

THE MIDWEST FACETER



Volume 13 Number Four

AN EDUCATIONAL PUBLICATION OF THE MIDWEST FACETERS GUILD

THE MIDWEST FACETER
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Birch Run, MI 48415

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THE MIDWEST FACETER

Editors**Kathleen Myers****Bill Horton**

Send all Articles and
News Items to:

THE MIDWEST FACETER

11630 S. Gera Road

Birch Run, MI 48415

THE MIDWEST FACETER**DEADLINE:**

The 10th of the month
proceeding publication.

THE MIDWEST FACETER is not forwardable. For membership application or change of address contact:
Membership Chairman: William J. Horton 2589 N. Hughes Road Howell, MI 48843

THE MIDWEST FACETER is the official publication of the MIDWEST FACETERS GUILD and is published five times each year available to members only as a portion of their annual membership dues. Statements appearing in THE MIDWEST FACETER are those of the author and not necessarily those of the MIDWEST FACETERS GUILD, MWFG Board of Directors, or THE MIDWEST FACETER editors. The editors reserve the right to edit all material submitted for publication. Permission to reprint any material published in THE MIDWEST FACETER is granted provided full credit is given to THE MIDWEST FACETER and to the author.

THE MIDWEST FACETERS GUILD

* ORGANIZED JULY 14, 1979

PURPOSES

- * TO PROMOTE EDUCATION AND RECREATION
- * TO DEVELOP THE ART OF FACETING
- * TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION RELATED TO FACETING
- * TO PROVIDE MEETINGS FOR THOSE OF LIKE INTERESTS
- * TO PROMOTE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF INDIVIDUALS

MEMBER OF:

THE MIDWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES
THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

MIDWEST FACETERS GUILD

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Kathleen Myers
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OCTOBER 2, 1993

MIDWEST FACETERS GUILD MEETING

DEARBORN CITY TAVERN
14315 MICHIGAN AVENUE
DEARBORN, MICHIGAN
313/584-1515

BOARD MEETING.....10:00 A.M.

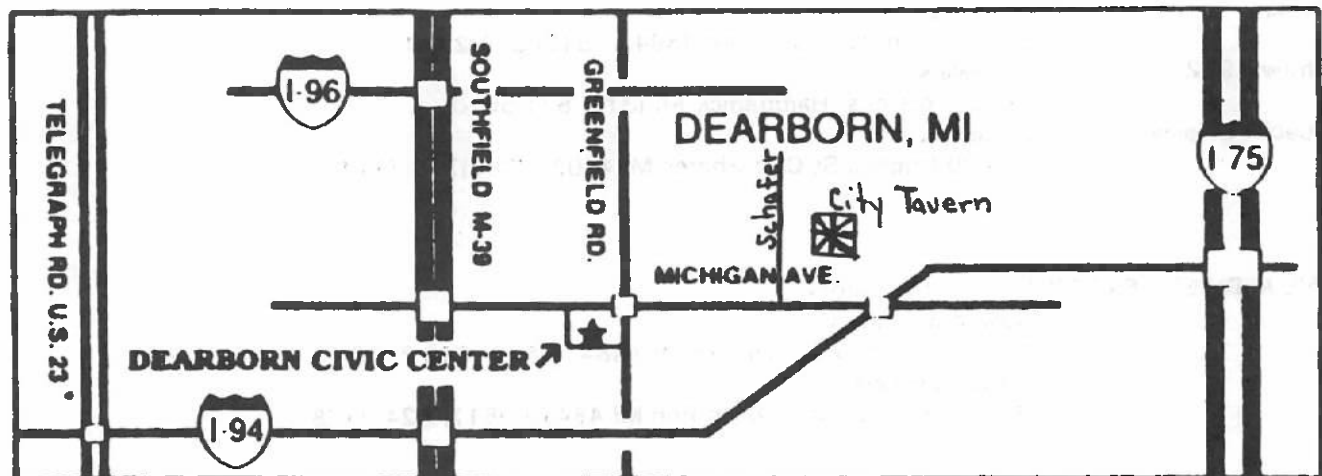
REGULAR MEETING..... 1:00 P.M.

For our October Meeting in Dearborn we will have the pleasure of seeing a slide program on:

DIAMONDS BY JOHN LAURI

This meeting will be to elect the Officers for the coming year, so let's all try to get there for a good turn out and to enjoy the friendships.

This is our Last meeting before our Faceters Fair so it's very important that you attend and be a part of our Show.



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From the President's Quill.....

Tom Gibbs

The Fourth Annual MWFG Seminar was another GREAT SUCCESS - our hats go off to ALL of the Participants who came together to share in the FACETING FACTS FRIENDS and FUN !! And there was a lot of all those things as a gathering of the Guild enjoyed the weekend together. If you had to miss this one make plans starting now to attend next year!!

Don Sahr and the 1993 Show Committee are hard at work now planning the details for the Midwest Faceters Fair Gem & Jewelry Show in October. Remember to give Don a call and volunteer to help out some time during the weekend - many hands make light work - and yours are needed to share the load.

Our Annual October Homecoming meeting will be for the election of officers to serve the MWFG for the next years. Please try to attend to cast your all important vote.

As this is my last message as Guild President, I would like to say thank -you to each person who has helped to make these past years a success - I have appreciated your willingness to volunteer for what ever jobs needed to be done. I have enjoyed serving as your President and thank you for the confidence in electing me. It has been my pleasure to share and work with each of you.

We all look forward to another GREAT year for the MWFG ... join in the fun!

Find time to cut a good gemstone..... See you soon!

The Prez.

Cutting Tips.....

Alexandre Wolkonsky

Making Wax Laps

Polishing materials under 5 in hardness gets to be a tough problem. A good general approach is to first prepare the facets with a final pre-polish with a 600 silicon carbide wet Pellon film placed on a master lap. No use to go down to a finer grit as the pre-polish with 600 grit is much smoother than with a standard diamond cutting lap.

There are also wide differences between the soft materials themselves. Let us say polishing sulfur is light years from a relatively plain material like orthose. Cleavable materials as blende/sphalerite is also another problem. The general answer is a wax lap, low speeds and rather thin alumina (Linde A/B) slurry in water. But we also need wax laps of different hardnesses to cope with the differences in hardnesses of the soft materials.

Glenn Vargas has advocated a lap with a thin layer of wax poured in a shallow recess cut away on the lathe on a Persplex lap. The wax is about 90% bee's wax which is quite soft and 10% Carnauba which is the hardest wax I know of, and very interesting. It comes from a palm tree growing in Mexico and is quite inexpensive. We get it over here in large chunks from special suppliers where people making wood furniture go. Bee's wax you can get with any beehive man or beehive supply shop. Its also quite inexpensive.

Pure or almost pure bee's wax laps are good for the very soft materials but their use should be restricted to that, as they can get grooved very easily even with the slightest pressure and they polish rounded facets. Specially so with small facets.

I have tried to produce wax compounds with a lot more carnauba, poured the mix over an aluminium lap with a shallow recessand failed every time. This is because bee's wax shrinks only slightly on cooling down whereas carnauba shrinks terribly when it gets hard, opening up large splits on the lap surface.

A couple of years back I met Cliff Jackson demonstrating a solid wax lap with no backing at a Columbia Williamette annual meeting in Portland, Oregon. This was a thickish lap, dark green similar to the casting wax as used by jewelers. Cliff was kind enough to mail me one. Cliff's idea of a solid wax lap is very interesting because wax compounds can shrink by any amount when passing from liquid to solid state if they are not attached to a backing that will never be able to shrink by that amount.

However the green jeweler's wax is quite expensive and you need to make a thick lap for the lap to hold under pressure during polishing and for frequent resurfacing to get rid of the grooves.

So I bought myself a teflon coated thin steel pan such as we use here to cook cakes. I'm sure they are available everywhere. These pans have sides that open up. This, together with the inside teflon coating is quite useful to get the solid wax cake out of the pan after cooling. I chose a pan with an inside diameter at the bottom larger than my future 6 inch laps I wished to make.

With a caliper and a thick permanent felt pen I placed 4 marks about 20 milimeters (about .8 of an inch) from the bottom of the pan to give the level the wax should attain when molten.

I spray a thin film of silicon oil over the teflon coating to get the cake out easy and tried never to damage or scratch the teflon.

I place the empty pan on the kitchen electric cooking burner and switched to a low temperature. The weighing of the carnauba and bee's waxes was made on the kitchen scale and placed in separate poly bags to avoid contamination.

I place the carnauba in the pan first as carnauba has a higher melting point than bee's wax. When the carnauba was fully liquid, I placed the bee's wax which gets liquid very quickly and mixes readily with the molten carnauba when you stir the mix slowly with a clean wooden spoon. Then you switch the power off, take the pan away from the electric burner for the waxes not to be damaged with extra long heating. If the table on which you place the pan is not quite horizontal, use a knife blade or matches tucked between table and pan so the level of the liquid wax reaches the felt pen side marks evenly.

The top of the wax cake solidifies first, but it takes a little time for the whole cake to set. This you will know as most times the solid cake separates with a bang as if someone was shooting a gun outside your window! If your cake does not behave properly, place the cold pan plus cake in the freezer compartment of your refrigerator for a minute or so and you will get your cake out easily.

I suggest you weigh your cake as this will give you an indication on how much carnauba and how much bee's wax you need to weigh for the next cakes.

I place the cake in a poly bag to avoid contamination as anything would stick on such soft and sticky material. Clean the teflon side of your pan with alcohol or a solvent to get rid of the small debris of wax still clinging to the pan without damaging the teflon. I prepare 5 wax laps with increasing degrees in hardness:

. 100% Bee's wax

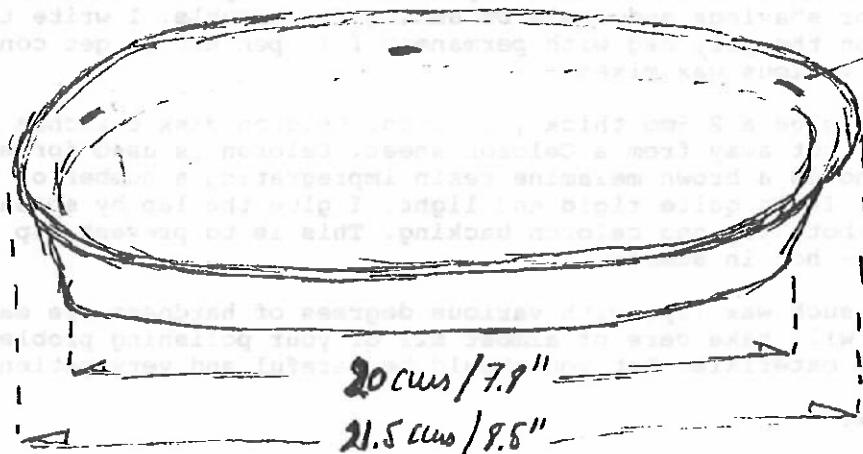
75% bee's - 25% Carnauba

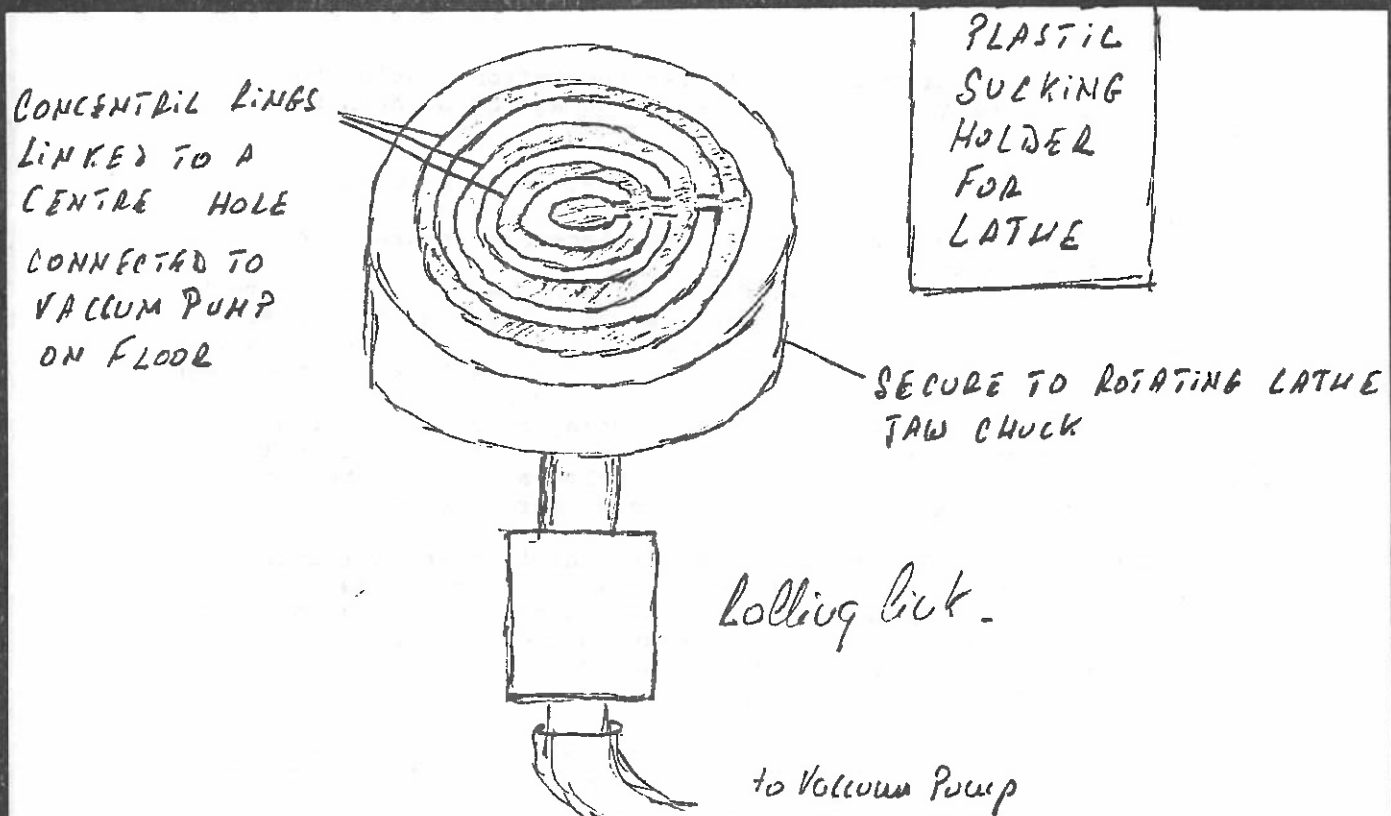
50% bee's - 50% Carnauba

25% bee's - 75% Carnauba

. 100% Carnauba

Then go to a mechanic you know who works cleanly, agrees that you stay while he works and agrees to wash his hands before getting the job done....





Wax cakes are quite soft and its difficult to hold them tight to work them on a lathe. So ask your mechanic to make out first a sucking holder in hard PVC as above diagram. Outside width could be half of your lap diameter. Place the flatter surface of your cake on the holder while vacuum pump is on. You would be surprised how strong the cake will hold.

He has to dry cut with standard lathe bits and no coolant at medium speeds to medium slow. Not too much material to be taken away at a time. Flatten both sides to a thickness of 13 to 14mm (.55 inch). This seems quite thin compared to the initial 20mm felt pen level made on you pan, but the 20mm will be less when the cake has become solid and also its difficult to get a pan with a truly flat bottom. Also the heating on the electric burner, even if mild, will distort the bottom of your pan.

Drilling the center hole for the arbor is no problem. I usually keep the shavings and the outer rim of the cake when cut back into the original poly bag to make further laps of the same wax mix.

I also place the lap in a polythene bag as soon as it is of the lathe. Leaving it on a table in the shop will have it pick little metal filings or shavings and would be asking for trouble. I write the wax mix on the poly bag with permanent felt pen not to get confused with the various wax mixes.

I usually glue a 2.5mm thick (.10 inch) Celoron disk 6 inches in diameter, cut away from a Celoron sheet. Celoron is used for electrical boards and is a brown melamine resin impregnating a number of sheets of cloth. It is quite rigid and light. I glue the lap by spreading epoxy on both lap and celoron backing. This is to prevent lap warping when it is hot in summer.

A set of such wax laps with various degrees of hardness are easy to make and will take care of almost all of your polishing problems with soft materials. But you should be careful and very patient...

Good luck.

Alexandre Wolkonsky

MIDWEST FACETERS GUILD 1993 FACETING SEMINAR

The 1993 Seminar has come and gone!!!! For those who were unfortunate, for whatever reason, that missed the seminar, you really missed a great time!!! The "OLD 21" building in downtown Hartland fairly burst at it's seams. There were 7 different areas of expertise to draw upon, with the best qualified instructors available. FACETING, FRIENDS, FACTS, AND FUN!!!!!!

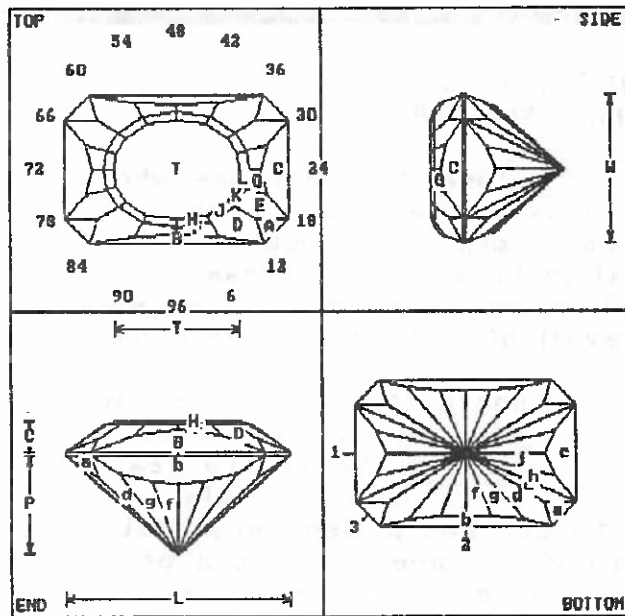
The Guild was indeed very fortunate this year. We had the privilege of having Robert Strickland and Art Grant as our featured instructors. Robert came for the second year and presented his GEM CAD program. Art added a special demimension by teaching us how to cut and polish very soft gemstones. Our gratitude and 10,000 attaboy's to both of these gentlemen. Art's wife, Jane, added to the seminar also, as she jumped right in and helped with all the extra things that need to be done at the last moment, as well as the administrative responsibilities. 20,000 attaboys to Jane!!!!

There were 75 people involved in the seminar. Everyone seemed to enjoy the event. Saturday night's catered dinner was a real blast! Everyone was invited to participate in the program. Nate Cohen, from Nova Scotia, gave an informative talk on a "BLOODY PIECE" of topaz, the table of which, was a miserable **&^%&***^&* (SOB). It was a gemstone of a local jeweler, to be repaired. Only Nate could tell the story! Another person gave us a real surprise. Don Dunn gave us a thrill for sure. Don put on a pair of dancing shoes, and showed us all what a hooper can really do!!!! Don has always appeared to be very quiet and reserved, at least since I've known him. However, the REAL Don Dunn came to the fore!! Art Grant showed some slides of some of his major accomplishments. You can't imagine the size stones that Art has cut, and from Flourite and Calcite. They are magnificent!!!!!! He had some of these gemstones with him for all of us to view. The dinner was excellant, the program a lot of fun. Kathleen finished the program with our annual MOOSE GOOSER'S rendition, along with some other very appropriate verses for the occasion!!!!!!

The weather was almost perfect, the singing in the evening around the campers was perfect, the fellowship of all was perfect. The only problem for the weekend was from Roger "BIG STONE" Moore. Roger fell on the front step of the 21 building and scraped his head and arm. There may be a new crack in the cement. Roger rallied and appeared to have survived!!

For all of you that came to the seminar, 10,000 attaboys. For all of you that missed the seminar, try to make the seminar in 1994.

Bill & Kathleen



MOONGLOW

Designed by Kenyon Painter

MOONGLW1.GEM

Angles for R.I. = 1.54

73 facets + 8 facets on girdle = 81

2-fold, mirror-image symmetry

96 index

L/W = 1.499 T/W = 0.846 T/L = 0.564

P/W = 0.678 C/W = 0.213

H/W = (P+C)/W+0.02 = 0.910

P/H = 0.744 C/H = 0.234

Vol./W³ = 0.604

GIRDLE

1	90.00	24-72
2	90.00	96-48
3	90.00	12-36-60-84

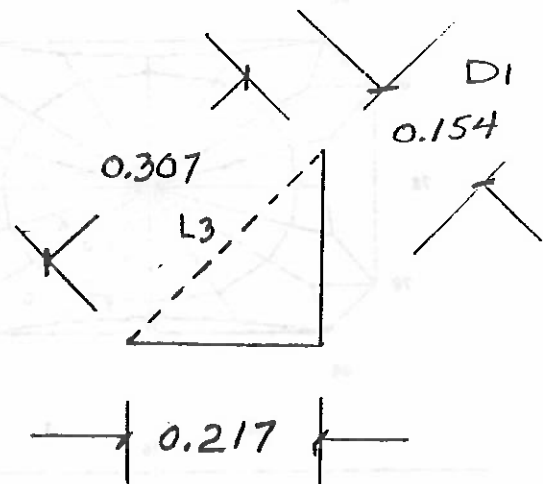
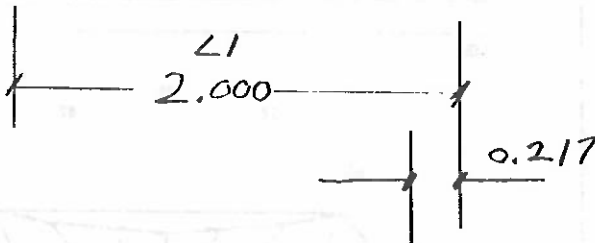
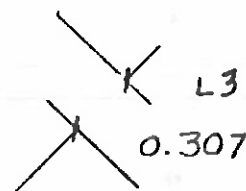
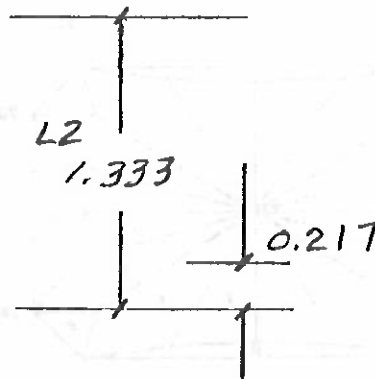
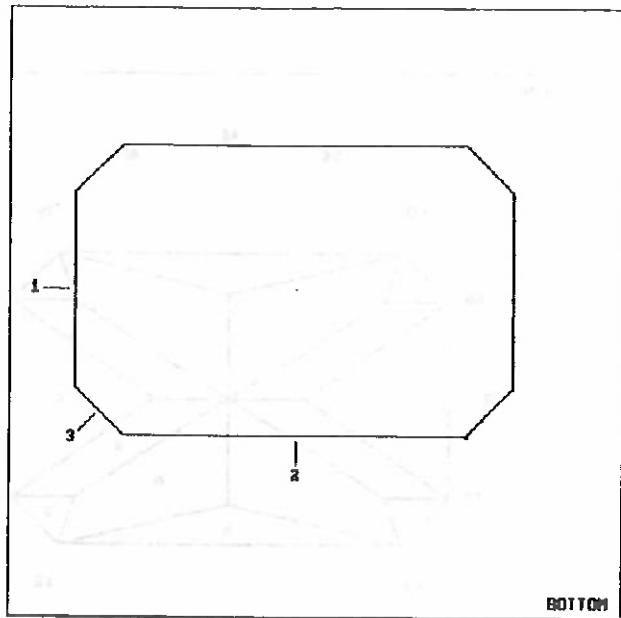
CROWN

A	32.77	12-36-60-84
B	70.00	96-48
C	39.40	24-72
D	30.80	09-39-57-87
E	28.61	15-33-63-81
F	33.30	02-46-50-94
G	27.60	22-26-70-74
H	25.00	02-46-50-94
J	22.94	09-39-57-87
K	21.15	15-33-63-81
L	20.34	22-26-70-74
T	0.00	Table

PAVILION

a	45.50	12-36-60-84
b	70.00	96-48
c	45.00	24-72
d	43.00	08-40-56-88

e	39.64	16-32-64-80
f	48.34	01-47-49-95
g	47.80	02-46-50-94
h	40.72	22-26-70-74
j	41.00	23-25-71-73



then for 10 X 15 mm

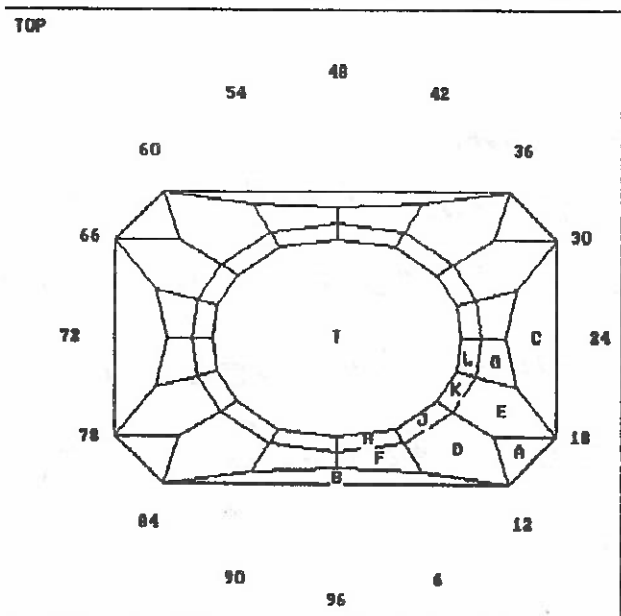
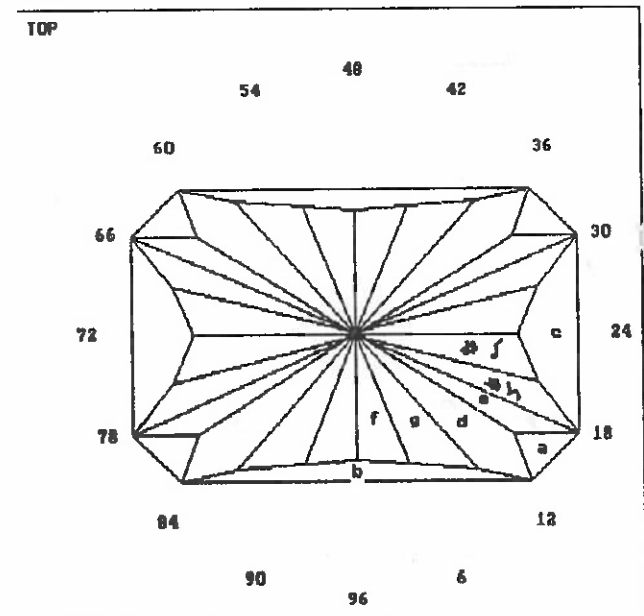
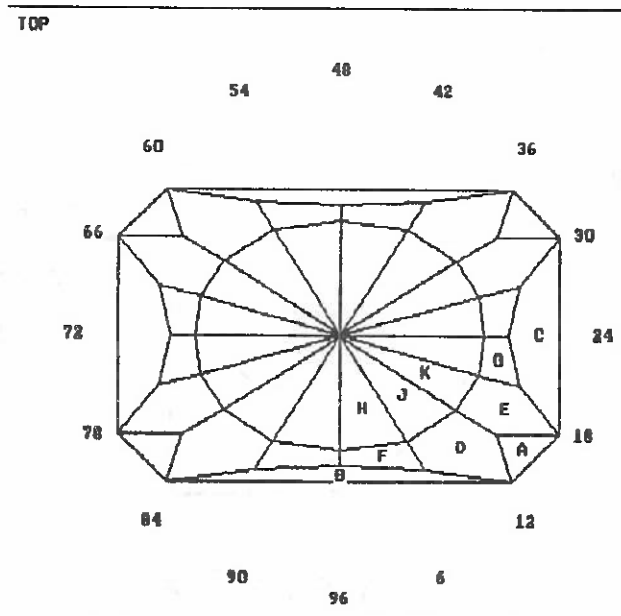
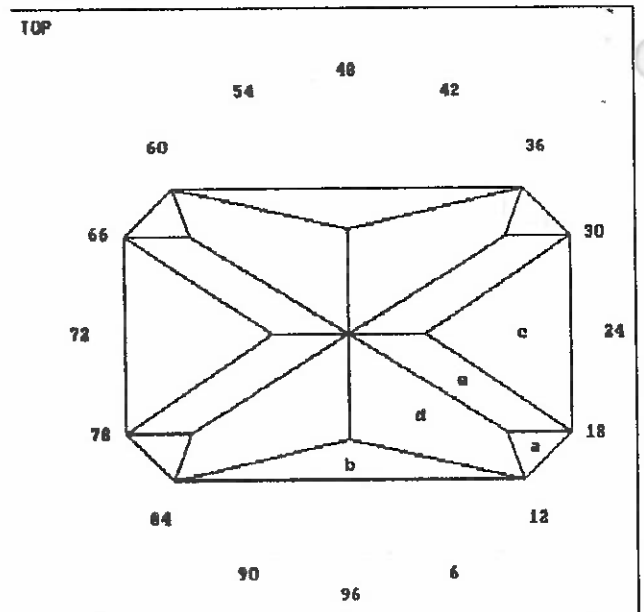
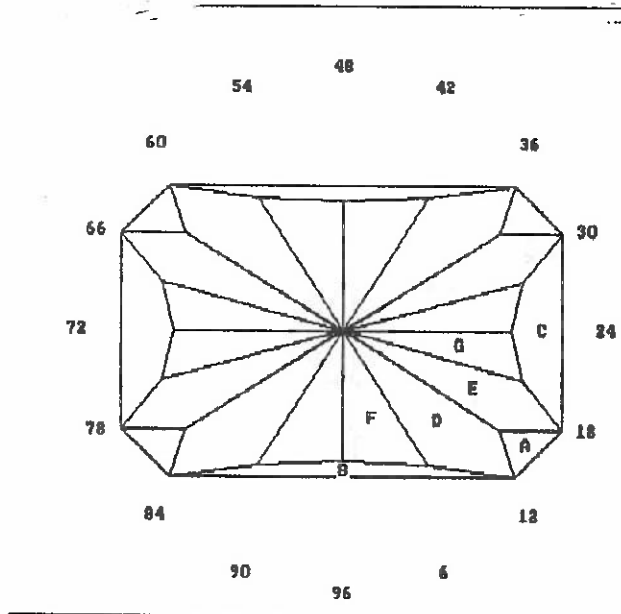
$$L_1 = 15 \text{ mm}$$

$$L_2 = 10 \text{ mm}$$

$$L_3 = 0.307 \left(\frac{15 \text{ mm}}{2} \right) = 2.303 \text{ mm}$$

$$D1 = 0.154 \left(\frac{15 \text{ mm}}{2} \right) = 1.151 \text{ mm} \quad (\text{depth of corner cut.})$$

The length L_3 should be cut carefully since the resulting corners must be used as reference points to cut facets B, C, D, E, b, c, d, and e.



MOONGLOW

Secretary's Minutes.....

Frances Bush

President, Thomas Gibbs called the Board of Directors of the Midwest Faceters Guild to order on June 19, 1993 at 10:32 AM in Lindo's Restaurant located in Michigan City, Indiana. Those in attendance were President Gibbs, Don Sahr, Elery Holt, Frances Bush, Bill Horton, Bernard Bush, Jane Holt and Doris Medlen.

The Board of Directors did not meet in Shelby - No minutes.

The Treasurer's report was accepted as printed by Elery Holt and filed for audit through a motion made by Bill Horton and seconded by Don Sahr.

Educational Chairman, Bernard Bush reported John Lauri will be the guest speaker at the Annual Meeting, October 2nd in Dearborn, Michigan.

Doris Medlen will remain Hospitality Chairperson for the Club meetings, but not for the Shows.

Rules Chairman, Bill Horton reported the new rules will be adapted to our Faceters Fair and will be taught to the judges at the Seminar.

Show Chairman, Don Sahr presented a copy of the budget for the 1993 Faceters Fair in the amount of \$12,000. A motion was made by Elery Holt "To approve the budget for the Faceter Fair as printed." Motion seconded by Jane Holt and carried unanimously.

The following have been approved for the 1993 show Committee:
 SHOW CHAIRMEN, Don and Gail Sahr; TREASURER, Elery Holt; Secretary, Frances Bush; DEALER CHAIRMAN, Tom Gibbs; ELECTRICAL, Tom Gibbs, III and Bud Eiche; VIDEO PROGRAMS, Bernard Bush; DEMONSTRATIONS, Bill Schell; ADMISSIONS, Doris and Lester Medlen; RIBBONS, Don & Gail Sahr; CLUB SECURITY, Virginia Steele; CLUB BOOTH, Jane & Elery Holt and Bernie & Frances Bush; WORKER REGISTRATION, (Chairman needed); JUDGES, COMPETITION, NON-COMPETITIVE AND BEST OF SHOW, Bill Horton and Kathleen Myers; PUBLICITY & ADVERTISING MAILING, Bernie & Frances Bush; HOSPILITY, Mary Pashenee; SHOW DECORATIONS, Carmen Eiche; FLYER DESIGN & PRINTING, Tom Gibbs; FLYER DISTRIBUTION (STATE), Joe Manina; SHOW LAYOUT, Tom Gibbs; RAFFLE, Bernie and Frances Bush; INSURANCE AND RAFFLE LICENSE, Bill Horton; LOADING DISPATCHER, Paul Gionet; LAPIDARY JOURNAL & ROCK AND GEM AD, Don Sahr; SECURITY POLICE, Tom Gibbs; PROGRAM SPEAKERS, Bill Horton, Jim Schlottman and Dick Fairless; and VOLUNTEERS, Diane Tourville, Ralph Donovan, Nancy Keihn, B. A. Calvin, Bob & Maxine Sanderson and Jay Ross. PLENTY OF VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHAIRMAN OF WHERE YOU'D LIKE TO WORK.

Many more raffle prizes are needed !!!!!!!

Doris and Lester Medlen have agreed to be the Admissions Chairmen.

A Chairman is needed for "WORKER REGISTRATION".

It was suggested we have more speakers, as only two are scheduled.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Bill Horton was approved as Nominating Chairman for the 1994 Election of Officers to be held at the Annual meeting, October 2nd in Dearborn, Michigan.

President Gibbs appointed Bill Horton as delegate to the 1993 Midwest Federation Convention in Houghton, Michigan, August 8th-15th.

Discussion was held on purchasing a combination TV-VCR to be used at the shows, seminar and meetings. The unit would be smaller and more convenient to transport. Prices received from various outlets were very similar. It was suggested a 15" or 17" would be an appropriate size.

Bill Horton made a motion, "That the TV-VCR be purchased and the cost be at the discretion of Bill." Doris Medlen seconded the motion and it carried. Motion will be presented to the Membership for approval.

The Seminar Bulletin is completed and ready to be printed and mailed. Seminar Co-ordinators, Bill Horton and Kathleen Myers presented a budget of \$3740 for the 1993 Seminar to be held at Hartland High School Hartland, Michigan on August 6th, 7th and 8th. The fee for the Seminar is \$45.00 per person.

Lester and Doris Medlen will donate a pendant for the Raffle.

President Gibbs declared the meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Frances Bush, Secretary.

The Membership meeting of the Midwest Faceters Guild was called to order at 1:45 PM in Lindo's Restaurant in Michigan City, Indiana on June 19, 1993.

President Gibbs welcome all those present and thanked Clarence Orrell, Stanley Jacobs and Virginia Steele for making the arrangements for the meeting. Nettie DuSold was thanked and complimented for the clever dop stick name tags.

The minutes of the Shelby meeting were accepted as published in the "Midwest Faceter" through a motion made by Margaret Heinek and seconded by Tom Fields.

The Treasurer's report was accepted as read by Elery Holt and filed for audit through a motion made by Nettie DuSold and seconded by Bernard Bush.

Educational Chairman, Bernard Bush announced the speaker of the day would be Jim Schlottman on "How to Get the Best Out of Gem Material". John Lauri will be the speaker at the Annual meeting, October 2nd and his topic will be diamonds. Mr. Bush thanked everyone that participated in the arrangements for today's meeting.

Membership Secretary, Bill Horton reported we have a membership of 397, with 80 that are unpaid and will be dropped from the mailing list.

Stanley Jacobs introduced Dave Gilson as a new member. Dave recently transferred to Indiana from Pennsylvania.

Rules Chairman, Bill Horton called our attention to the omission for classes 14 and 16 for our Faceters Fair. Correction: A minimum of a 6MM stone is required for Class 14 and 16. The new Judging rules are explained in the Show Bulletin. Application for display space is also included. The new judging rules are adapted from the American and Australian Rules and are expected to provide a more accurate method of judging.

Show Chairman, Don Sahr announced that Doris and Lester Medlen will be Co-Chairmen for Admissions. A Chairman is needed to co-ordinate the workers registration.

Don announced that if you send in a faceted stone for the raffle, he will set it in a Tripp mounting for cost at the Guild's expense. Many Raffle prizes are needed for a successful Raffle.

Volunteers and Food items and snacks are needed for the Hospitality Room.

Membership Registration Chairman, Jane Holt reported 35 members signed in at the meeting.

Bill Horton reported the Board approved the \$3740.00 Budget proposed for the 1993 Seminar at Hartland, Michigan. Classes will include seven levels of Faceting, a Judges Class and A Bead Stringing Class. Art Grant will offer a class on faceting soft stones and Bob Strickland will teach the Computer Class. Extra curricular activities include a Banquet on Saturday night along with a talent contest and a shopping trip to the new Birch Run Mall.

NO OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Bill Horton has been approved as Nominating Committee Chairman for the Election of Officers for 1994 at the October 2nd meeting in Dearborn, Michigan at the Dearborn City Tavern.

Bill Horton was appointed delegate to the Midwest Federation Convention in Houghton, Michigan, August 8th thru 15th.

Stanley Jacobs announced he has his mining license for his Sapphire Mine and he will welcome Members of the Guild by special arrangements or will plan a Field Trip if the Guild is interested.

The idea of purchasing a combination TV-VCR to be used at meetings, the Seminar and Faceters Fairs, was presented to the Membership. A price of \$370 was quoted for a 13" Emerson. The Committee was to check for a more convenient size and better price. Nettie DuSold made a motion, "To purchase the combination TV-VCR at the best price and size available." Motion was seconded by Stanley Jacobs and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:13 PM to enjoy the program on "How to Get the Most Out of Your Gem Material" as presented by our speaker, Jim Schlottman.

Respectfully submitted,
Frances Bush, Secretary.

FACETERS FAIR NOTES.....

- * Its not too late to enter your stones / case in the 1993 Fair - get in touch with Bill Horton for rules or questions.
- * **REMEMBER PLEASE WE NEED YOUR DISPLAY !!!**
- * Volunteer now to be a part of the fun ! Many jobs only require a couple of hours of your time.
- * Bring a sharing dish for the hospitality room when you come - it helps keep our workers and dealers going strong during their long hours !
- * Invite your local club - let them know this show is for all people interested in Gems or Jewelry - they don't have to be faceters to enjoy our show !!
- * Need a case ?? Call Bill Horton or Don Sahr.
- * **BRING A FRIEND... OR SEVERAL !!**

APPROXIMATE WEIGHT CHART FOR FACETED COLORED STONES

Weights are based upon the specific gravity of quartz (2.66).

Make appropriate changes for stones of higher or lower specific gravity.

OVAL	Approx. Wt.	OCTAGON	Approx. Wt.	ROUND	Approx. Wt.	PEAR	Approx. Wt.	NAVETTE	Approx. Wt.
5x3	.22	5x3	.25	4mm	.25	5x3	.21	6x3	.20
6x4	.40	6x4	.50	4½mm	.35	6x4	.40	8x4	.50
7x5	.80	7x5	1.10	5mm	.55	7x5	.70	10x5	1.00
8x6	1.20	8x6	1.50	5½mm	.70	8x5	.80	12x6	1.70
9x7	1.75	9x7	2.30	6mm	.90	9x6	1.35	14x7	2.50
10x8	2.50	10x8	3.00	6½mm	1.15	10x7	2.00	15x7	3.00
11x9	3.30	11x9	4.30	7mm	1.50	12x8	3.00	16x8	4.40
12x10	4.50	12x10	5.40	7½mm	1.70	13x9	3.65	18x9	7.00
14x10	5.50	14x10	6.60	8mm	2.05			20x10	11.00
14x12	7.00	14x12	8.40	8½mm	2.25				
16x12	8.50	16x12	10.75	9mm	3.00				
18x13	12.00	18x13	13.75	9½mm	3.20				
20x15	15.00	20x15	18.00	10mm	3.50				
				10½mm	3.75				
				11mm	4.00				
				11½mm	5.00				

Add or subtract 5 – 10 % for Heavy cut or Shallow cut stones.

Add or subtract appropriate % factor for stones of higher or lower specific gravity.

These weights are an approximate estimation based on averages taken from parcels over a period of years. Varieties in cutting styles from different parts of the world will cause these averages to vary at times.

The weights given here are meant only as a guide and should not be used when exact appraisal requirements are needed.

MIDWEST FACETERS GUILD MEMBERSHIP

Dues \$ 5.00 - includes subscription to The Midwest Faceter

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (____) _____

Send all dues to: William J. Horton 2589 N. Hughes Road
Howell, MI 48843.

WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS !

Nat Cohen.

In the April 1992 issue of the M.W.F. Newsletter, Bill Schell described how he got over his difficulty, and frustration in polishing a piece of Quartz. I know the feeling only too well as a similar thing happened to me this week.

The whole of the Atlantic Provinces have a population so small that a professional Gem Cutter would be very hard put to earn a living at it here, so when the local jewellers require a stone to be re-polished it is normally shipped off to Toronto, except that over the past few months it's gotten around that I have been known to touch up the odd stone here and there, as a result more of them are coming my way. Now I am somewhat ambivalent about doing too much of this for various reasons, not least of which is as you will read below. But there are times when I feel obligated to friends who do me favours, which is how come this sad tale is related.

Don Bell, my Goldsmith friend passed me a very large blue emerald cut stone (7mm x 5mm) with one corner graunched out from bending the prong, with a request that I might "fix it". Trots I home, and by now have learnt enough to try to determine what I'm dealing with before going at it. As far as my tests showed it was indeed a beautifull piece of very clean blue Topaz. After carefully dopping it up with epoxy, I studied the thing, made a rough sketch, and started to generate a girdle which had been previously lacking, hence the chewed up corner. This was your typical native cut, nothing square, nor geometrical. After getting a nice decent girdle and some good presentable corners for the prongs, I figured I'd best finish each side on the crown right out on each index, as each required a different offset. I am very lucky in that the cheater on my machine is marked in whole degrees, subdivided into 10 min markings. I do keep notes, but here I felt I would not take any chances. Everything went just "peachy" as they say. Nice even looking steps, lovely polish, no trouble at all, "perfeckt". At this point the cognoscenti would have stoped right there, take the stone off the dop, clean it up and give it back. But oh no, we're dealing with a "Lily gilder". "Now if we just gave the table that little 'touch up', and take out those little scratches, Don would be super-impressed". A gentle kiss with the 1600 sintered diamond lap brought up a good prepolish flat surface, and I thought a few more minutes on the tin-lead lap, and I could pack it in for the evening, and enjoy a well earned coffee. Two days later having tried every lap, and method I could dream up, I still hadn't got me a polish. The darned thing just tore up, whatever I tried. I scrupulously scrubbed all my polishing laps in detergent with

a "Scotch-brite" pad, all to no avail, nothing, just nothing worked. By this time I was starting to get into a bit of a panic. I could see me having to fork out for a new 22 ct blue Topaz, not a pleasant prospect. I finally even tried gently rubbing the stone back and forth on the tin-lead lap whilst gently oscilating the lap by hand, and for one brief moment thought it might work, but no, back came a couple of scratches, and another gouge. Oy gevault !, what sin did I comit to deserve this.

By this time I had got to the stage where it was no longer prudent to go back to the pre-polish lap, I'd lost the top bevel, and I simply couldn't take any more off the stone. At times like this I turn to prayer, after all "HE" has been getting our lot out of trouble from the time we left Egypt, maybe, just maybe, another miracle. Who knows !.

The third morning, cuddling the pussy cat, and pondering my dilemma before getting up. INSPIRATION !....I polish astronomical mirrors, and prisms, and I don't go anywhere near mechanical laps to get real optical finishes, all hand work. "Up Apricot, there's work to do". "Siamese cat meow". (Apricot is a Siamese cat who allows me the priviledge to share her bed).

I had a 6" x 1/2" thick plywood disk mounted on a boss. which I chucked up on the lathe, and in very short order I had me a disk with a recess roughly 3/16" deep cut into it, and a 1/2" hole in the centre. A quick coat of shellac, and we were ready to make our pitch lap. (You can do all of this with a router instead of a lathe) Ideally this should be Swedish, or Norwegian pitch, but this is very expensive, and as I've gotten away with roofers pitch in the past, this is what was used. This can very easily be obtained from your local friendly roofing contractor, but make sure you get a new clean chunk from the cylindrical block they come in. I make my pitch laps with a bit of beeswax to make them less brittle, or add some rosin to stiffen them up. In this case I used just the beeswax and pitch melted up in an old saucepan. It is very important not to overheat, and to pour when it is liquid enough to flow freely into the recess, but stiff enough to be above the plywood rim. Now wait for this to cool off until you feel it firm with a wet finger, but still very slightly warm. Take the heaviest piece of glass (I have a piece 1/2" thick, but 1/4" will do) coat it very liberally with a creamy paste of aluminum oxide, use the fingers and make sure there are no lumps, press the glass down on the pitch as evenly as possible, put a good heavy weight on top, and go have a coffee. In any case leave it so for at least four hours, during which time the pitch will creep and form a smooth flat surface, in any case it must be fully cooled right through before using it. Me ?. I was in a hurry, so stuck it in the freezer, popped it back on the lathe, skimmed it off, and scraped it with a razor blade on the faceting machine, and then scored it well. Now to see if salvation was at hand. A paste of aluminum oxide was worked in with the fingers, and with the lap

turning as slow as possible the stone was brought down gently onto the lap. Y'know it's a funny thing, but you can tell without even looking that things are right at last. A little more speed to the lap, and a bit more pressure, and after a few minutes to look and see, joy, oh joy, we've got a polish coming. Now comes the moment of decision, do I go back to take out the slight gouge, and the scratches, or no. Nope, leave well enough alone, just keep polishing until they are minimised to the point where the loupe is required to see them; and customers don't generally walk around with loupes in their pockets to examine their stones when they come back from the jeweller, and trophy winning cuts are for competition only. Of course you've guessed it by now. I had the great good fortune to 'cop' a Topaz with the table cut on the cleavage plane, what I would dearly like to know is how the original cutter got his polish on that table, as it certainly was polished, and the scratches were such, that had I left them alone in the first place, nobody would have taken any notice. As it was I did get an excellent polish, the scratches were very minor, and didn't show any more than the original. BUT, I did have to go back and fix the two top steps of the cut all the way round. The pitch lap does leave a very slight cushioning, no worse than using any plastic lap. How does the soft pitch lap polish a stone with an 8 hardness ?, because it is very soft, and will mark with a thumbnail.

According to my reference books on mirror making, the pitch lap generates enough heat at the surface of the stone to bring up a "Beilby layer". In polishing I used enough pressure to make the stone squeak with an awful sound, and yet I could tell instinctively, that it was not gouging or scratching. This "Beilby layer" named after the British scientist Sir. George Beilby., appears to be a molecular flow of sub-microscopic crystal particle at the surface, take this off by careful etching, and all the original scratches remain. Can you imagine my relief when handing it back to Don, who was absolutely delighted, "scratches !, don't worry, if you need a loupe to see them, they don't count". You can be sure it will be a long time before I even dream of repolishing Topaz, or any other tables, unless absolutely unavoidable.

Hope to see you all at the next seminar, and I will bring the lap with me, at which time I am hoping somebody will show me how to determine where this cleavage plane is on Topaz, as I have quite a bit of it to cut.

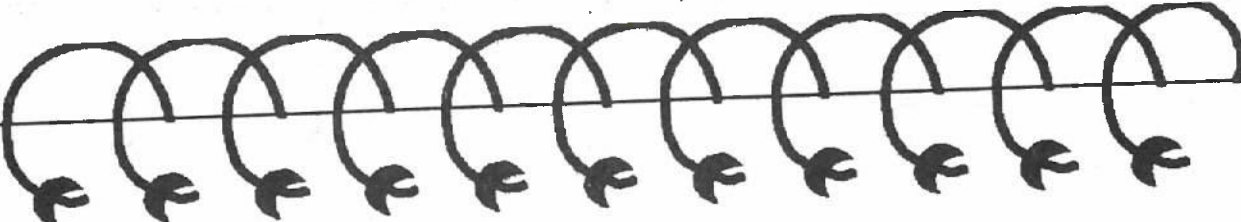
Footnote:

In our last Newsletter Alexandre Wolkonsky spoke of Carboxy-methy-cellulose. The more common name for this is a Thixotropic agent, and I believe Fullers earth fits the bill. I once worked in the design office of the Fullers Earth Coy in the U.K. in which we were trying to come up with a plant to make this synthetically. Anyrate it is the Thixotropic gell which helps keep the paint on the brush instead of dripping all over the floor.

Sincerely,

Nat Cohen.

Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. (literally in the fog)



THE EDITOR'S GEMS.....

Kathleen Myers / Bill Horton

* Summer in all its beautiful greenery is about ready to leave this part of the country, but there will be a few precious days to enjoy good weather yet. Somehow each summer seems to slip by just a little faster - but enjoy the warm sun and friendly days we all did !!

* The Fourth Annual Seminar was even greater than we had hoped - many kindred spirits gathered together to talk cuts, gems, laps, polish and more. A super weekend for all who attended and if you could not ...we missed you!!

* Its membership time so don't forget to pay your dues when you attend the Faceters Fair you won't want to miss a single issue of the Midwest Faceter.

* Special thanks this issue to Kenyon Painter for the diagram - I got to meet him at the Seminar - a great sharp wit and eager to learn all possible!

* Enjoy the epic tale "When All Else Fails" from Nat Cohen this issue - we who attended the Seminar got the story teller himself and enjoyed every "bloody" detail!

* Please keep those cards and letters coming - especially articles and cuts for the Faceter ALL your efforts are appreciated - I love to have something "in the future file".

1993 Midwest Faceters Fair

GEM and JEWELRY SHOW

hosted by the
Midwest Faceters
Guild

OCTOBER 29
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

OCTOBER 30
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

OCTOBER 31
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

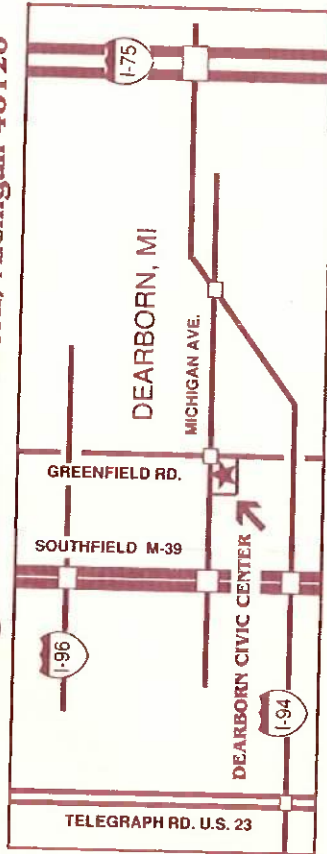
DONATION: \$2.50 ADULT
Children under 12 FREE
(with paid adult admission)

MIDWEST
FACETERS
GUILD

- OUTSTANDING EXHIBITS
- COMPETITIVE AND NON-COMPETITIVE DISPLAYS IN FACETED GEMS AND RELATED JEWELRY
- RETAIL DEALERS
- DEMONSTRATIONS
- FACETING MACHINE EXHIBIT
- SPECIAL EXHIBITS
- HOW-TO-PROGRAMS

DEARBORN CIVIC CENTER

15801 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn, Michigan 48126



VARIOUS PROGRAM SPEAKERS DURING THE SHOW

CONTINUOUS VIDEO INSTRUCTION ON FACETING AND METALSMITHING DURING THE SHOW

Don Sahr, Show Chairman • Phone: (313) 465-3622

William Horton, Exhibit Chairman Phone: (517) 546-2159
Kathleen Myers, Co-Chairman Phone: (517) 624-9178

DEALERS

- **A & B Jewels & Tools,** Williamston, MI
- **A & B Specialty, Co.,** Columbus, OH
- **Acres of Gold,** North Baltimore, OH
- **Carved Opal & Obsidian** Madison, WI
- **Creative Gems,** Seagoville, TX
- **Earle & Son,** Pearland, TX
- **Fowers Wirewrapping,** Goochland, VA
- **Gemstone Creations,** Belleville, MI
- **Hillcrest Gems,** Bloomfield Hills, MI
- **House of Williams,** Loveland, CO
- **J. & P. Gems & Minerals,** Germantown, MD
- **The Jewelry Depot,** Northfield, OH
- **The Jewelry Shoppe,** Mt. Clemens, MI
- **Mine Design,** Clarence, NY
- **Ron's Rocks & Fine Gifts** Toledo, OH
- **Jay Ross,** Henderson, NV
- **R & M Gems,** Algonac, MI
- **R E Gems** East Jordan, MI
- **Russell's Trees & Treasures,** North Liberty, IN
- **Silvertown,** Cleveland, OH

September 1993 - August 1994

Yearly Planner

September

11

Toledo Gem & Mineral Show

18

AFMS /RMFMS Show Denver CO

25

Hartland Gem & Mineral Show
Hartland Michigan

October

2

MWFG MEETING DEARBORN,
MI 1:00 P.M.
Election of Officers for 1994

9

Detroit Gem & Mineral Show Det-
roit, Michigan

30

MIDWEST FACETERS FAIR GEM &
JEWELRY SHOW DEARBORN, MI

September 93						
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March 94						
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October 93						
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December 93						
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June 94						
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January 94						
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July 94						
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February 94						
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August 94						
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SEE YOU AT THE FAIR !