NEW ABRASIVE FOR SECTIONING WATER-SOLUBLE ROCKS

H. O. BEALS
Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana

"Fabricut," a waterproof cloth mesh impregnated with a granular abrasive manufactured by the Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing Co., St. Paul 6, Minnesota, has been found to produce superior results in the preparation of water-soluble and soft calcareous rocks for thin sections.

This type of abrasive mesh was originally designed for removing varnish, paint, lacquer, and other similar materials which fill ordinary abrasive cloth and paper. While it is slightly more expensive than other types, it has the advantages of abrasive on both sides, produces smoother results, and the grinding debris can be removed by washing the mesh in water. It was also found that fewer scratches were produced by "Fabricut" than other abrasive paper or cloth of comparable abrasive size.

1 Manuscript received February 1, 1958.

This abrasive mesh is available in both Silicon Carbide and Aluminum Oxide in the following grades: 100, 120, 150, 180, 220, 240, 280, 320, and 400. While aluminum oxide was found to be more desirable for most work, the silicon carbide may be more useful for special problems.

The thin sections are prepared using standard petrographic techniques such as those outlined in the article by Reed and Mergner (1953) except that the rock slice is ground by hand on the dry "Fabricut" without the use of a lubricant.

Due to the greater amount of heat produced by the dry abrasive, care must be taken not to soften the bond between the rock slice and the glass slide. It is best to use several grades of "Fabricut" during the grinding process to eliminate scratches and reduce the grinding time.

REFERENCE