

Replacing the Velcro on a Skilton Sanding pad

What supplies you will need are

Replacement Velcro of appropriate size

Contact cement

Disposable brush for cement

Razor blade or Xacto knife

Drill chuck for tailstock

Sanding disk for headstock (as would be used in a table sanding setup for the lathe)

Insert the sanding pad in a drill chuck on the head stock and carefully cut the old Velcro off, be careful not to cut into the rubber on the pad. Start by peeling away one edge and then peel away from there with the knife edge. And while this goes without saying, leave the lathe off!

After the Velcro is removed, put the sanding disk on the head stock end and start the lathe at a very low speed. With the quill, advance the pad into the sanding disk until it just barely kisses it. The idea is to take off very slight imperfections of the pad and make it flat and perpendicular (to the shaft) again. Turn off the lathe and blow the rubber off with air to clean out any particles.

Lightly coat both the back of the new Velcro and the rubber with contact cement. Get a thin even coat on both pieces. After it is dry (about 10 minutes) recoat them both again. Wait an additional 10 minutes and then as you align the Velcro and the rubber, mate them together and press down on the sanding pad on a flat surface. You want to deflect the pad which will seat the cement bond.

The pad is now ready to use. Usually the only way to break the bond is to overheat the pad during sanding which will melt over the nylon fingers of the Velcro.