



I just finished tumble polishing part of my 1st batch of "Patuxent River Stone" --- the very under-appreciated Maryland State gem stone.

The recipe was as follows:

1. Using a 12 pound Lortone tumbler, I filled with about 6 pounds (less than rated capacity, but this tumbler is old and works better with less load) of Patuxent River Stone of various sizes from 1" to 3".
2. For 1st tumbling, added 6T (Tablespoons) of 60-90 grit and filled 1/2 full water and tumbled for 11 days.
3. Washed off rocks thoroughly and weighed --- about 5 pounds left. Scrubbed each stone individually with a brush to eliminate carryover contamination of grit.
4. For 2nd tumbling, added 6T of 180-240 grit and filled 1/2 full water and tumbled for 9 days.
5. Washed off rocks thoroughly and weighed --- about 4-3/4 pounds left.
6. For 3rd tumbling, added 8T of 600 grit and filled 1/2 full water and tumbled for a week.
7. Washed off rocks thoroughly and weighed --- still about 4-3/4 pounds left.
8. For polishing, divided pre-tumbled rocks into 2 batches and put 1st batch (about 2-1/2 pounds) in a small (3 Pound size) Thumbs Tumbler --- added 3 T of tin oxide and 1 T (teaspoon) of powdered Tide detergent;
9. Then added plastic pellets (small approx 3/16" diameter) to bring level of barrel up to 3/4 full --- then added water to just a little above the 3/4 full level. (Note: this part is a little tricky as the plastic pellets float and you have to keep them pushed down with your hand while you add the

water to keep the pellets in the barrel.)

10. Tumbled for 2 weeks (1 week should be enough, but due to other events, they tumbled an extra week.)

11. Washed off rocks thoroughly and dried with an old towel --- and was very pleased with the results.