

2010 Symposium Door Prize—Trimmer by Bryan Manke

Scouring the internet for trimmers suitable for micro-material, I have found only three that are truly applicable for this application. I thought it would be a breeze to find a wide selection of trimmers, but that task was more difficult than planned. Here are three models which seem to be the most popular.

Trimmer #1



This trimmer is manufactured in China under the name Wydar. This hand-forged steel unit with 6.5cm maximum clearance (using large chisels as shown in the picture above).

Included with the trimmer price:

- 2 upper, 2.0cm hardened chisels
- 1 upper hardened steel micro chisel, 1.0cm - screw-thread
- 2 settings for the lower chisels, 1 for high, 1 for low
- 2 mandrels to prevent rotation of upper chisels -
- 1 for micro chisel
- 1 for regular chisel
- 1 base plate with 4 domed bolts and washers
- 1 plastic carrying case.

I own this particular model. I have broken one chisel, and have gone through one mandrel (this was when I first bought the unit and was *probably* using it incorrectly). This unit should be bolted to a solid structure using the base plate provided, I have not done that. I find that it works well for most matrixes, however, large pieces of quartzite need to be broken down to a smaller size with hammer and chisel in order for this unit to trim the rock. Both upper and lower chisels and be rotated 90 degrees.

There are two places to order this unit

1) Simkev Micromounts

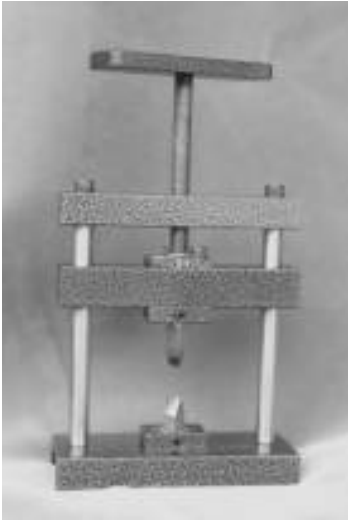
<http://www.simkevmicromounts.com/suppliesTrimmer1.htm> - Cost is about \$100 with shipping. Replacement chisels are \$10 each. But there is a minimum order of \$25.00. This is a Canadian outfit whom I've ordered with in the past.

2) Attard's Minerals

<http://www.attminerals.com/equipment.htm>

Cost is \$85 and replacement chisels/cutters are \$5

Trimmer #2



This trimmer is “designed for precision trimming of micro and miniature specimens” according to Absolute Clarity who designs and sells the unit. It has a steel construction and 5% Cobalt Tool Steel for strength and chipping prevention. The tips are rotatable to the 0, 45 and 90 degree positions. Extra chisels are available, but according to the lady I spoke with, none have ever been ordered. This appears to be a solid unit for the micromounter. Total cost including shipping is \$100. This unit can be found at <http://www.absoluteclarity.com/splitters.htm>

Trimmer #3

This German unit has been branded the “Cadillac of Rock Trimmers” by Shannon & Sons. They claim it can handle the hardest Grand Reef quartzite to rhyolite to massive quartz and does a super job on softer matrixes too. This trimmer builds up a hydraulic pressure of 5000kp and can handle sizes from thumbnail up to cabinet pieces with an opening of 10.5cm x 17cm. The trimmer appears to be suitable for all collectors from cabinets to micros and could potentially replace manual trimming all together. This unit is sold with a standard 90 degree hardened steel chisels, however other angles and styles are available. It comes with a fixed acrylic glass screen on both sides for chip protection. It is sold by Shannon & Sons for \$579 plus shipping (which is about \$1.40/lb to the Northeast. This unit can be found at



http://www.shannonsminerals.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=30091