



SHAVING BRUSH:

BRUSH SIZE: Knot size is typically in Millimeters measured at the base, 20MM knot is about average in size.

BRUSH KNOT HAIR: Generally, badger is the most sought After. There is also boar, horse, synthetic, As well as some combinations of the later.

LOFT: Loft is the exposed length of hair from the handle to the top of the knot. In general the Shorter the loft the stiffer the backbone of the brush. Backbone is how stiff the overall brush is, some shavers prefer a "floppy" brush to a stiffer brush. As a general rule, the stiffer you want the brush the deeper you need to drill the hole for the base.

DRILLING THE HOLES AND MOUNTING: Drill the hole for the knot base a little bigger than the knot size for squeeze out of the glue used (epoxy is best) to secure the knot to the handle usually about 1/16". Drill the mandrel hole to fit the bottle stopper mandrel you have. Reinforce the wood that is going to be tapped with thin CA glue. (Be sure to let it dry) Use a little beeswax on the self tapping mandrel to help with tapping as well as releasing the mandrel from the handle. The hole for mounting the mandrel should be filled with a dowel or wood filler to prevent water getting stuck in the hole after the knot is secured.

SHAVING BRUSH:

BRUSH SIZE: Knot size is typically in millimeters, 20mm knot is about average in size. They can be as big as 26mm or larger.

BRUSH HAIR: Generally, badger is the most sought after. There is also boar, horse, synthetic, as well as some combinations of the later. Badger hair is largely harvested in china where the badger is considered a pest. When badger and boar hair is harvested the animals are killed. Horse hair is simply cut from the mane of the animal, so may be more appealing to some. Synthetic knots can be highly sought after, as there is no animal harmed as well as a synthetic knot is typically cheaper and requires less care.

BADGER KNOT GRADE:

SILVERTIP BADGER HAIR: Considered the highest quality of shaving brush available. Although they are expensive, a high quality silvertip badger brush could easily last 10 years or more if taken care of properly. These brushes usually have a very distinctive look, as the bottom parts of the hair are black while the tips of the hair are silver (obviously). This type of hair is the softest and feels incredible to use, with the hairs basically massaging the face as you apply the lather.

SUPER BADGER: The second best grade of hair is super badger, which is only a small step below silvertip badger. These brushes tend to cost between \$70 and \$150, and again, should last for close to a decade with proper care. Super badger brushes tend to look quite similar to silvertip, with a distinct black and white banding. In truth, we found very little difference between silvertip and super badger, whereas there are quite major differences between super and the other qualities. For this reason, this is the grade we would be most likely to recommend due to its similar quality and lower price.

BEST BADGER & PURE BADGER: Best badger shaving brushes are the third grade, while pure is the lowest grade of badger hair available, both in terms of price and performance. Both types of brushes are usually solid colored, although the color can range from dark brown or black to tan. Be aware that some people, companies try to dye these lower qualities of hair to look like super or silvertip badger hair. The two lower grades of badger hair are much softer and less stiff than boar or horse hair brushes, albeit not nearly as soft as the higher grades of badger. Depending on the brand and model, these brushes can range anywhere between \$30-100 and should be able to last for between 5 and 10 years. If you're looking for a quality brush, but don't want to fork over a ton of cash, we can definitely recommend either of these grades, as they still offer many advantages over horse, boar or synthetic bristle brushes. In terms of price and performance, many men choose best badger shaving brushes for the fact that they can still build up an excellent lather, while not being nearly as scratchy as pure badger.

Source: Prim & Prep ~ Kyle Gardner

THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- Wood and water are not friends, its common practice to soak a brush in warm tap water for 10-15 min. prior to shaving; also, the brush will be exposed to soap and handled daily. A GOOD TOUGH FINISH IS CRITICAL FOR WOOD.
- A brush will likely be hung on a stand (hair down) to dry. Some method to hang the brush will be required, make sure your brush has a method to hang (hair down) to dry.
- It's likely that there will be three groups of people interested in buying or receiving a shaving brush. SO CHOOSE YOUR MATERIALS CAREFULLY. Don't put a bad knot into your best handles.
 - Someone looking into trying wet shaving will not likely spend a lot of money on a brush.
 - Some people that wet shave that want a nice brush might spend a lot more on that one or possibly two unique quality brushes.
 - The Shave Hobbyist is your best friend; they may buy dozens of brushes for their collection and are likely to spend a good bit of money for the right brush.
- Natural hair brushes can smell (wet dog) for a week or two and shed hairs over there lifetime. This is normal, your experienced wet shaver will likely know this; but not all your customers / gift recipients may understand why there brand new brush smells bad or is shedding. There are different ways to "condition" a brush that could lessen the odor that could be recommended. A warning or note as to this issue might be beneficial.