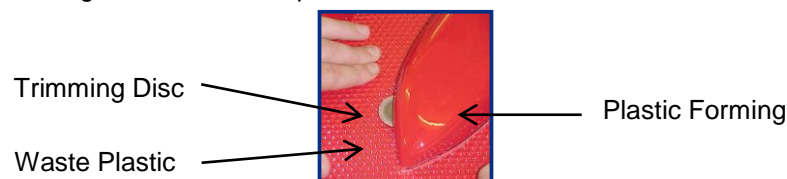


Trimming a Vacuum Forming to Give a Straight Edge



Both the **2010** and **2020** Gerbils can be used with the tungsten carbide abrasive disc to trim out vacuum formings leaving a straight edge.

1. The following safety instructions must be observed at all times: wear safety goggles, tie back long hair and remove any loose jewellery.
2. Fit the abrasive disc as described in the instruction manual. Set the cutting height as required.
3. Place the vacuum forming over the top of the disc and make sure that it is seated flat on the table. You should not be able to see the disc as it will be hidden beneath the vacuum forming.
4. You can hold the vacuum forming in place however best suits you, but be careful not to apply too much pressure or the forming may distort. It is best to apply pressure to the waste plastic around the edge, and, if you need to, simply rest a hand on the forming to guide it as you trim.
5. Switch on the machine. Holding the vacuum forming as instructed in (4) push the vacuum forming against the rotating disc so that it trims through the wall of the forming (see figure below); about half of the disc will now be visible. If you have the 2020, you can use the table top cross hairs to give an estimated position of the disc.



6. Gradually move the abrasive around the vacuum forming, clockwise or anticlockwise, at a slow, steady rate. If you rush or push too quickly you will leave a rough finish which will need more sanding later. When the disc is within 20mm of the starting point, reduce the rate at which you are moving the forming and gradually complete the operation.
7. Switch off the Gerbil, remove the vacuum forming and clear the waste plastic from the table.
8. Allow the forming to cool.
9. The base of the vacuum forming may now need a small amount of finishing work. This should be done in two stages:
 - a) Break off any large pieces of plastic swarf with your fingers.
 - b) Use the mini mop to finish any rough edges (see Resource Material G5). If you do not have this tool you can use the edge of a steel rule, or a piece of abrasive paper. Be careful when sanding not to dwell too long on one spot, for fear of rubbing away too much material.
10. You should now ask your teacher if any more finishing is needed.

