











DENTAL BUR CROSS REFERENCE
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Below are the Australian bur numbers for the common US dental burs used for relief carving.
 The 314 shank is the small, friction grip one used in air tools or with an adaptor, in the Marathon, Dremel or Ozito.

Australian Burs Code Shank Size	US Code Equivalent		Description
CB2 006 <i>Note: normally sold in a pack of 5</i>	33 ½		This bur is used to transfer the initial design on the shell, cutting straight through the paper pattern to score the shell. Referred to as an “inverted cone” this bur is ideal for getting into tiny places and sharpening the detail of a carving.
807 014 <i>Note: normally sold in a pack of 5</i>			This is another bur which has quickly developed into a favourite with Lorna & I. We’ve been using this one after the initial scoring of the pattern with the 33 ½ to deepen the outline and gently angle the cut away area
368 023 <i>Note: normally sold in a pack of 5</i>	Diamond Football		The diamond football is used to remove a lot of shell quickly when you are roughing in your design. These burs last a long, long time
CB33 009 <i>Note: normally sold in a pack of 5</i>	699		Known as a “tapered crosscut fissure” this bur is probably the most commonly used one, as it can be used on all types of shells for carving, filigree work or detail work.
CB33 012 <i>Note: normally sold in a pack of 5</i>	701		The 701 is a thicker, sturdier version of the 699 and is used mainly for cutting away large areas of ostrich shell in a cut-out design.
FR4 <i>Note: normally sold in a pack of 10</i>	Green Stone		These bullet shaped burs come in a variety of shapes and are the equivalent of medium sandpaper. They can be used to smooth out relief carving after using the diamond football. Although the stones tend to wear more quickly than the diamond or carbide burs they can be reshaped by rubbing them against sandpaper or an emery board.

<p>F4</p> <p><i>Note: normally sold in a pack of 10</i></p>	<p>White Stone</p>		<p>The white stone is used as a final smoothing bur after all the relief carving has been finished and smoothed with the other burs. This bur is used at very slow speed otherwise it will scorch the shell. If this happens lower your speed even further.</p>
<p>CB1 008</p> <p><i>Note: normally sold in a pack of 5</i></p>	<p>#1 Carbide Ball</p>		<p>The carbide ball is quite aggressive and is good for stippling the border of a design or adding other texture.</p>
<p>801 010</p> <p><i>Note: normally sold in a pack of 5</i></p>	<p>#1 Diamond Ball (small)</p>		<p>The diamond ball is far less aggressive than the carbide ball and can be used for engraving the shell or adding your signature to the finished design.</p>
<p>801 018</p> <p><i>Note: normally sold in a pack of 5</i></p>	<p>#1 Diamond Ball (large)</p>		<p>The larger diamond ball can be used for engraving the shell or adding stippling to the background of the design.</p>
<p>862 014</p> <p><i>Note: normally sold in a pack of 5</i></p>			<p>A flame type bur which is great for smoothing of cut-out areas in an ostrich shell</p>
<p>CF379 023</p>			<p>An 8 blader is similar to the optional burs below but there are three sizes in this one. The 023 will remove large quantities of shell quickly and the 014 is great for getting into tiny areas.</p> <p>Lorna & I use all of these series 379 burs for Reverse Relief carving for a nice smooth finish.</p>

Optional Burs

CF379UF 023		We call this bur a "30 blader" due to the number of cutting flutes on the head. Although this bur is much more expensive than the common burs listed above, this ultrafine bur leaves the smoothest surface on the shell and is really good for removing the thinnest amount of shell, even on a brown chicken egg.

Most of the burs must generally be purchased in packs of 5, the green (FR4) and white stones (F4) come in packs of 10 and some of the more expensive burs such as the 30 blade bur (CF379UF.023) can be purchased separately.

Not all the burs outlined in this section are required for eggshell carving. They are what we find useful and you will soon find you develop a preference for certain burs for doing the different areas of a technique.

There are a number of adaptors available to allow you to use the small shank burs used for air tools in the low speed alternatives. The first adaptor is for the Marathon units and the other two adaptors are available from

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