

How to Make An Electric Sander for Your Minis!

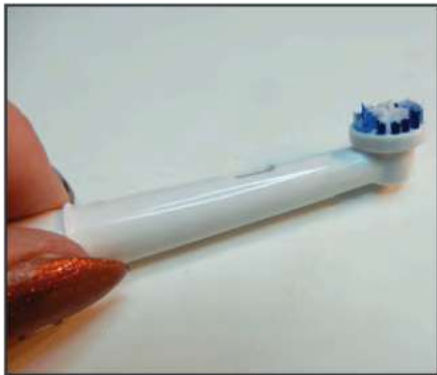
By Tina MacDonald, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Do you ever have a problem sanding your minis, especially delicate operations like getting laser burn off tiny breakable quarter-scale pieces? Then this sander is for you. You can easily make one for yourself out of a Braun Oral B battery operated electric toothbrush (pictured at right). It **MUST** have a round head to work properly, so make sure you buy the correct version.



To make this sander, start by removing the "toothbrush" part. It just pulls off, with a little wiggling.

Then, with fine scissors, clip off as many of the bristles as you can, as close to the base as possible.



Then, sand smooth. Although I suppose you could do the sanding manually, it is far faster and simpler to do it with a belt sander.



Sand until the bristles are completely gone, and the toothbrush head is smooth.

Then, punch a piece of smooth plastic (such as Styrene, or other flat hard plastic (such as a plastic grocery tray) with a 5/8" round punch. Glue the plastic onto the brush head, with a good plastic glue, and clamp until dry.



Using the same punch, punch circles of sandpaper to apply to the brush head. The best sandpaper for this purpose is Diablo StickFast Sanding Disks for orbital and dual action sanders, which has a sticky back, and can be found in most hardware stores. I buy mine at Home Depot. These come in a variety of grits, including 80, 120, 180 and 220. Personally, I have prepared two sanding heads for my toothbrush, and have them finished with 80 and 220 grit. I just switch heads, depending on whether I need fine or course grit. Extra toothbrush heads can be purchased at any store that sells Braun electric toothbrushes.

Just punch out 5/8" circles of your chosen sandpaper, peel the backing off, and apply to your new sanding toothbrush. When the grit wears out, just peel off the worn out sandpaper and apply another piece.

Enjoy your new sander!

• Dollar Store Treasures •

5" x 7" Notebook

By Jean Monk, Pawleys Island, South Carolina

I am currently working on a large 1/4" scale project (12 rooms) and in an effort to keep it all straight I created a swatch book.

I bought a 5" x 7" notebook at the Dollar Tree and devoted a page to each room. Attached samples of wallpapers, fabrics, pictures of rugs and included a list of furnishings already acquired. Then added a list of needs. Really came in handy at the Small Scales Regional in Greenville South Carolina!

It was a tremendous help!!

Do you have a Dollar Store Treasure to share with other NAME members?

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