HOW TO CLEAN YOUR FILES?

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How to clean a dirty file?

Filing is an essential step when working with metal. It is the first step before sanding.

But the problem is that when files are used too much, their grooves and teeth can become clogged. As a result, they are ineffective at filing metal. So the only way to keep your files in good condition and prolong their life is to clean them regularly.

In this video, Lucie suggests 3 tips to clean your files and give them back all their efficiency:

Tip #1: The carding machine

First of all, what is a file card? It is an essential tool when creating costume jewelry. The carding machine, or carding brush, is nothing more than a kind of metal brush with a wooden handle and stainless steel or brass bristles. Under the action of its metal wires, it removes the particles and metal filings that clog your files.

To use it, it is very simple: you brush diagonally, following the grooved surface of the file. Use the peg of your workbench to stay steady. Be careful to respect the direction of the teeth.

Tip 2: The sewing needle

Another technique: use a sewing needle.

With this method, no need to invest in equipment: we all have a set of sewing needles at home!

This small needle will allow you to clean your file streak by streak. If you don't have a sewing needle, you can use a bare copper wire.

To hold it more easily and efficiently, you can use a pinch roller or simply hold it in your hand. Again, for more stability, don't hesitate to lean on the peg of your barn.

This method is much more time consuming and tedious than using a file card, but it is very effective. No dirt will resist you!

Tip #3: White vinegar

To remove rust stains, white vinegar is a great help.

How to remove rust from a file?
- Soak the files in white vinegar for 1 or 2 days.
- Then soak them in baking soda. It will neutralize the acidity of the white vinegar.
- Finally, brush your jeweler's file with the chard to remove the rust.

Once your files are free of impurities, store them in the best possible way so that they are always within reach. Make a magnetic holder by hanging a magnet on your workbench or wall. For storing needle files, you can use this very effective storage.