

# Guide to Buying a Tumbler



## **What is the difference between Stone Tumblers, Metal Barrelling machines and Starter Packs?**

### **Stone Tumblers**

These are for tumbling and polishing rough rock, stones and pebbles including those found on the beach and glass. These are all high quality machines to give a professional finish to your samples. The tumblers can be used with a variety of grits, most commonly Silicon Carbide Grit and Zinc Oxide which we also stock.

### **Starter Packs**

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED for beginners and ideal to give as presents. These come with everything you need to start tumbling. They come with full instructions with a special guide booklet, silicon carbide grit (80 and 400) and Zinc Oxide.

### **Metal Barrelling**

Used for cleaning and polishing metal and jewellery, or for giving a matt or patterned surface for metal work.

## **What is the difference between the single and double barrel machines?**

### **Single Barrels**

Allow maximum load in one go, but you have to wait for each stage to be completed before moving onto the next stage.

### **Double Barrels**

These allow you to have two different loads tumbling at different stages and also helps the barrels last longer by separating medium. The Double Barrel machine is **our most popular line (LP0006/LP0014)** since it makes tumbling much easier and quicker. However, each barrel can only hold half the total weight that the machine can tumble at. A 3lb tumbling machine can therefore take two lots of 1.5lb load at different stages running at the same time.

## **What is the difference between the plastic and rubber barrels? What is the noise levels?**

### Plastic Barrels

These are standard barrels, and used in the vast majority of cases. You can hear the stones turn unlike rubber barrels, but this is not noisy. We do recommend that the machine is run in a conservatory, garage or spare/back room.

### Rubber Barrels

These are premium barrels, running virtually silent, recommended for those who have limited space and need to run in a main room. They are also designed to last much longer and the lids are much easier to remove.

## **What is the maximum amount of rocks or pebbles that the machine can take?**

You should NOT exceed the weight of the machine when tumbling. I.E. a 3lb machine can take up to 3lb in rocks or pebbles, but anymore and the machine may run slow or may not be able to turn. If you have a double barrel machine, it is the total weight of both barrels that must not exceed the total machine weight.

## **Do I need anything else?**

Many people prefer to buy extra separate barrels to ensure that they keep the different grits and polish in each barrel to avoid contamination and to avoid wear and tear. These are available from our website.

If you are purchasing a tumbler without the starter kit, then you will require the grits. 80, 400 Silicon Carbide and Zinc Oxide are the most recommended.

You may also wish to consider our 'Rough Rock' which is ideal for starting out. This pack contains lots of different rock types and colours.

### **Are these machines guaranteed?**

All machines come with a 5-year guarantee. But does not include the wear and tear of spare parts which can be obtained separately, such as the drive belt, barrels and drive assembly.

### **What is the difference between Evans and Beech?**

Both are manufactured in the UK, and are high quality reliable machines. Evans is the top brand name in Lapidary, and is aimed at the more professional or those who will be using the tumblers with frequent use. Beech machines are more suited to beginners and will need the drive belts and rollers replaced from time to time. Evans machines rarely need parts replaced as they are designed for heavy use, and tend to be more robust.

### **How much power do the tumblers use?**

They use low power, just the wattage equivalent to a 20 Watt Energy Saving Light Bulb. They are 240 volts.

### **How long does it take to tumble stones or rocks?**

It takes around 10 days depending on how rough the rock is and the hardness. The tumbler needs to be running constantly and must not be stopped.

### **Can I re-use the grits?**

Unfortunately the grits and polish cannot be reused because of contamination with the small particulars from the rocks themselves and since when mixed with water the mixture becomes slurry and when dry turns hard similar to concrete.

The only exception is when using the machines for metal cleaning, the stainless steel media and ceramic shapes can be reused and should last quite some time.