

OLFA Knife & Cutter FAQ'S

Q: Can I use snap-off blades or utility blades with an OLFA rotary mat?

A: No, OLFA rotary mats are specifically designed for use with OLFA rotary cutters and rotary blades. Snap-off blades or utility blades will damage OLFA rotary mats. OLFA cutting mats are professional quality mats designed specifically for use with OLFA cutters and blades and are twice as thick as OLFA rotary mats.

Q: What are the advantages of OLFA ULTRAMAX blades over standard OLFA blades?

A: OLFA ULTRAMAX blades are exclusively designed for maximum cutting performance. These blades are developed using a special double honing process for superior sharpness, and are 25% sharper than standard OLFA blades. ULTRAMAX blades are perfect for applications requiring specific measurements or finished work.

Q: What cutter do you recommend for repairing carpet?

A: Load OLFA's CMP-2 Heavy Duty Compass Cutter with an LH-20B Heavy Duty Snap-Off Hook Blade and cut out the section of burned or stained carpet. The hook blade cuts from the bottom of the carpet, making a clean cut where as a straight blade would put a bevel on the cut.

Q: Does OLFA manufacture a sharpener for their rotary blades?

A: No, OLFA rotary blades are made of tungsten carbide tool steel and are the longest lasting blades in the business. Because OLFA blades are "razor" sharp, it is very difficult to sharpen them without nicking the blade. This could cause the user to damage expensive fabrics.

Q: What do the numbers around the perimeter of the rotary blades mean?

A: The original rotary blade was designed to fit a safety cutter that positioned each section of the rotary blade in a fixed position to be used upon the dulling of the previous section, thus the numbers represented each of those sections. When OLFA introduced the original rotary cutter in 1979, the numbers became irrelevant, but have been maintained as a sort of historical feature representing the original rotary blade.

Q: Does OLFA have a cutter that cuts circles in fabric?

A: Actually - we have two products. For the professional, we have the Rotary Circle Cutter. OLFA's new premium circle cutter is perfect for cutting circles out in fabric. The unique new ratchet handle is simple and easy to use and greatly reduces wrist fatigue. Designed for both right and left-handed use, the circle cutter can be adjusted to cut circles from 1 7/8" to 8". Even better, no stabilizer is required for use. Simply determine the size of the circle required, set your cutter accordingly and you're ready to cut! For occasional use, the CMP-1 will suit your cutting needs. When paper-backed fusible webbing is applied to the fabric, the CMP-1 circle cutter will cut perfect circles up to 6" in diameter.

Q: How long should my rotary blade last?

A: OLFA rotary blades are made of tungsten carbide tool steel and are designed to be very durable and long lasting as well as extremely sharp. However, there is no definite answer to how long a blade should last. Blade life depends on many factors including material you are cutting, frequency of cutting, etc. To maximize the life of your rotary blade, OLFA recommends that you always use an OLFA Rotary Mat and apply only enough pressure to cut through your fabric.

Q: OLFA claims to have "self-healing" mats, what does this mean?

A: OLFA rotary and cutting mats have a unique feature that we refer to as the self-healing process. This means that when used properly with sharp OLFA blades, the cuts tend to form back together on the mat. This is made possible by the components used in production.

Q: How do I reduce the strong plastic smell from my new rotary mat?

A: Due to production and distribution, a new OLFA rotary mat can emit an odorous smell that some people are sensitive too. To overcome this smell, we suggest that the mat be wiped down with a solution of lukewarm water and dishwashing detergent, then let it set for five minutes. Afterwards, rinse off the mat and towel dry. Repeat as needed.

Q: My rotary mat is warped, how do I flatten it?

A: Unfortunately, there is no way to flatten your rotary mat once it has been warped. This is why it is very important to take the time to read the care instructions on your mat. Proper care is the only way to secure the life of your rotary mat. If you have an OLFA rotary mat that is warped, set this aside for use with paper projects.

Q: Does OLFA offer a basic utility knife that uses a dual edge utility blade?

A: Yes, OLFA recently introduced the UTC-1 Auto Lock Retractable Utility Knife. But, with features such as a heavy-gauge stainless steel blade channel, HandSaver cushion grip handle, and a five-position retractable blade, this cutter is anything but basic! For use with OLFA's standard, rounded-tip and hook dual edged blades.

Q: How do I change the blade in my NA-1 cutter?

A: To change the blade in your NA-1 cutter, hold the cutter with the back of the handle pointed away from you. Place your thumb on the blade slide and apply downward pressure with your thumb while pushing the blade slide out the back of the cutter. Now carefully remove the old blade from the peg and place the new blade on the peg, and carefully slide the blade back into the handle.