

Frequently asked questions on ECO-mini “dry”

How large is the capacity of the ECO-mini “dry” with reference to work pieces?

- Granulate capacity: 1.5 litres.
- The capacity of the work pieces depends on the design, volume and individual weight. The maximum volume equals 100 g, whereas the individual weight of the work pieces must not exceed 8 grams, as this can lead to small “dings” (imperfections) on the surface. If your work pieces are heavier than 8 grams each, it might be advisable to process these individually!

Start with fewer parts when finishing several work pieces. That way, you will become experienced in handling larger quantities!

Can the Eco-mini „dry“ also be used for chains?

Yes, but with limitations! Be careful with thin chains (< 4 mm) as these can get knotted. Also be careful with hollow chains, as these can become crushed. Chains should always be closed before they are processed.

Which alloys can be treated?

All gold and silver alloys, platinum, titanium as well as steel.

Can gold and silver also be treated at the same time?

Yes! Various alloys have no affect on the machine function.

Can gold-plated and rhodanized jewelry be processed in the Eco-mini “dry”?

Yes, but you should not extend the processing time of 30 minutes. Use only the fine walnut-shell granulate HN 1/500.

What is the influence of polishing in the Eco-mini “dry” on precious stones, pearls, amber, coral, etc.?

The media offered from OTEC will not cause damage while dry polishing. For processing plastic, pearls or amber we recommend our media ZSFP 2 with a special polishing paste.

Do I have to remove labels before polishing?

You don't have to remove labels but depending on the label, the jewelry might not be polished where the label is fixed. If you have more labels, they might get entangled and might break off.

What kind of polishing media can be used in the Eco-mini „dry“?

After extensive laboratory tests the best results were obtained with walnut-shell granulate for dry polishing. We recommend to use the following media:

HN 1/100 (coarse walnut-shell granulate)

- to remove scratches (1-3 hours)

HN 1/400 (medium walnut-shell granulate)

- for filigree jewelry for chain necklaces or bracelets where the coarse granulate (HN 1/100) might get stuck due to its size.

HN 1/500 (fine walnut-shell granulate)

- for the final mirror shine (after the use of the coarse granulate)
- to polish tarnished jewelry

How long can the granulates be used?

The coarse walnut-shell granulate HN 1/100 up to 100 hours
Medium sized walnut-shell granulate HN 1/400 up to 100 hours
Fine walnut-shell HN 1/500 after approx. 50 hours.

How often and how much polishing paste has to be added?

New walnut-shell granulate from Otec is already pre-treated with polishing paste. After approx. 10 processing hours you will notice that polishing is not as effective. Now it's time to approx. 4 cm of polishing paste P 6 into the cold granulate. After a few minutes you can add the work pieces again. This should be repeated every 4 – 6 working hours.

Not used walnut-shell granulate should be stored in a closed bucket as it can lose the polishing effect.

Can the Eco-mini „dry“ overheat?

No, the machine has a thermal switch. In the unlikely event of getting hot, it will stop automatically.

How high is the developed noise when polishing?

The Eco-mini „dry“ is extremely quiet, considerably quieter than tumbling machines.

Does the work piece have to be cleaned after polishing?

To remove a thin layer of the polishing paste on the surface we recommend to clean the goods in an ultrasonic bath.

Is the processing sequence affected by covering the machine with a cover?

No! You can purchase a suitable cover from your dealer.

Do I have to remove used granulate underneath the disc?

Normally you don't have to remove the granulate, but we recommend to clean the container and the disc if you change the granulate. For this you only have to loosen the central screw, remove the disc and replace it reverse order.

What are the advantages of the Eco-mini „dry“ compared to ultrasonic baths, conventional tumbling machines or polishing by hand?

Ultrasonic baths: only cleans the surface. The roughness of the surface will stay unchanged!

Tumbling machines: generally steel balls are used for polishing in tumbling machines. The surface becomes mechanically denser and due to this it is nearly impossible to buff the work pieces afterwards.

Eco-mini „dry“: Similar as hand polishing. Also polishes more consistently resulting in less metal loss than by hand polishing. To recover the gold from the used walnut granules, you can give the granulate to the refinery.