EDGE AND SURFACE FINISHING

The extent of finishing needed to produce a smooth, transparent edge is based upon the quality of the cutting tool used to machine the edge. A properly designed cutting tool with a sharp cutter will reduce the amount of finishing needed. Finishing is also reduced when a spray coolant is used along with the cutting tool to reduce excess heat build-up.

Polishing: A polished edge is the best possible finished edge, but requires the most preparation. Prior sanding is necessary if the edge is shaped from a saw-cut, sanding is not necessary when there is a well milled edge. A jointer, shaper, or hand-scraped edge can be used in place of sanding. A stationary polishing head produces the best polished surface. Bleached muslin wheels with a diameter of 8" to 14" with bias strips is recommended. This gives the buffing wheel a pleated appearance, and runs cooler than a stitched buffing wheel design and will also do a fast job.

Polishing Compounds: The finished quality of the polished edge is determined by the polishing compound used. To produce a high luster finish, the use of a fast cutting compound first will remove all sanding marks, followed by a high luster compound for the final buffing. To achieve a fairly good finish in one operation, a medium cutting compound would be best.

Polishing Surface: Prior sanding is not necessary when the scratches or machining marks are not too deep. A surface polishing wheel should be from 6" to 12" in diameter, built up to a width for 1 1/2" to 2". For the initial polish, use a soft, bleached muslin wheel, followed by a soft flannel wheel for the finishing.

Depending on the depth of the scratches, use a medium-course polishing compound or a fine compound.

Be sure to keep the Plaskolite mirror in motion at all times during the polishing procedure.

CHEMICAL RESISTANCE

Like all plastic materials, Plaskolite mirrored acrylic will react when exposed to many chemicals. Below is a partial list of chemicals known to react with Plaskolite acrylic mirror, exposure to them should be avoided, Factors such as fabrication stresses, exposure to loads or changing temperatures and the method of application can all influence the possible reaction. In all cases, care should be taken with dry chemicals or solvents used near Plaskolite mirrored acrylic.

KNOWN CHEMICALS THAT ATTACK PLASKOLITE MIRRORED ACRYLIC:

BENZENE
LACQUER THINNERS
ESTERS
CARBON TETRACHLORIDE
TOLUENE
ETHYL ALCOHOL
KETONES
METHYL ALCOHOL
ETHERS

WEATHER RESISTANCE

Mirror products are not recommended for exterior use. If used outside, seal perimeter with silicon sealant to keep moisture out and protect mirror paint backing. Salt spray can also begin to degrade mirror.