

HHIP 8606-3402

HHIP 8606-3402 Dapping Block Square User Manual

Instructions for Use and Care

1. INTRODUCTION

This manual provides essential information for the safe and effective use of your HHIP 8606-3402 Dapping Block Square. Please read these instructions carefully before operation and retain for future reference. The HHIP 8606-3402 is a 3 x 3 x 3 inch square dapping block featuring polished high carbon steel cavities. It includes 9 half-sphere depressions ranging from 22mm to 62.5mm in diameter, designed for doming soft metals, making beads, and shaping various metal pieces when used with dapping punches or arbor presses.

2. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

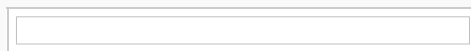


Figure 1: Front view of the HHIP 8606-3402 Dapping Block Square. This image shows the cube-shaped block with several half-sphere depressions of varying sizes on its faces, designed for metal forming.

The dapping block is a precision tool used in jewelry making and metalworking. Its various depressions allow for the creation of domed shapes from flat metal sheets.

- **Material:** Polished high carbon steel.
- **Dimensions:** 3 x 3 x 3 inches.
- **Cavity Sizes:** 9 half-sphere depressions: 22mm, 25mm, 28mm, 32mm, 38mm, 45mm, 50mm, 60mm, and 62.5mm.

3. SETUP

The HHIP 8606-3402 Dapping Block Square requires minimal setup. Ensure a stable and clean work surface before use.

1. **Unpacking:** Carefully remove the dapping block from its packaging.
2. **Inspection:** Inspect the block for any signs of damage during transit. Ensure all cavity surfaces are smooth and free of imperfections.
3. **Work Surface:** Place the dapping block on a sturdy, flat, and level workbench. For optimal stability and to protect the workbench, consider placing a rubber mat or similar protective layer underneath the block.
4. **Tool Preparation:** Gather appropriate dapping punches and a mallet (rawhide, plastic, or brass recommended) or an arbor press suitable for your metalworking tasks.

4. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The dapping block is used to form domed shapes in soft metals. Always wear appropriate safety gear, including eye protection, when working with metal and striking tools.

1. **Select Metal:** Choose a soft metal sheet (e.g., copper, brass, silver, gold) of appropriate thickness for your project. Anneal the metal if necessary to make it more pliable.
2. **Choose Cavity:** Select a half-sphere depression on the dapping block that is slightly larger than the desired dome size for your metal piece.
3. **Position Metal:** Place the metal sheet over the chosen cavity. Ensure the area to be domed is centered over the depression.
4. **Select Punch:** Choose a dapping punch that fits into the selected cavity without binding and has a slightly smaller diameter than the cavity.
5. **Forming the Dome:**
 - **Using a Mallet:** Place the dapping punch onto the metal sheet, centered over the cavity. Strike the top of the punch with a mallet using controlled, even blows. Rotate the metal and punch as you strike to gradually form the dome. Avoid excessive force in one spot to prevent thinning or tearing the metal.
 - **Using an Arbor Press:** Position the dapping punch and metal under the ram of the arbor press. Slowly lower the ram to press the punch into the metal, forming the dome. This method offers more controlled and even pressure.
6. **Refinement:** Continue dapping until the desired dome shape and depth are achieved. You may need to move to a smaller punch or a deeper cavity for further shaping.

Safety Precautions:

- Always wear safety glasses to protect against flying metal fragments.
- Ensure the dapping block is stable and will not shift during use.
- Use appropriate punches and mallets for the task.
- Avoid striking the dapping block directly with a steel hammer, as this can damage the polished surfaces.

5. MAINTENANCE

Proper maintenance will ensure the longevity and performance of your HHIP 8606-3402 Dapping Block Square.

- **Cleaning:** After each use, wipe the dapping block clean with a soft, dry cloth to remove any metal dust or debris.

- **Rust Prevention:** As the block is made of high carbon steel, it is susceptible to rust. Apply a thin layer of rust-preventative oil (e.g., machine oil, camellia oil) to all surfaces, especially the cavities, after cleaning and before storage.
- **Storage:** Store the dapping block in a dry environment, preferably in a protective case or wrapped in an oiled cloth, to prevent corrosion and protect the polished surfaces from scratches.
- **Inspection:** Periodically inspect the cavities for any signs of wear, pitting, or damage. While durable, heavy or improper use can affect the surface finish.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

This section addresses common issues that may arise during the use of your dapping block.

- **Issue: Metal not forming a smooth dome.**

Solution: Ensure the metal is properly annealed (softened). Use a dapping punch that closely matches the cavity size. Apply even, gradual strikes or pressure, rotating the metal frequently. The metal might be too thick for the chosen cavity/punch combination.

- **Issue: Scratches or marks appearing on the metal.**

Solution: Check the dapping block cavities and punches for any burrs or imperfections. Clean the block and punches thoroughly before use. Ensure the metal surface is clean. Consider using a thin protective film (e.g., plastic wrap) between the metal and the punch/block for very delicate finishes, though this may affect precision.

- **Issue: Dapping block showing signs of rust.**

Solution: Immediately clean the rusted area with a fine abrasive (e.g., Scotch-Brite pad) and apply rust-preventative oil. Ensure proper storage in a dry environment and consistent oil application after each use.

7. SPECIFICATIONS

Detailed specifications for the HHIP 8606-3402 Dapping Block Square.

Feature	Detail
Model Number	8606-3402
Brand	HHIP
Material	Polished High Carbon Steel
Overall Dimensions	3 x 3 x 3 inches (76.2 x 76.2 x 76.2 mm)
Weight	7 Pounds (approx. 3.17 kg)
Number of Cavities	9
Cavity Diameters	22mm, 25mm, 28mm, 32mm, 38mm, 45mm, 50mm, 60mm, 62.5mm
Intended Use	Doming soft metals, bead making, metal shaping



Figure 2: A catalog page showing various dapping blocks and punch sets, including the HHIP 8606-3402 Dapping Block

Square. This image provides a broader context of HHIP's metalworking tools.

8. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information or technical support regarding your HHIP 8606-3402 Dapping Block Square, please contact HHIP customer service directly. Refer to the product packaging or the official HHIP website for the most current contact details and warranty terms.

Manufacturer: HHIP

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