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OPEN COAT VS. CLOSED COAT

Open coat refers to the distribution of abrasive grains on the surface of sandpaper. Open coat means more space between grain particles (about 50-70% coverage). This tends to reduce clogging especially on wood. Closed coat is a much denser distribution of grain and is more appropriate for metal or glass. Today, most woodworking abrasives are Semi Open (about 87% coverage) which offers the best combination of low loading and extended life and performance.

ABRASIVE GRIT SIZE COMPARISONS

There are three measurement systems for the size of abrasive grit: US CAMI (Coated Abrasives Manufacturers Institute) or ANSI, European (FEPA Federation of European Producers Association), and Micron grading. CAMI tolerates the most deviation of grit size for a specified grit. FEPA has tighter tolerances. Micron is even tighter. Up to 240 Grit, CAMI & FEPA grading is similar. As grits go finer, FEPA grit numbers go up faster than CAMI. Example: FEPA 600P = CAMI 360, FEPA 1200P = CAMI 600. 20 MICRON corresponds to about 400 grit CAMI or 800P FEPA. The trend is to adopt the European FEPA grading system even in the USA. See chart on following page.