

## Reviews

**Norton 3X Premium Ceramic Grinding Wheels**[more information](#)

Item: 46 to 100 grit in 6", 7" & 8" diameters and 3/4" & 1" widths.

Price: from \$38.49 Rating: ★★★★★

Source: [European Hand Tools](#)



Norton 3X Grinding Wheels

Sharpening your tools just got a lot easier thanks to [Norton Abrasives!](#)

We've been using Norton 3X sandpaper since it hit the market, and when we heard they had released a version of the 3X product in the form of a grinding wheel for use on bench grinders we had to try them.

These wheels are made of Norton's patented SG (ceramic alumina), which has been formulated to provide a constant supply of fresh, sharp cutting edges. The way it achieves this is by controlled micro-fracturing of the grain, and with the resulting constant supply of fresh cutting edges you get a cool, burn-free cut. No kidding.

Every woodworker I know has turned at least one tool blue on the grinder while trying to touch up an edge. It doesn't take much when using a high speed grinder with standard wheels. We have several grinders in the shop, all of them rated at 3450 rpm. Just to experience the ultimate in cool grinding we tried the Norton 3X wheels on a low rpm grinder we borrowed from [General Canada](#) for the occasion.

The Norton 3X wheels are available in several different grits (46, 60, 80 and 100), three diameters (6", 7", 8" ) and two widths (3/4" and 1") and ship with a set of bushings allowing them to be mounted on any grinder.



Replacing wheels on a grinder is a piece of cake

Before mounting the wheels on the grinder, I took an old chisel and gave it a 5 second grind on the standard wheels just to get an idea

of how hot the steel would become. I then mounted the Norton 3X wheels on the high-speed grinder and gave the same chisel another 5 seconds on the grinder (the chisel was cold by then). I then moved the wheels to the low speed grinder. The difference in temperature between the two sets of wheels was almost hard to believe.

The chisel quickly got hot and began to turn blue when the original wheels were used. When I tried them on the standard 3450 rpm grinder, they still got warm, but not anywhere near as hot as with the standard wheels. After an equal grind time it was still possible to touch the edge, and although it was warm it was in no danger of turning the steel blue. After letting the chisel cool to room temperature we tried the Norton 3X wheels on the low speed grinder, giving them a similar grind as with the high-speed version. Using the slow speed grinder, the edge of the chisel barely got warm at all!

The Norton 3X grinding wheels will run cooler no matter what type of grinder you use them on, but when paired with a low rpm grinder they provide a cool dry grind without the mess of a wet system. Like all grinding wheels, they should be dressed after mounting them on a grinder to eliminate any eccentricity and reduce vibration as the wheels spin. Norton makes a diamond tipped tool specifically for this purpose. It looks like a screwdriver but has a bar on the end impregnated with diamonds. Holding this against the edge of the wheel as it spins quickly trues up the wheel and restores a square face.

With the new Norton 3X wheels and the diamond dressing tool, keeping your edge won't be the same old grind any more. These wheels turn in one cool performance that won't turn your tools blue.