

Victoria vs. Semogue vs. Omega

This is a comparison of three shaving brushes with boar hair; a vintage Victoria, Semogue 2000 and Omega 10005.

All three brushes have been used sufficiently to be fully broken in.

I have used *Mitchell's Wool Fat* (MWF) for lathering (just to spice it up a bit).

Data	Victoria	Semogue 2000	Omega 10005
Weight	61.1 grams	61.4 grams	52.5 grams
Knot size	27.0 mm	26.0 mm	23.2 mm
Loft height	61.2 mm	63.0 mm	58.2 mm
Handle height	56.3 mm	54.7 mm	51.3 mm
Total height	117.5 mm	117.7 mm	109.5 mm

I have not been able to find information about the Victoria brush, but I estimate it to be from around 1950 to the middle of the 60's. The Semogue 2000 and Omega 10005 is both new.



The brushes in dry condition



The tips



The tips



Nice creamy MWF lather



Just after cleaning, wet condition

Victoria

The brush has a nice sized handle and a design which make it comfortable to hold.

The brush has good backbone, which make it easy to load with a hard soap. About 20 seconds on the MWF puck is sufficient to pick up enough soap to create a nice creamy lather, which easily last for three passes plus touch-ups.

When the brush is wet, the tips are very soft and are only surpassed in softness by badger brushes in Silvertip quality.

The brush keeps the backbone when wet, which means that it can be used to massage the lather into the beard without problems – no painting here.

The Victoria brush is excellent, so good in fact, it is my favourite brush when it comes to boar brushes, and it has become my reference when I evaluate other boar brushes.

Semogue 2000

I bought this brush because of the resemblance with the Victoria, and after reception of it and comparing their data; one could be tempted to say that the Semogue is an exact copy.

In contrast to the Victoria, the Semogue required quite a long break-in period before it had developed its full potential. However this seems to be quite normal for boar brushes coming from Semogue, you have to have patience, but you will be rewarded in the end.

The brush has a nice sized handle and a design which make it comfortable to hold.

The brush has a nice backbone, although it is a bit softer than the Victoria. 20-25 seconds on MWF is sufficient to pick up soap for a nice creamy lather, which easily lasts for three passes plus touch-ups.

When the brush is wet, the tips are very soft and are only superseded in softness by badger brushes in Silvertip quality.

The brush keeps the backbone when wet, which means that it can be used to massage the lather into the beard without problems – no painting here.

The Semogue doesn't have quite the same backbone as the Victoria, despite having almost the same knot size and loft height. It is not something that shows in daily use, but was noticeable in this direct comparison.

I think it might have something to do with the way the hairs are set in the knot (and maybe hair-type). If you look at the pictures you can see that the hairs on the Semogue are fanning out more than on the Victoria (and the Omega).

Omega 10005

This brush was again a purchase because of the resemblance with the Victoria. The data however show a somewhat other picture; The Omega is smaller when it comes to knot size and loft height.

The Omega had a very short break-in period, 5-6 shaves and it had its full potential – something a guy with a short patience appreciates.

The brush has a nice sized handle and a design which make it comfortable to hold.

The Omega has a good backbone, on par with the Victoria. About 20 seconds on MWF and the brush was loaded with soap, which without any problems was whipped to a creamy lather. The brush holds with ease enough lather for three passes plus a couple of touch-ups if necessary.

When the brush is wet, the tips are very soft and are only superseded in softness by badger brushes in Silvertip quality.

The brush keeps the backbone when wet, which means that it can be used to massage the lather into the beard without problems – no painting here.

The Omega is on par with the Victoria when it comes to backbone and the softness of the tips. It is then a matter of personal preference regarding the knot size and loft height what you prefer.

Conclusion

Three very nice boar brushes, which will make a stand to all badger brushes and in my opinion only is surpassed in softness by Silvertips, which on the other hand can't show the same amount of backbone when it comes to a loft height of 60 mm.

With a direct comparison of the three brushes above, I am still choosing the Victoria as my number 1.

On the other hand it is a dead race between the Semogue and the Omega, which each has their plusses and minuses to equalise each other when judging the brush as a whole.