice for users in the SX-7, Standard Lite and Swedge Program
- 250 nails per box, 12 boxes per case
- Length - 47 mm



## Liberty Horseshoe Nails 5 Combo

- High quality nail designed by Kerckhaert Horseshoe Company
- Excellent points
- Nail head is slightly larger than the 5 City
- Shank is sized between a City and Slim blade
- 250 nails per box, 12 boxes per case
- Length - 49.5 mm



Ouvert du  
lundi au vendredi  
de 8 h à 16 h

## Maréchalerie Bromont Inc.

[www.marechaleriebromont.com](http://www.marechaleriebromont.com)

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**MANURE, MUD AND DEBRIS...  
NOT UNDER THIS PAD!**

Equi-Pak|Soft completely seals, supports and protects.

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## Farrier Craftsmanship



Filet knife made from high carbon steel by Mike Carson, from Illinois

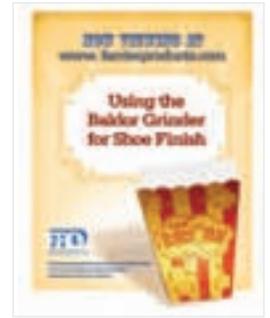
We're happy to feature superior farrier craftsmanship in the Natural Angle and on The HoofWall™ blog. If you have a photo that you'd like to share, please email it to [fpd@farrierproducts.com](mailto:fpd@farrierproducts.com).

## New video clips

There are three new video clips on [farrierproducts.com](http://farrierproducts.com) and YouTube, all related to the Baldor grinder.

Visit either site to view *Using the Baldor Grinder for Shoe Finish*, *Using the Baldor Grinder for Clip Fix* and

*Using the Baldor Grinder for Shoe Seating*.



Visit the HoofWall™ blog, where you can enjoy conversations that explore the world of the professional farrier. Join in at FPD's website - [www.farrierproducts.com/blog](http://www.farrierproducts.com/blog).