

DSR Trimming Technique

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The Asphalt Institute

**National
Binder Technician
Certification**

P R O G R A M

Cleaning DSR plates can be a time-consuming process. This trimming technique was developed by technicians at Asphalt Institute to help reduce the time it takes to clean plates by not making a mess to begin with.

As with anything new to you, this technique can be challenging at first. But with practice, you will be able to produce consistent, precise and neatly trimmed DSR specimens in seconds.

Use the mitered end of the trimming tool for this technique, and use both hands following the five easy steps.

- 1 Heat the tool to the proper temperature. The tool is:
 - Too hot if the specimen smokes or runs from between the plates.
 - Too cold if the specimen pulls from between the plates or sticks to the tool.
 - The correct temperature if the binder cuts easily and can be transferred to the swab as a solid rope.
- 2 Hold the tool like a pencil in your dominant hand and a wooden swab in the other hand.
 - The cutting edge of the tool should be kept parallel and in contact with the sides of the plates during trimming.



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- 3 Trim the specimen by cutting toward you starting as far back of the specimen as practical.
 - Just after starting the trim, touch the swab to the excess materials or apply it to the swab using the tool.
 - Rotate the swab away from the direction of the trim as you move around the plates (this should result in a "rope" of asphalt that is wrapped around the swab and not on your plates or in your filters!).
 - Trim about three quarters of the way around the specimen, hold the swab in place and reposition the tool to trim the back of the specimen toward the swab.
 - Use as many swabs as necessary (they're cheap).

- 4 Finish and inspect specimen.

- Run the heated tool around the specimen to assure that the sample is neither convex nor concave.
- With practice, you should be able to trim a 25 mm specimen in about ten seconds or less.

- 5 Stay calm. Practice. You'll learn to love it.

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