

A **cotton buffing wheel** (also known as a polishing buff) is an abrasive tool attachment used primarily with bench grinders, angle grinders, drills, or rotary tools to smooth, polish, and bring a mirror-like shine to various surfaces.

They are constructed from multiple layers (plies) of 100% pure raw cotton or fine-grade muslin cloth stitched together around a central arbor hole.

Types of Cotton Buffing Wheels

Cotton wheels generally fall into three design categories, each serving a different stage of the polishing process:

1. Spiral Stitched Buffing Wheels

- **Design:** The layers of cotton are sewn together in a tight, concentric spiral from the center to the edge.
- **Characteristics:** This tight stitching makes the wheel quite rigid and stiff, allowing you to apply greater pressure.
- **Best For: Medium cutting and initial polishing.** They are excellent for removing surface scratches, light oxidation, and minor imperfections on harder metals like steel, iron, and brass.

2. Loose / Unstitched Cotton Wheels

- **Design:** These wheels are only stitched around the very center arbor hole, leaving the outer cotton layers entirely free and loose.
- **Characteristics:** They are incredibly soft, flexible, and adapt easily to contours, curves, and irregular shapes.
- **Best For: Final high-gloss or mirror-finish polishing.** Because they generate very little heat and provide a gentle touch, they are ideal for precious metals (gold, silver), jewelry, plastics, glass, and wood.