Why are Gesswein Buffs better than competitors' buffs?

Gesswein buffs offer significant quality advantages in three areas: material, treatment and processing.

Material

We only use premium 80/80, 30/30, 100% cotton carded cloth to make our buffs (80/80 designates the number of threads per square inch in each direction, 30/30 the yarn size). The consistent thread count and tight weave make our buffs more wear-resistant than lower-grade ones.

Many other manufacturers substitute lower-grade cloth without informing buyers. For example, they might use cloth with 75/75 thread count, resulting in buffs that wear faster than ours.

Treatment

We use the most modern treatment available. Quality standards of uniformity and consistency are checked before the release of each lot. In addition, better treatment methods are implemented over time. For example, we use an advanced polymer plastic treatment on our yellow buffs for superior performance. Many other manufacturers use an inferior starch treatment on their buffs.

Processing

1. We take special care to relieve the folds and wrinkles inherent in a bolt of cloth, and we use a die cutter that prevents nicks and ensures cuts are not made from the salvage edge of the cloth. Many other manufacturers try to get as much as they can from the cloth, figuring folds, wrinkles, nicks and salvage edges are not visible in the finished product. However, a buff with these imperfections will mar and scratch the workpiece, especially during final finishing.
2. We turn every other ply so that it is offset by at least 45°. Turning prevents premature thread fraying, ensures even and circular wear and improves compound retention. Many other manufacturers go straight from cutting to sewing – otherwise known as "cookie cutting" – resulting in buffs that wear faster than ours. Well-turned buffs will outlast unturned buffs by up to 50%.
3. We regulate tension, stitching and sewing pattern parameters: tension is such that when stitches are pulled up, they snap back to the buff; stitching is kept to 4-6 stitches per inch on the buff, 9-16 stitches per inch on the leather center; and the sewing needle is lifted between each row of stitching to create a truly concentric sewing pattern. All three of these factors result in longer-lasting buffs. Many other manufacturers pay little attention to tension and stitching. Some do not even lift the needle between rows of stitching, resulting in a crescent sewing pattern from one row to the next. Once a buff with crescent sewing wears down to its first row of stitching, it essentially becomes unusable because the sewing acts like a hammer, marring and scratching the workpiece.
4. We inject shellac into the center of each buff to make the whole center hard, allowing the buff to be repeatedly taken off and put back on a tapered spindle with spinning or riding up it. Some manufacturers simply dab or stamp shellac onto the center.
5. We comb each buff to put a fine nap on its working edge, readying it for use and further improving compound retention. Some manufacturers skip this step entirely.