

HOW MILLSTONES WORK



The crane mounted above the millstones allows the upper “runner” stone to be lifted off. The stones can then be dressed. The runner stone weighs about 1,500 pounds.

The furrows and crackling lines on the lands can be seen on the surfaces of both stones.

The Friends of the Mill hired millwright Bob Grassi to dress the millstones. Here Bob is using a bag of grain called a “Bist” to support his arm as he sharpens a furrow with his millpick. The runner stone is done the same way.



The proper technique for using the millpick is to lift it with the left hand and guide its fall with the right. You never use your wrist to lift the pick, the wrist only guides the picks fall. The force of the picks blow on the stone is determined by how high the left hand lifts the pick.